

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Edenberg
Exhibit #5

INFORMATION

March 31, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
FROM: WILLIAM E. ODOM *WO*
SUBJECT: Update on the Three Mile Island
Reactor Incident

The technical situation in the reactor incident is unchanged this morning at 0900.

Governor Thornburgh is moving closer to requesting a declaration of a Presidential emergency. Factors compelling him are:

- Absence of any quick solutions to the reactor hydrogen bubble condition.
- NRC/HEW technical judgments that a very large amount of radioactive material could eventually be released.
- Judgment of NRC and Civil Defense officials that a 20-mile radius, not just 20-miles downwind, should be evacuated. About 600,000 people could be involved.

With the powers of a Presidential emergency, Governor Thornburgh can deal with this evacuation more effectively.

Defense has been providing Federal support in the form of helicopters and air transportation last night and this morning. At present there is some confusion over a request for a large air transport capability to bring lead bricks to the reactor site. Harold Brown will resolve it.

We are at a rather significant decision point. Sometime today we will probably have set in motion a major population crisis relocation.

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