

# PREFACE

## THREE MILE ISLAND UNIT 2 DECONTAMINATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

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The accident at the Three Mile Island Unit 2 (TMI-2) nuclear power station was an event without precedent that set precedent, an event without policy that influenced policy, and an event without history that made and will continue making history. The whole story of TMI-2 is one of cooperation between diverse (but competing) organizations, federal and state governments, and public and private enterprise—all of which focused on one thing: recovery and cleanup after the accident. Therein lies the basis for the actions related to TMI-2 setting precedent, influencing policy, and making history.

This volume focuses on decontamination and decommissioning of the TMI-2 reactor and facilities, biological control of organisms in the reactor vessel and primary cooling system, and management of the unusual radioactive wastes. Papers contributed on those broad subjects clearly show how application of existing hardware, systems, and technologies in new and creative ways can overcome perplexing situations, thereby setting precedent. They also show how coop-

eration between diverse entities contributed to the resolution of complex issues, thereby influencing policy. And the papers demonstrate that, although the accident at TMI-2 was a costly event, historians will long write about the positive influences TMI-2 has had, now has, and will have on domestic and international nuclear practices and policies.

At the risk of being redundant, the reader is asked to pay special attention to what TMI-2 has contributed and what it demonstrates. TMI-2 contributed to the development of robotics for use in decontamination; development of special systems for management, transport, and disposal of unusual radioactive wastes; simplification of the licensing of casks; and application of effective strategies for interacting with state and local governments and the public at large. TMI-2 also demonstrated that a group of people with various personalities and scientific expertise can achieve a complex goal through dedication, cooperation, and open communication by means of capitalizing on existing technology and using that technology in innovative ways.