

Three Mile Island Collection

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-12-02

Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

Table Of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Administrative Information	4

Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Creator: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Creator: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

Creator: Metropolitan Edison Company

Creator: General Public Utilities Corporation

Creator: Jersey Central Power and Light Company

Creator: Philadelphia Electric Company

Title: Three Mile Island Collection

Identifier: TMI

Date: 1965 - 2009 (Three Mile Island)

Date: 1960 - 1999 (Peach Bottom)

Date: Majority of material found within 1975 - 1982

Physical Description: 152 Linear Feet (approx. 152 linear feet, including 5 record boxes, 1 map, and remaining listed extents)

Physical Description: 1111 Volumes (506 folders, 605 bound volumes)

Physical Description: 15 Cassettes (15 audio cassettes)

Language of English

Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Three Mile Island (TMI) Collection at the State Library of Pennsylvania contains federal and corporate documents, transcripts, maps, and other records pertaining to Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station near Harrisburg. Mixed-in and inventoried with the Three Mile Island Collection are similar records from the Peach Bottom Nuclear Generating Station in York County. The TMI collection contains reports, transcripts correspondence, surveys, maps, charts, and other records. These records were created and published primarily by two entities, being the energy utility companies controlling the nuclear facilities (for example, Metropolitan Edison or General Public Utilities), and the federal agencies responsible for oversight (being the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and earlier the United States Atomic Energy Commission). Selected topics from these documents include the accident at Three Mile Island nuclear station, analysis on the TMI accident and impacts on the environment and populace, reactions to the TMI accident, investigations and depositions into the TMI accident, administrative facility information, and nuclear energy and station safety. Material is dated from 1960 to 2009, and the bulk of the material is dated from 1975 to 1982.

Biographical / Historical

The Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station was a nuclear energy power station in Middletown, PA, close to the state capital of Harrisburg. Also known simply by the initials TMI, the nuclear station was comprised of the two units TMI-1 and TMI-2, commissioned for use in 1974 and 1978 (respectively). The nuclear station was notable for a serious nuclear accident on March 28, 1979. Equipment failures, design

flaws, and operator mistakes resulted in loss of coolant and reactor core meltdown in Unit 2. The accident resulted in extensive studies and commissions by government agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Health, the Department of Energy, etc. Although there was no detectable contamination of radiation into the surrounding area and thus no harm ultimately befell the general populace or environment, public fear of nuclear energy spread due to the accident, which in turn resulted in widespread reforms in nuclear station equipment, procedures, etc. that increased the safety of nuclear power. TMI-2 was never recommissioned after the accident, and TMI-1 was decommissioned in 2019.

Biographical / Historical

The Peach Bottom Nuclear Generating Station is a nuclear power plant in Peach Bottom Township of York County, PA. The Philadelphia Electric Company, now known as PECO as part of the Exelon Corporation, serves south-east Pennsylvania, and ordered and commissioned the plant starting in 1967. The operational units remaining are operated by Constellation Energy Generation, also formerly part of Exelon Corporation, and are scheduled to be decommissioned in 2033.

Biographical / Historical

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was created as an independent agency by Congress through the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. The NRC replaced the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), an all-encompassing agency created in 1946 by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 charged with keeping watch on nuclear energy regulation and promotion. The AEC was abolished after concerns over regulatory inefficiency. The new NRC focused solely on nuclear regulation to ensure the safe use of radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes while protecting people and the environment. The accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear station directed the focus of the NRC further towards operator training and removing human error in plant performance to reduce severe accidents, as well as emergency planning and operating history. The NRC continues to regulate commercial nuclear power plants and other uses of nuclear materials through licensing, inspection, and enforcement of its requirements.

Biographical / Historical

The President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island was created in April 1979, following the nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station in Pennsylvania. Also known as the Kemeny Commission after its chairperson, President of Dartmouth College John Kemeny, the commission sought to understand what technical failures caused the accident, roles of the managing utility at the station, the preparedness of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to deal with emergencies, and the dissemination of information to the public following the accident. The final report proposed recommendations based on their findings, which combined with the findings of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, paved the way for regulatory reform in the nuclear energy sector.

Conditions Governing Use

Certain records have been duplicated and filed under various folder headings or series, for example the same material may be found in the reportable occurrences and the environmental files. Individual items should be checked in each suspect location at the folder level.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

Controlled Access Headings

- Nuclear power plants--Accidents
- Nuclear reactor accidents