



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM MEHAFFIE

## 106<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

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## Nuclear Energy Powered PA's Past, Will Contribute to Tech Future

Three Mile Island is on track to resume production in 2028, adding about 7,000 gigawatt hours of power per year to the regional grid. It'll be the fifth nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania when back online.

On Sept. 20 (the five-year anniversary of Three Mile Island shutting down), Constellation Energy announced a 20-year power purchase agreement under which Microsoft Corp. will buy all electricity generated by Unit 1 on the island in Londonderry Township. Details of the agreement were not disclosed, but the companies said the power will be used for Microsoft's data centers and artificial intelligence initiatives.

No state funding was involved in the agreement reached between Constellation and Microsoft.

I am a co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Nuclear Energy Caucus, which exists to ensure nuclear energy remains part of Pennsylvania's energy portfolio for decades to come. Our state is the second-largest energy producer in the nation, but for years we have failed to take full advantage of our capabilities related to the nuclear industry.

Three Mile Island will be rebranded as the *Crane Clean Energy Center* as it is prepared for generation again. **Studies show it will add:**



**730** direct jobs



**2,800** indirect jobs



**\$16 billion** to the state GDP



**\$1 million** in new, philanthropic giving



**\$11 billion** in economic impacts in Dauphin County over the next 24 years



**7,000 gigawatt hours** of carbon-free power per year onto the regional grid

All of us who lived through the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island remember those tense days. However, today's nuclear energy reactors are overly regulated, heavily inspected and operated with cutting-edge technology. Spent fuel is safely stored under federal guidelines.

I have been inside each of Pennsylvania's nuclear plants, where I've seen modernized systems and met highly skilled workers. I'm confident that Unit 1 can again produce carbon-free energy 24 hours a day, regardless of whether the sun is shining or wind is blowing.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**106<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**



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## Nuclear Plant Powers Local Economy

When Three Mile Island Unit 1 shut down in September 2019, we lost more than the 837 megawatts of power it was capable of generating 24 hours a day for the multistate grid. The region lost 600 jobs, financial support for charities, tax revenue, spending at local businesses and more.

With plans announced to resume production as early as 2028, the plant could contribute \$11 billion in economic impacts over 24 years in Dauphin County alone.

Local, state and federal taxing authorities receive revenue not only from property and corporate taxes, but also income taxes from people who work at places like Three Mile Island. Lower Dauphin School District alone received just shy of \$700,000 from Three Mile Island in 2019-20 as well as earned income taxes, occupation taxes and per capital taxes from 76 of its employees who lived within the district's boundaries.



While a legal agreement helped to taper the tax impact felt by the district, the value has been fast approaching zero. That burdens the school district's other taxpayers, like you.

When announcing plans to bring Unit 1 back online,

Constellation Energy committed to \$1 million of philanthropy over five years. The commitment is welcome news for nonprofit organizations

like Lower Dauphin Communities That Care, for which Angela Durantine serves as program director.

"We had a great relationship with Three Mile Island and (its owners). We received a yearly donation from them for 15 or more years, and it was a big part of our budget," Durantine told me for a series of videos you can watch at [RepMehaffie.com/Nuclear](https://RepMehaffie.com/Nuclear).

Also excitedly welcoming resumed production are training and apprenticeship programs like the ones offered by Insulators Local 23 headquartered in Grantville. Students have had to travel farther since 2019 to meet their training requirements in commercial and industrial settings.

"Everything is hours driven, so we had lost those hours," said John Fritz, training director.



There are important first steps to bring back what we lost five years ago. The economic rebound may be more sluggish, but I'm hopeful it will eventually be as robust as the energy about to be generated from the site again.



Go to [RepMehaffie.com/Nuclear](https://RepMehaffie.com/Nuclear) to hear directly from Angela, John and others affected by the restart in videos of their stories.