



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410

C-1502

VICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

April 2, 1979 7:44:01 IN REPLY REFER TO

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Jack Watson  
Assistant to the President

FROM: William H. Wilcox  
Administrator, FEMA

SUBJECT: Report No. 4 - Three Mile Island

At noon today, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced that the size of the hydrogen bubble on the reactor has diminished considerably. It is now about one-twentieth the original size - down from 850 cubic feet to 50 cubic feet. Dr. Denton of the NRC characterized the situation as "cautiously optimistic" and said the need to make a decision on evacuation is "much further out on time."

This morning the lead Federal Official and other Federal representatives met with Lt. Governor Scranton to discuss and evaluate the three evacuation options (5, 10 and 20 mile plans) and to review the list of unmet needs identified by the State that would be necessary should an evacuation be ordered. Lt. Governor Scranton emphasized the need to reduce the time required to carry out evacuation based on the level of current plans and has requested the State and Federal agencies to make a maximum effort in reducing the time/space factors. The matter will be discussed again this evening at 6:00 p.m. Colonel Henderson, Director, State Council of Civil Defense in Pennsylvania, was instructed to focus heavily on the 10 mile evacuation option and not to discount the 20 mile plan. At this time, the Governor is weighing the implications of initiating a precautionary evacuation of elderly and ill persons and has indicated his decision will be forthcoming within the next 24 hours.

With respect to the list of unmet needs, it was generally agreed that these resources should be located and earmarked for movement. However, no movement should be accomplished at this time.

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Currently, FDAA, in conjunction with GSA, is conducting an evaluation of the Emmitsburg site for possible use as a forward Emergency Operating Center (EOC). Indications are that within 24 hours skeleton communications and life support services could be operational to initially support 200 people, and within 48 hours 400 could be supported. Should activation of the Emmitsburg facility be necessary, specific support requirements have been identified and passed to the National Military Command Center. Included in this operation would be such things as food service, transportation of Federal agencies from the Harrisburg area (since there is currently a trucking strike) and the provision of security and other logistical support.

It is my understanding that State officials have expressed some concern about Federal agencies moving to Emmitsburg should the need arise. They would prefer the Federal agencies remain with them in the State and I am weighing this carefully.

Petroleum support plans have been drawn up in the event of an evacuation. Anticipated main evacuation routes will be I-83, 81, 283 and 76 (Pennsylvania Turnpike), along with routes 22, 322, 422, 30, 11 and 15. County and State plans include all these routes. If an evacuation is ordered the main suppliers will be asked to increase their allocations to service stations along these routes and to increase their tanker fleets from local terminals and those further away. State Police will provide escort for these tankers and weight variances will be secured. Stations owned by companies, but closed due to evacuations by their personnel, will be opened with management and Pennsylvania Military Affairs (National Guard) personnel. In response to their request, all major suppliers will be given maximum notification. Specifically, AMOCO has a full terminal at Mechanicsburg and has provided advanced loads to dealers. Exxon has provided an extra 150,000 gallons to turnpike stations, though they are limiting sales to \$5.00 to stretch existing supplies.

The American National Red Cross advises that 31,000 blankets are available at New Windsor, Maryland with 17,000 already loaded on trucks. 6,600 blankets are being shipped from New York to Philadelphia, with 1,858 already stockpiled in Philadelphia. As a result, there is still a shortfall of 542 blankets. In regard to cots, 4,375 are stockpiled in Philadelphia, 3,346 are being shipped from New York and 4,000 from Dayton, Ohio to Philadelphia. These totals

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would still leave a shortfall of 28,279 cots. With 12 hours notice, Red Cross could make available an additional 3,279 cots, bringing the total cots available to 15,000, with 25,000 still needed. With three days notice, Red Cross could make available an additional 7,000 cots, though 18,000 more would still be needed to fulfill the State's requirements. The Red Cross advises that it has 150 nurses on alert in the three metropolitan areas of Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore. In the meantime, coordination in Harrisburg is underway with respect to the requirements for ambulances, aircraft, incubator facilities and doctors.

Today, Mr. Gordon Vickery, Acting Director of FEMA, held a meeting at FDAA with the principal agencies that either are or will be a part of the new organization.

I arranged for a complete briefing on the technical aspects of the situation at Three Mile Island from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and subsequently briefed the Acting Director and others on those planned Federal actions that FDAA has orchestrated in connection with this situation.

Attachment

Late Entry: 3:45 p.m.

I have just been advised by the Lead Federal Official's Office that the State has increased the number of ambulances to 440 and number of blankets to 193,200 as part of their list of unmet needs.

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