



# THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

The Newsletter of TMI Alert - Special Edition, March 25, 2011

**Potassium Iodide Available** - TMI Alert has thousands of doses of potassium iodide (KI) on hand for those who either do not have the pills in their medicine cabinets or whose pills have expired. TMI Alert is not advising people to take KI pills at this time as the amount of radiation reaching central Pennsylvania from Japan is reportedly miniscule. These are to be kept on hand in the event of a local nuclear emergency. Unlike the Pennsylvania Department of Health, TMIA doesn't limit distribution to those within ten miles of a nuclear generating facility. To obtain your pills, simply send a self-addressed stamped envelope to TMI Alert noting on the enclosed form how many are in your household. The pills will be sent to you by return mail. A contribution to TMIA to defray the costs of providing these pills would be appreciated.

**TMI Alert in the News** - With the catastrophic developments in Japan, nuclear power has once again been in the news and your TMI Alert leadership has been working long hours in helping journalists from all over the world better understand the dynamics of the situation.

Perhaps you caught radio or television interviews with TMI Alert Chairman Eric Epstein or saw him quoted in newspapers throughout the world. For every interview Eric has done, he has probably made a dozen referrals to physicists, nuclear engineers, security experts, whistle blowers, and survivors of the accident at TMI. Planning Council member Mary Stamos (formerly Osborn), a self-educated expert on the effects of radiation on plants and animals, has been dealing with journalists from around the world. TMIA security expert Scott Portzline has also been fielding questions and working non-stop since the story broke pointing journalists to where they should focus next on this rapidly unfolding story. Kay Pickering, at the TMIA office, has been forwarding information and articles to news agencies everywhere.

## Key Links to Keep You Informed

If you are a user of the World Wide Web, here are some links to keep you up-to-date on what's going on in Japan and in the nuclear industry.

**Three Mile Island Alert** – <http://www.tmia.com/>

TMIA's website has tons of information about the accident, its aftermath, and TMIA's ongoing efforts as central Pennsylvania's nuclear watchdog and leading safe energy advocate. You'll also find a video clip of Ralph Nader in a recent interview saying: "The Japanese disaster has ended whatever nuclear renaissance is being considered here in the United States. . . . The government and the industry will defend nuclear power in the United States to the last mutation." There are also video updates from nuclear physicist and TMI Alert friend Arnie Gunderson who you may have seen on CNN or MSNBC's coverage of Japan. The site also includes a comprehensive listing of relevant links including the Union of Concerned Scientists, NIRS, the NRC, Public Citizen, and more.

*Collection Laka foundation*  
www.laka.org  
Digitized 2018

**EFMR Monitoring Group** - <http://www.efmr.org/>

TMI Alert Chairman Eric Epstein formed the EFMR Monitoring Group which has state of the art monitors throughout the region around TMI and Peach Bottom. The group recently acquired new monitors which are being installed in areas of population density and where prevailing winds would carry any release of radiation. Epstein recently announced the site will soon provide real-time radiation monitoring.

**Rock the Capital** - <http://www.rockthecapital.com/>

Eric Epstein serves as coordinator of this nonpartisan, voter education organization that was formed following the 2005 enactment of pay increases for state government officials in violation of the state's constitution. The site has daily updates regarding the situation in Japan.

**The Tokyo Electric Power Company** – <http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/index-e.html>

The operator of the damaged reactors in Japan has a regularly updated English-language website.

**On The Issues – Lessons from the Women of TMI**

[http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/2011spring/2011spring\\_Charman.php](http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/2011spring/2011spring_Charman.php)

This link is to an article by journalist Karen Charman from the spring edition of *On The Issues*, a magazine for progressive women. The article is superior to most articles that cover the aftermath of TMI and captures beautifully the concerns about health effects that TMIA's Mary Stamos has been raising for decades.

**Washington Post** –

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/three-mile-islands-residents-remain-on-alert-three-decades-after-nuclear-crisis-/2011/03/18/ABbZsZx\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/three-mile-islands-residents-remain-on-alert-three-decades-after-nuclear-crisis-/2011/03/18/ABbZsZx_story.html)

This link is to an article that appeared on the front page of the paper's Sunday, March 20, 2011 edition. It features TMIA's Mary Stamos and other local residents who, as noted in the headline, "remain on alert three decades after nuclear crisis."

**The New York Times** –

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/16/world/asia/16contain.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=Harold+Denton&st=nyt](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/16/world/asia/16contain.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=Harold+Denton&st=nyt)

This is a link to a story that appeared in the *Times* on March 15, 2011 pointing to weaknesses in the Mark 1 reactors involved in the Japanese disaster. There are 23 of these reactors at 16 locations in the US, including two at Peach Bottom. According to the article, in 1972, Stephen Hanauer, then a safety official with the Atomic Energy Commission (precursor to the NRC), recommended that the Mark 1 system be discontinued because it presented unacceptable safety risks and was susceptible to explosion and rupture due to a buildup of hydrogen. In the same article, the NRC's Harold Denton, well known here in central PA, asserted in the mid-1980s that the Mark 1 reactors had a 90 percent probability of bursting should the fuel rods overheat and melt in an accident.

**Nuclear Boy** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sakN2hSVxA>

This is a link to a You Tube video of an actual cartoon from Japan about the nuclear accident and how officials are dealing with it.

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