

Observer

Barbara Lubell

Observation Post

Joint Media Center
Verplanck Fire House
Verplanck, New York

Time of Observation

9:35 am to 1:40 pm

Layout at Joint Media Center

Table across the rear wall with five places marked:
Westchester County, Orange County, Putnam County
New York State, Con Edison

Many video cameras

50 press phones

Large display of structural diagram of Indian Point

Event Description

- 7:25 Indian Point 2 employee involved in radioactive contamination
- 7:57 Alert declared
- 9:00 Wind expected to change (160° SSE to NNW) about 10 am to about 9 mph

Observation

- 9:35 Con Edison official announces: Leak of 20 gpm in containment building, leakage from primary system, minor failure, detected, low level rems right now
- 9:48 Sirens. Con Edison official opens the door to facilitate hearing the sirens.
- 9:50 Site emergency declared. Major loss of coolant.
- 9:55 From WABC emergency broadcast message: State officials and County executives advise residents of Putnam, Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties. No danger to the public. Officials will continue to monitor. Stay tuned.

Tree cutting on Route 9 in Ossining has caused a back-up of traffic. Officials simulated calling the Department of Transportation to stay the tree cutting.

- 10:18 Announcement: Westchester County Executive closed all parks as a precautionary measure.
- 10:45 In the scenario, 2 of 3 barriers have failed. The third barrier is the containment building. 100 rems detected in containment building now.
- 11:15 Announcement: All sirens functioned.
- Noon Governor Cuomo declared an emergency in the 10 mile zone. 12-14,000 R/hr in containment building
- 12:25 Con Edison announced that at 11:54 am due to generally deteriorating condition radiation was released into the environment at 12:01. Report that explosion in containment building caused 2 valves to open. Containment pressure peak was 75 psi. Peter Slocum from the State announced protective action. Recommends evacuation within five miles north (down-wind). Evacuation: ERPAs 1,2,3,4,7,8,9 (Westchester County) 29, 38, 39 (Rockland County) 17, 19, 20, 23, 45 (Putnam County) 24, 25, 27, 28, 40 (Orange County). Sheltering: ERPAs 10, 11, 14 (Westchester County) 26 (Orange County).
- 12:45 People in the press center are being evacuated to alternate center in White Plains, by car (simulated.)
- 1:10 2 R/hr at Annsville Circle. 3,000 R in containment building
- 1:20 Nursing homes evacuated.
- Dose projections: rems per hour 2 miles - 5. R/hr
5 " - 1. R/hr
10 " - .4 R/hr
- 1:40 Survey team checking on valves reports 150 R/hr
Recap: fire caused injury and contamination of one employee who was treated. Plant lost five feeders. Failure of coolant led to an expolsion inside the containment building which in turn caused the loss of two valves which stuck partially open. Class 5 accident. The fire was not related to subsequent events. An employee dropped a hand-held light into a trash barrel.