

# Editorial:

## Brandt stays on top of the situation

State Representative Ken Brandt deserves plenty of praise for his efforts to keep his constituents informed about the ongoing crisis at Three Mile Island.

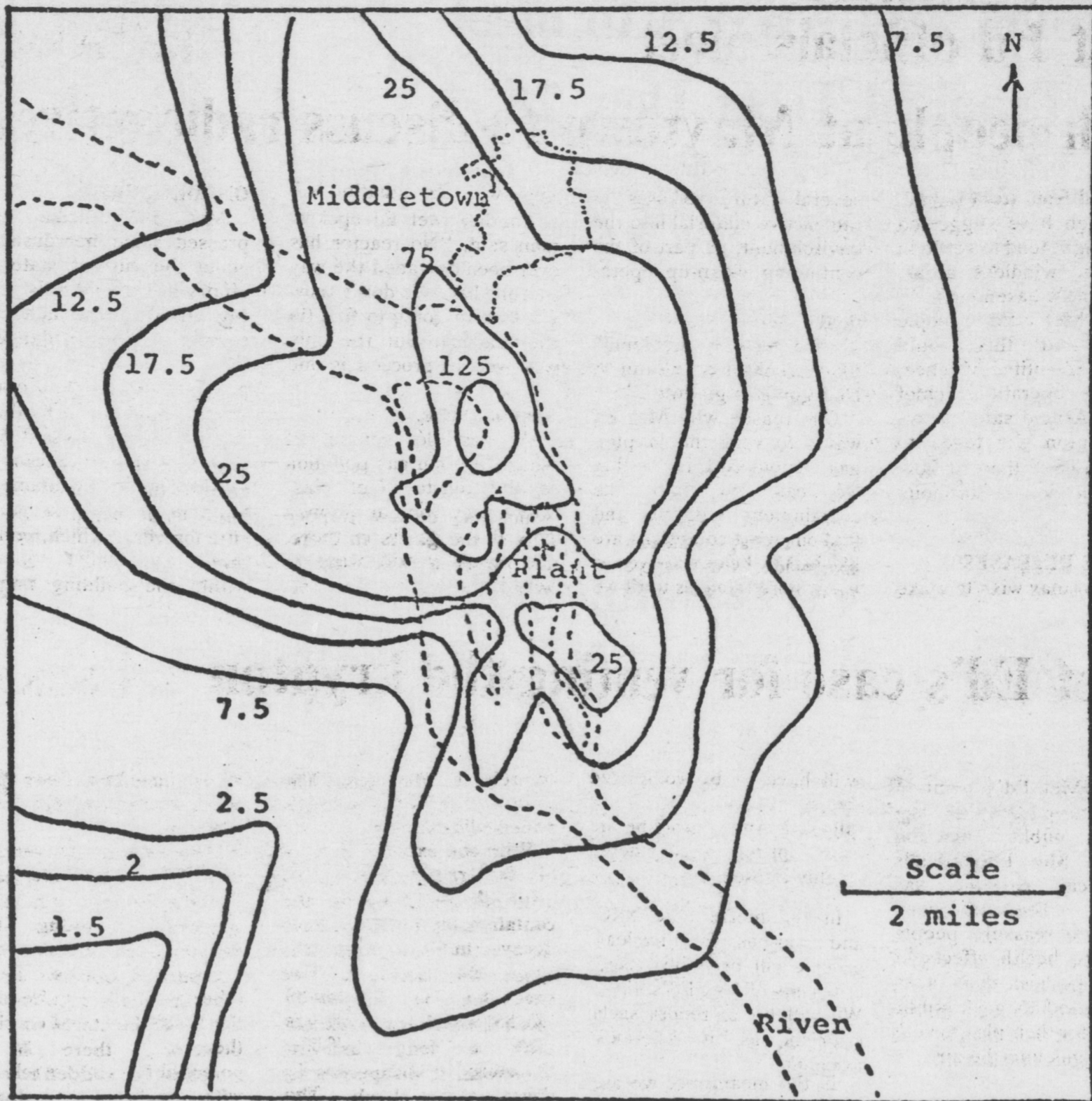
Last week's meeting in Maytown, at which Mr. Brandt brought top Met Ed officials face-to-face with local citizens, was an obvious example of Mr. Brandt's determination to keep us in touch with events on the troubled island.

Less obvious is Mr. Brandt's religious attendance at press conferences (which even the press has tended to ignore, lately), and the good lines of

communications Mr. Brandt has developed with Met Ed, NRC, and DER officials.

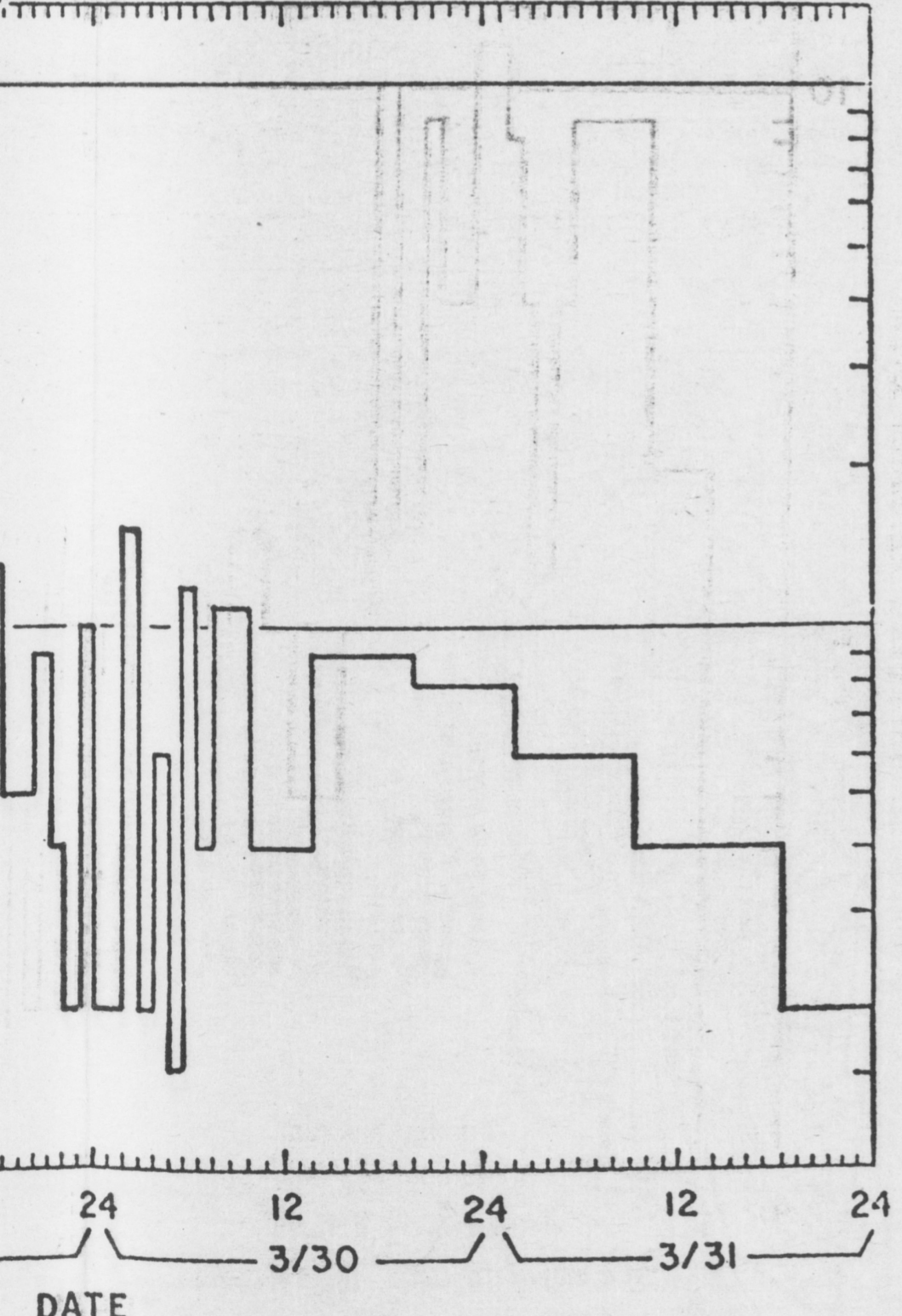
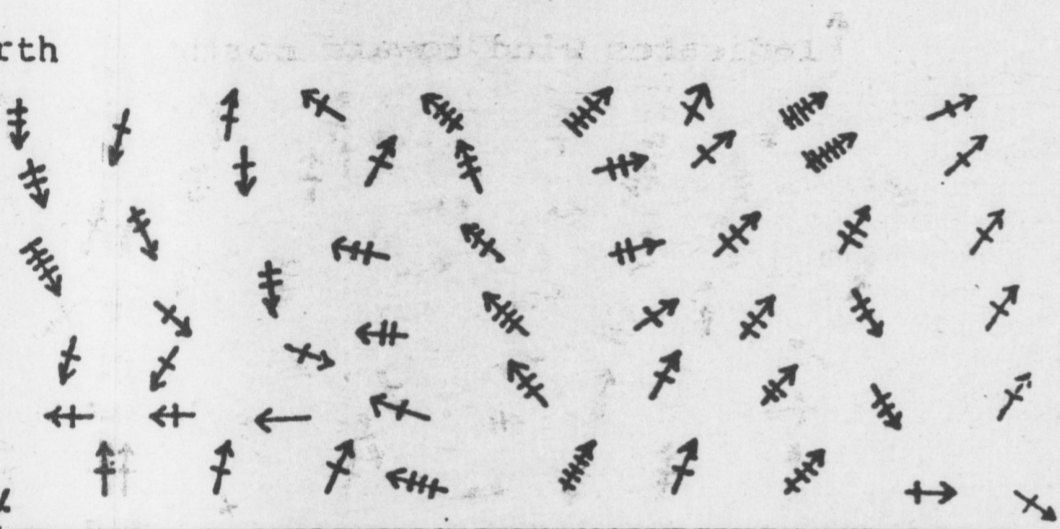
Months ago, at a press conference which less than two dozen people attended, a *Susquehanna Times* reporter first heard Mr. Brandt tell Met Ed operations chief Robert Arnold, "People down my way are just sick and tired of surprises coming off that island. We want to know what's going on, before it happens."

