THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

Press Release
November 18, 2026

for more information contact:
Scott Portzline 717-232-8863
sdportzline1@verizon.net
Harrisburg, PA

# TMI-Alert is asking (once again) the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Improve its Situational Awareness of Cyber Troubles

The nation's nuclear plants are not protected thoroughly from cyber attacks due in part to a hole in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) regulations for reporting cyber trouble. The NRC needs to have the ability to analyze cyber events in which concerted attacks could possibly be underway.

Because determining that such a cyber attack is underway is not always a straight-forward procedure, but rather a “fuzzy” time delayed process, licensees are only required to report to internal superintendents that a reasonable suspicion exists that a cyber attack is occurring. Therefore, concerted attacks at multiple reactors could initially go unrecognized by the NRC. The Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response Center needs to act as a "clearing house" to receive reports of cyber troubles at any nuclear plant.

Three Mile Island Alert recommended[1] to the NRC in October of 2018 during its cyber security rule-making that each reactor licensee be required to report any cyber trouble to the NRC within 15 minutes of its discovery; whether the problem is understood or not. This would allow the NRC to assess whether multiple events are occurring around the nation and send immediate alerts to all reactor licensees.

Scott Portzline of TMI Alert said, "We should have the assurances that the NRC is watching over the fleet of reactors in a timely way. But, as it stands now, we are going to be in the dark for hours and even days. That's poor situational awareness and should not be allowed to stand. Events in the last week have raised suspicions and concerns of cyber attacks in various industrial systems and assets."

"We need to remember that Russian spies set up a computer hacking network in the parking lot[2] of Westinghouse Nuclear near Pittsburgh PA." Portzline said, "Sometimes things are closer than you think."

Three Mile Island Alert has participated in NRC security rulemaking for four decades.

- 30 -

[1] https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1830/ML18306A544.pdf Comment of S. D. Portzline on "Cyber Security Programs for Nuclear Power Plants"

[2] https://www.reuters.com/article/world/us-indicts-russians-in-hacking-of-nuclear-company-westinghouse-idUSKCN1ME1TL/ U.S. indicts Russians in hacking of nuclear company Westinghouse