

LOWER DAUPHIN SCHOOLS

Deal nearly doubles TMI's school taxes

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The Lower Dauphin School Board approved an agreement with the owner of Three Mile Island that nearly doubles the property taxes the company pays the district each year.

The board voted unanimously Monday night for the deal in which AmerGen Energy Co. will pay the district \$637,000 a year from 2008 through 2017. Under a 2005 deal, the company paid \$320,000 a year.

The agreement calls for AmerGen to annually pay a total of \$930,000 to the school district, Dauphin County and Londonderry Twp., the nuclear facility's host municipality. It previously paid the three a total of \$450,000.

District spokesman Jim Hazen said the district will receive \$637,000 annually, while the township and county will share \$293,000.

By entering the agreement, "Three Mile Island is being a good neighbor," Lower Dauphin School Board member Marcela D. Myers said.

The agreement is consistent with the company's belief "to make a positive impact on the community," said Bill Noll, the TMI site vice president. "All the parties worked constructively together to make this agreement happen."

The amount of property tax TMI owes the three entities has been disputed since the electric industry deregulation in 2000.

In 2005, the county, school district and township agreed to an out-of-court settlement that lowered the assessment on the damaged Unit 2 nuclear reactor from \$16.2 million to zero and on the operating Unit 1, owned by AmerGen, from \$64.9 million to nearly \$20 million.

That resulted in a drop in the total property taxes paid to the three entities from what was once a combined \$1.5 million to \$450,000.

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