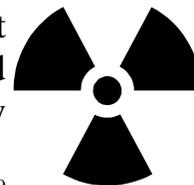


“The first step in a nuclear nightmare.”\*

On March 28, 1979 operators of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in central Pennsylvania lost control of Unit 2, releasing large amounts of radioactive contamination. In the midst of a near-meltdown, plant managers misled state and federal officials. The lies were uncovered only after the damage was done. Later, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission fined the company \$155,000 for safety violations.

\*Walter Cronkite, CBS News, March 28, 1979



### Three Mile Island Meltdown Facts

140,000 people were evacuated

At least 636,000 people were exposed to radioactive contamination.

32,000 gallons of radioactive water escaped into the reactor's concrete dome.

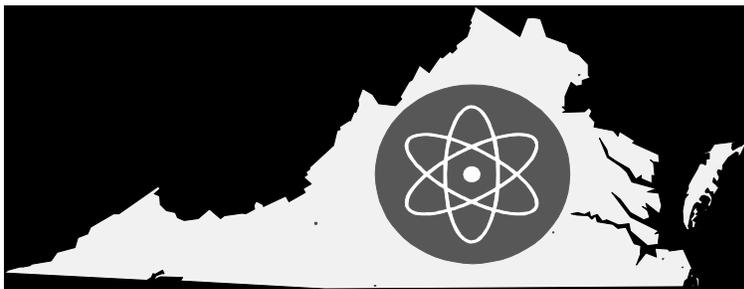
Over 18,000 nuclear fuel rods ruptured, more than half of the plant's total.

43,000 curies of radioactive gas was illegally released into the air. (a)

Within 10 miles of TMI, infant deaths doubled during the plant start-up period and for three months after the March accident.(b)

8 years after the accident, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission permitted TMI to evaporate 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water into the air.

12 years after the accident, cancer rates more than doubled around TMI. (c)



- (a) The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, November 1980
- (b) Dr. Gordon MacLeod, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Health, The American Journal of Public Health, March 1982
- (c) Columbia University's Health Study (Susser-Hatch), June 1991

## Three Mile Island, Virginia?

The Three Mile Island accident occurred when the plant was new, a high-danger period. Dominion-Virginia Power is planning to open new nuclear power plants at its North Anna station near Charlottesville. Residents of Virginia have an opportunity to avert the risk of nuclear catastrophe by stopping Dominion now.

To find out more, contact:

**BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE**

PO Box 88 Glendale Springs, North Carolina 28629 BREDL@skybest.com (336) 982-2691