

To: Leeds, NRR
INFORMATION ONLY
Cy: Wittick, OEDO

From: [CHAIRMAN Resource](#)
To: [Remsburg, Kristy](#); [Mike, Linda](#); [Lewis, Antoinette](#)
Subject: FW: Why do you add water?
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:41:44 AM

From: Tom Gurdziel [mailto:tgurdziel@twcny.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 9:26 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource
Cc: hillsc@INPO.org; bridget.frymire@dps.ny.gov; Uldis.Vanags@state.vt.us; P.Kaiser@iaea.org; jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp; Screnci, Diane; JLD_Public Resource; thenry@theblade.com; newal@goinfo.com; THolden@entergy.com; Jill.Lyon@cengllc.com
Subject: Why do you add water?

Hello,

A Free Breakfast, (Then)

I was working out of town on a big job in Pennsylvania from 1972 to 1974. Each morning I would first stop at Kuppy's Diner in Middletown for breakfast. Frequently a volunteer fireman eating breakfast would recount the fire departments' activities from the previous night. Two or three nights a week they would go to the local dump, shovel away at the top and then provide water since there was a fire underground. Here was the interesting, (and, it turned out, repetitive) part of the story: as they added water, the fire increased in intensity.

So, one day, (after hearing this same morning story many times), I asked him: if adding water increases the fire, why do you add water?

He had no answer. (The owner, (also the cook), of the diner, who had also heard the same story many times, told me that your breakfast today is on me.)

Adding Water to Damaged Reactor Cores, (Now)

Today we may be facing a very similar situation with reactor cores that experience (insufficient or) no cooling water flow. Has anybody studied if the resulting radioactive burden to the population surrounding the accident plant would actually be less if, once cooling flow is lost, it is NOT reestablished?

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel