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Subject: RHSB INFORMATION REPORT #5: UPDATE ON TMI
HEALTH RESEARCH STUDIES

cc: Central Files
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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NOTE TO: Distribution
FROM: Robert Goldsmith, RHSB:SD *RG*
THRU: Michael A. Parsont, Chief, RHSB:SD
SUBJECT: RHSB INFORMATION REPORT #5: UPDATE ON TMI HEALTH RESEARCH STUDIES

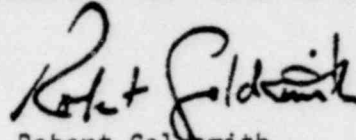
On December 11th and 12th, the third meeting of the TMI Advisory Panel on Health Research Studies was held in Harrisburg, Pa. The panel, which was appointed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, reviewed the progress of ongoing studies sponsored by the Department, and considered the advisability of performing several proposed new studies. H. Arnold Muller, MD, the new Secretary of Health for Pa., informed the panel that projects such as cytogenetic studies and long-term follow-up of residents would require substantial justification of their scientific validity and practical significance (with particular application to radiation-induced health effects) before he would ask the Pennsylvania legislature for financial support.

The status of the five major studies now underway is as follows:

1. Population Registry: This census of residents living within five miles of TMI is essentially complete. Computerization of data is expected to be finished by the end of January.
2. Health Behavior Impact Study: Under the direction of Peter S. Houts, Ph.D., of the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, telephone interviews were conducted with 692 residents who lived within five miles of TMI. Additional data were collected in the NRC socioeconomic study. A preliminary regression analysis indicated that reported distress was greater for females and for younger respondents. An inverse correlation with distance from the site was noted (i.e., more distress closer to the plant), although the correlation was slightly greater for residents living 6-10 miles from the plant than for those living 0-5 miles from the plant. This difference is not especially striking, and the more in-depth analyses, underway, may elucidate the reasons for this observed effect.
3. Mental Health Study: Dr. Evelyn Bromet of Western Psychological Institute is conducting an interview study with three subgroups of people in the TMI area. Mental health status (current and as of April, 1980) will be compared with similar groups living near the Beaver Valley Nuclear Station. The three study groups are mothers of young children, mental health system clients, and unionized TMI workers. The first round of interviews should be completed by the end of January.

4. Pregnancy Outcome Study: This study is a continuation of an investigation of pregnancy outcome, conducted over the past five years by Dr. George Tokuhata, Director of Health Research for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Since the accident, there have been some 2400 obstetric patients identified from the eleven participating hospitals servicing the ten-mile radius area. About 1200 interviews have now been completed, and preliminary results indicate that, based on the previous study, neonatal deaths have not been more frequent than expected.

In other proceedings, proposed cytogenetic studies were not recommended by the panel based on the lack of a scientific basis for such studies. A proposed study of growth and development of children born around the time of the accident is under consideration. There was considerable discussion on the lack of baseline data for health studies of populations living near nuclear facilities, but no action or suggestions to accumulate such data were recommended.



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