Mr. Brandt's voice is evidently being heard, for which we all owe him our thanks.

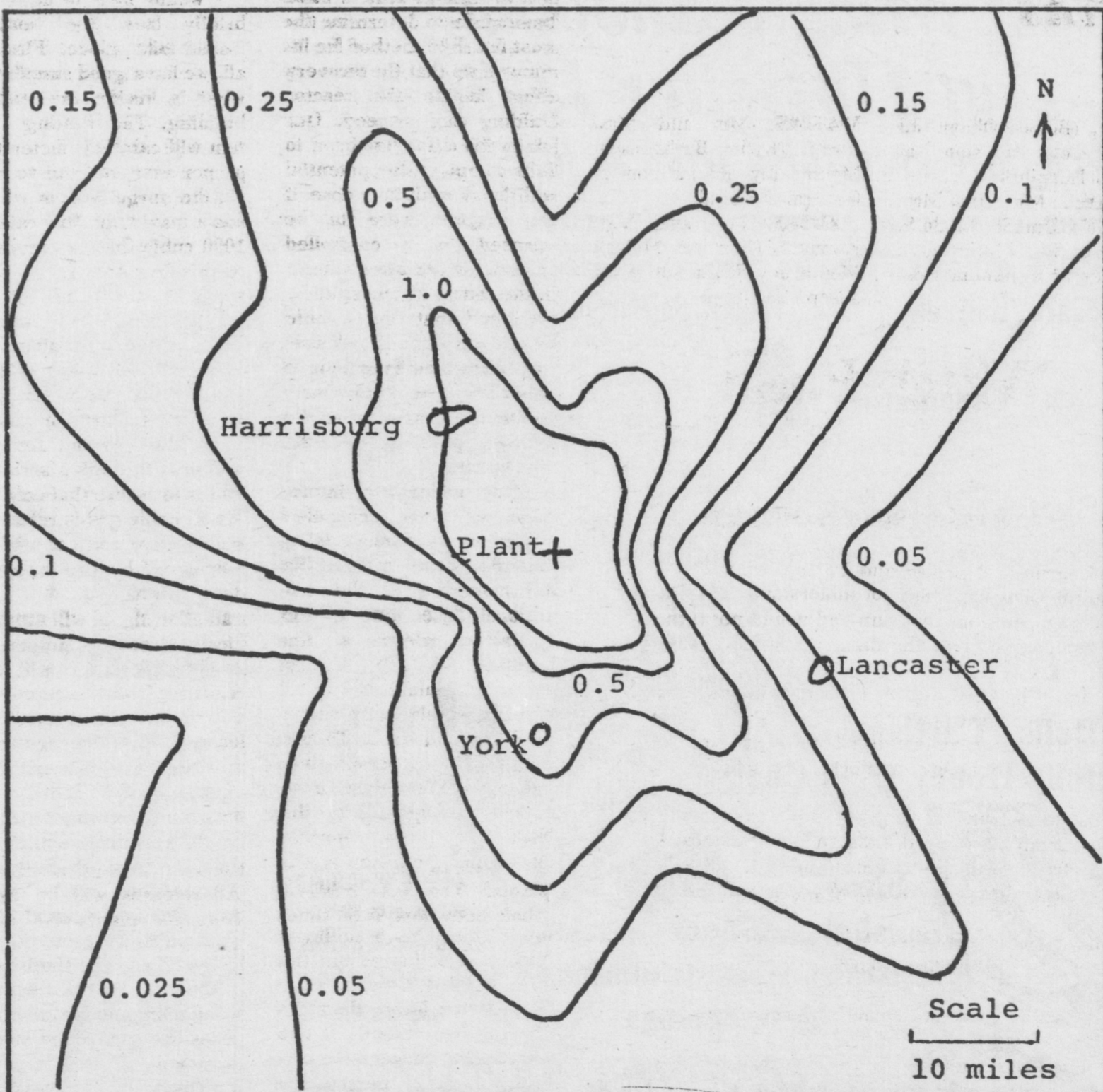


The map shows the total radioactivity [in millirems] which an individual standing outdoors during the accident most probably would have received at various locations within a two-mile range of TMI. Only on Shelly Island did the total dose exceed normal annual

background of 116 millirems. Most of the radiation came from krypton and xenon gases, which are heavier than air. They tended to hit the ground at a slight distance from Three Mile Island—for example, against the hillside of Shelly Island.



Radioactivity was measured by monitors in the auxillary building and fuel handling building. The chart is compressed to emphasize the pattern of lower-level releases. Note that "one" is half as high as "ten" on the chart. In other words, the big releases on the first day, if they were in absolute proportion, would be ten times higher than the line marked "one," instead of only twice as high. This means that all the big releases happened in the first 24 hours of the accident, when the wind was blowing away from our area.



This map shows the total absorbed radiation dose within a ten-mile radius of TMI. Nobody in our area got more than half a millirem. In Middletown, some people may

have absorbed 78 millirems. Annual background radiation in this area is 116 millirems.