

[Homes](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Customer Care Center](#)

[LancasterOnline Keyword](#)

[Home](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Talk Back](#)
[Visit Lancaster](#)
[Weather](#)
[Services](#)
[Apartments](#)
[Automotive](#)
[Wizard](#)
[Business](#)
[Directory](#)
[Realty Wizard](#)
[Shopping](#)
[Travel](#)
[Personals](#)
[Local News](#)
[Top Stories](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)
[Sports](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Special Sections](#)
[Special Reports](#)
[Archive](#)
[National News](#)
[Top Stories](#)
[Pennsylvania](#)
[US/Nation](#)
[Washington](#)
[Elections](#)
[International](#)
[Sports](#)
[Business](#)
[Off Beat](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Technology](#)
[Health](#)
[Science](#)
[Features](#)
[Site](#)

Report: children at risk

Says evacuation plans around TMI inadequate

By Tom Knapp
Intelligencer Journal

Published: Mar 03, 2005 9:07 AM EST

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA -

Child-care facilities within a 10-mile radius of Three Mile Island are not receiving adequate support from the state in planning for a nuclear emergency.

That's the conclusion of a study released Wednesday by the EFMR Monitoring Group, a nonpartisan organization that monitors radiation around the TMI and Peach Bottom nuclear plants.

The study surveyed all child-care facilities within the 10-mile emergency planning zone, although the state Legislature in July exempted nonprofit agencies from the law requiring child-care agencies to have evacuation plans.

That exemption, according to a statement by Gov. Ed Rendell, leaves about 183,000 children - two-thirds of all children under supervision in the zone - unprotected by the law.

A worker for a nonprofit day-care center in the Elizabethtown area, who asked not to be identified, said she does not understand why the state exempts nonprofits from emergency preparedness.

Her day-care facility has a plan in place, she said, because they weren't told of the exemption until after they "had developed the plan, paid for someone to develop the plan and trained the staff."

"We should not be exempt," she said.

She also complained that emergency management services were not helpful when devising a plan.

"They said it's up to us to develop a plan ... and to call them on the day of the emergency if we need them," she complained.

"We have 150 to 160 children here. It's very difficult to make transportation arrangements for that many people on the day of an emergency."

Eric Epstein, principal author of the EFMR plan, said the survey clearly shows "that child-care facilities located in

Subscribe to

 [Home Delivery](#)

Article Tools

 [Link to This Article](#)
 [Printer Friendly Format](#)
 [Order a Reprint](#)
 [Email This Article](#)
 [Most Emailed Articles](#)
 [Related Articles](#)
 [More News](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Keyword Index](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)

[Need A WebSite?](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Pennsylvania are not receiving required emergency support services, leaving them unprepared to handle a nuclear accident or terrorist attack."

Those emergency services, Epstein said, must be provided for a state to retain a nuclear power license.

The survey, he added, is "further evidence that the commonwealth of Pennsylvania is in violation of federal law which continues to leave our youngest and most vulnerable population without radiological emergency planning."

Among the findings listed in the report:

The state does not review plans or coordinate transportation as federal law requires.

In some instances, transportation for day-care children is only available after other populations have been moved.

Several facilities were unaware they were within the 10-mile zone.

Although the federal law requiring emergency planning was established nearly 20 years ago, emergency planning for child-care facilities in Pennsylvania began only recently.

Survey results were submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency on Feb. 22.

Preparation of emergency response plans was directed by President Carter following the accident at TMI in 1979. The law requires plans for people "whose mobility may be impaired," such as preschool and nursery school children, prison inmates and residents of nursing homes.

The EFMR study surveyed all child-care facilities in the TMI zone that are licensed by the state Department of Public Welfare and care for at least 12 children. Of those 74 facilities, only 38 responded.

Seven of 14 day-care facilities within Lancaster County responded to the survey. Other facilities surveyed are in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon and York counties.

Of those responding, 45 percent indicated that neither state nor local agencies have provided them with emergency planning in event of a radiological incident, and 66 percent said neither state nor local agencies have provided them with transportation in case of an emergency.

Additionally, 58 percent of respondents said they have not been provided with directions to a prearranged relocation center outside the danger zone.

E-mail is welcome at tknappln@news.com.

Recent TalkBack comments about this article

[Comment on this article](#)

No comments currently in TalkBack, be the first one to post!

[Comment on this article](#)

