**TMI-2 Sold To A Consortium That Includes:**

**Sara Lee European Meats, P.F. Chang’s China Bistro, Sur La Table, and TGI Friday\***

 ***Eric Epstein Sues to Block Transfer***

 **June 1, 2022**

 The proposed sale of Three Mile Island Unit-2 (“TMI-2”) would transfer $862,549,586 from rate payer-funded trusts to a private equity investment firm. Eric Epstein, a community advocate filed a 69-page Petition today at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) to block the transfer. Eric Epstein argued that the private investment firm, TriArtisan’s, has not provided sufficient decommissioning financial assurance:

• The cost estimate fails to account for the likely existence of - and cost to remediate - additional high-level radiological contamination; and,

• The cost estimate fails to account for costs associated with repackaging spent nuclear fuel for transportation.

 The purchaser anticipated a shortfall in the Purchase Agreement and stated it “does not foreclose TMI-2 Solutions from deferring active Decommissioning work, if necessary, to preserve or grow NDT funds.” (Application, November 12, 2019, p. 11)

 Eric Epstein stated: “Sadly we devolved to the point where Sara Lee is cleaning up Three Mile Island. Financial assurance models are based on revenue-generating concerns, capable of setting aside funds to offset future decommissioning costs. This is not the case at Three Mile Island where cost overruns are a historic fact and inevitable. TriArtisan is not financially or technically capable of cleaning-up the site of the nation’s worst nuclear accident.”

 Epstein pointed out that the licensee reported as of December 31, 2020, (ML21099A115) - the most recent accounting available - the **“minimal” amount required** for radiological decommissioning at TMI-2 was $1,044,364,000. However, prior to the proposed transfer to TriArtisan, the balance of the decommissioning trust fund was reported to the NRC to be: $862,549,586. Epstein said, “In other words, prior to a human entry into TMI-2, the cleanup fund, assuming optimal conditions, is underwater by $181 million.”

 Epstein added, “TMI-2 is a case study of cost overruns, delays, and radiation releases. There is a financial chasm between the “minimal cost estimate” and available funds because the purchaser failed to account for additional radioactive contamination. TMI-2 Solutions has created a corporate structure designed to insulate itself from financial risk, and a default by TriArtisan could leave the task of funding the cleanup to taxpayers.”

 The fact that Mr. Epstein, who has been associated with Three Mile Island for forty years, has to prove “standing” while the Applicants enjoy being able to “purchase standing” is appalling. The Applicant in this proceeding, Energy*Solutions* is based in Salt Lake City, Utah (2,046 miles from Middletown), and its proposed new owner, TriArtisan, is a financial raider hustling out of New York City, and located 171 miles from Middletown.

 In addition, at least 28% of TriArtisan’s stock is controlled by foreign ownership.\*

\* TriArtisan has no nuclear experience but is skilled in the entertainment and food industries. TriArtisan's holdings include:

• Cannery Casino Resorts.

• Creating Culinary Communities.

• Eight O'Clock Coffee.

• Paddock Swimming Pools.

• P.F. Chang's China Bistro

• Sara Lee European Meats.

• Sur La Table.

• TGI Fridays.

 Mr. Epstein stated, “In other words, TGI Fridays and Sara Lee will be heading the cleanup of Three Mile Island and leaning on their experience of serving Philly Cheesesteak Egg rolls and canning Vienna sausage to cleanup one of the most contaminated sites in America.”