Emergency Planning and Preparedness Information Sheet

Crane Clean Energy Center | Emergency Planning Survey

Why Emergency Planning Matters

Emergency planning is an important part of keeping communities safe. All nuclear facilities follow strict safety procedures and are closely regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In addition, local, state, and federal agencies develop and maintain emergency response plans to ensure preparedness in the unlikely event of an incident.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) oversees local, county, and state emergency planning efforts near nuclear energy sites. These plans are developed in coordination with emergency responders and public officials and are tested regularly through training exercises and drills.

What industries create emergency plans?

Emergency planning is a standard safety practice across many industries – not just energy. Having a plan in place helps protect people, property, and public resources in the event of an emergency.

Who in Central PA has created an emergency action plan?

- Airports – Harrisburg International Airport
- Hospitals – Hershey Medical Center
- Education – Penn State Harrisburg
- Event Venues – Hershey Entertainment Complex
- Manufacturers – The Hershey Company

Emergency Planning for Restarting Three Mile Island Unit 1 (TMI-1) as the Crane Clean Energy Center

A survey will soon be shared with residents near the site of the former TMI-1 reactor. Although this facility was retired in 2019, planning is underway to safely restart operations as the Crane Clean Energy Center. As part of this process, local communities are working with emergency planning experts to update the area's emergency plans. This is the same type of planning that was done routinely up until TMI-1 closed in 2019 as detailed below.

Local emergency response agencies within the 10-mile Emergency Protection Zone (EPZ) are working to update and restore emergency response and evacuation plans that will need to be approved by FEMA and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). The EPZ includes portions of Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties. It does not include the state capital area of downtown Harrisburg.

This includes developing an updated Evacuation Time Estimate (ETE) – a tool that helps emergency planners understand how quickly residents can evacuate in case of an emergency. The ETE uses local data such as:

- Population information, including schools, hospitals, and consideration for individuals with access/functional needs
- Roadway access and traffic patterns
- Transportation options (buses, private vehicles, etc)

What to Expect

The survey will ask about your household's transportation needs and evacuation preferences. This information helps emergency planners ensure that evacuation plans are realistic, inclusive, and up to date. All responses are confidential and will be used only to support emergency preparedness.

Role of the ETE and Local Emergency Planning

- Local agencies are working with KLD Associates, a national emergency planning firm, to update the ETE for the area around the proposed Crane Clean Energy Center.
- The ETE helps estimate how long it would take residents to evacuate in the event of an emergency.
- The updated ETE will:
  - Support coordination between plant operators and local emergency management agencies
  - Inform drills and training to ensure emergency readiness
  - Guide evacuation planning with detailed data on:
    - Local demographics, including vulnerable populations
    - Road conditions, traffic patterns, and evacuation routes
    - Available transportation like buses and private vehicles

Historical Context: Emergency Planning at TMI-1

- TMI-1 operated safety until it was retired in 2019 due to market conditions.
- For decades, TMI-1 operated under a comprehensive emergency response plan developed in coordination with state, county, and local emergency officials.
- These plans were regularly updated and used for drills, trainings, and coordinated planning through 2019.
- A key component of TMI-1's planning was the ETE – a detailed study of how long it would take for nearby residents to evacuate in an emergency.
- The most recent TMI-1 ETE, developed in 2014, included:
  - Over 200 pages of analysis and 700+ pages of supporting data
  - Coordination strategies between plant operators and local emergency management
  - Plans to support training exercises and readiness drills
  - Demographic data for schools, hospitals, senior and correctional facilities, and vulnerable populations
  - Traffic flow modeling, evacuation routes, and choke points
  - Transportation resource planning, including school buses and public transit options

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why am I being asked to complete this emergency planning survey?

A: The survey helps emergency planners better understand local travel patterns and transportation needs in the event of an emergency. Your input helps keep your community safe and prepared.

Q: Will the survey affect my ability to live or work near the plant?

A: No. The survey is for planning purposes only and will not affect your residence, property, or employment. It's simply a tool to help improve emergency readiness.

Q: Is this related to restarting the nuclear plant at Three Mile Island?

A: Yes. The Crane Clean Energy Center is a proposed restart of the previously retired TMI-1. Emergency planning is a routine part of the regulatory process and helps ensure all necessary systems are in place if the plant becomes operational again.

Emergency planning happens at all nuclear power facilities across the country and is a routine process to ensure your community is safe and prepared.

Q: How is this different from emergency planning in other industries?

A: Like hospitals, schools, and manufacturing facilities, nuclear facilities are required to maintain detailed emergency plans. These plans are developed with local officials and tested regularly.