

Overview of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Accident

○ Main Events in the accident

On March 28, 1979, the main feedwater pump stopped in reactor 2 of the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania in the United States. Although the auxiliary feedwater pump started up automatically, the secondary cooling water failed to circulate due to a closed pump outlet valve; in addition, an operator misunderstood the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) and manually stopped it. The result of equipment failure and operator error caused a partial meltdown of structures inside the reactor.

○ Impact on the environment

The dose of radiation received by the public in the area was a maximum of 1 mSv and an average of 0.01 mSv, which is an extremely low level in terms of impact to health.

