

INC 50-320

# Neighbors blame plant for woes

3/16/78  
 Record  
 Harrisburg, Pa.  
 NRC PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

LOUISE Hardison raises goats on a farm about a mile north of Three Mile Island atomic power plant on the Middletown side of the river. She has problems.

For two years her herd of 14 does and two bucks did not produce one live kid. She began to wonder if the power plant was making them barren, and she wondered about it in public.

Hearing of her complaint at an anti-nuclear meeting, Metropolitan Edison Co., which owns half of Three Mile Island, did what it always does when someone questions the plant. It called in experts to investigate.

In April, 1978, Drs. Samuel B. Guss and M. I. Park of the University of Pennsylvania looked over her herd and found two things wrong:

Mrs. Hardison's bucks didn't have any horns and some of her does possibly were hermaphroditic. The bucks and does were "poiled" — born without horns, and that means they could be infertile.

The doctors suggested Mrs. Hardison introduce her does to a horned billy goat.

In July, 1978, her does gave birth to 14 kids. The problems seemed solved.

But Mrs. Hardison is still baffled.

"The father of those kids didn't have any horns either," she said. She had borrowed the successful buck, born on her farm, from the man she had sold it to.

And Sparkie, the billy deemed least fertile, was the father of one of the kids born in July, she said.

However, Mrs. Hardison did add a horned billy goat to her herd "just to go along with their theories." He hasn't solved the problem. Once again none of her goats are pregnant, she said.

Two of them look like they're bred, but they're just swollen up. You can feel they're not pregnant."

And suddenly the goats have stopped giving milk. "Does that were giving a gallon of milk a day just dried up perfectly after six months. They should have milked about a year.

"That whole herd is giving about a gallon of milk a day, and I can't afford the vet bills to find out why."

Asked if she thinks Three Mile Island is causing her griefs, she said, "What am I supposed to think? I'm just a lay person. I can't understand all these things."

Met-Ed firmly believes that Mrs. Hardison's problems aren't caused by their plant. It gives off amounts of radiation so small they can't be measured. Experts moan continually and check radiation in her goat milk every month, and have found nothing abnormal.

Mrs. Hardison isn't the only person in the Three Mile Island area who has wondered about the effects of the nuclear plant.

Jane Lee, who lives a few miles from the plant on the York County side of the river, made the following record of "unusual occurrences" at the farm on which she lives:

June, 1977, calf aborted; Sept., calf born dead; calf dead at three

months; Nov., calf dead at two days; Dec., goat aborted, two goats didn't breed.

Jan., 1978, cow dead with cancer, calf dead at seven days, another calf dead, goat aborted, sheep miscarried; Spring, ducks laid 70 eggs, only seven hatched, duck born deformed, another calf born dead.

Mrs. Lee said she's having the same problems with her cats and kittens. "Have you ever heard of a barren cat?" she asked. Some of the kittens seem retarded and are dying mysteriously.

"I'm not an expert. I can't prove that radiation is the cause," she said.

Paul Holowka, Zions View, has the most incredible story of all. He claims that 120 cows and calves have died on his farm since Unit 1 at Three Mile Island went into operation in 1974.

His Brittany Spaniels and German Shepherds are plagued with reproductive problems and disease. Pheasant and quail have disappeared from the farm he's lived on since 1937, he said.

Alarmed by the changes, Holowka in May, 1977, bought a dosimeter to measure radiation on his farm and began keeping a log of the readings.

Periodically, the dosimeter indicates enormous amounts of radiation in the air, Holowka claims. The high readings are followed by dead chickens and cows. On July 29, 1977, he contends, the readings soared; leaves fell off the trees and dead birds littered his fields; a hawk swooned and fell dead on his lawn.

The land and the wildlife on it have chang-

ed drastically in the last few years, Holowka claims. "Nothing grows like it should."

Holowka was visited once by Margaret Reilly of the state Bureau of Radiological Control. She believes something other than radiation is causing his problems.

"If he really is getting dosimeter readings like that, then not only all his cows and chickens but he too should be dead," Reilly said.

"That's something that doesn't make sense about any of the complaints. The animals are sick and dying, but the people are perfectly healthy."

WHY HAS IT NOT OCCURRED TO MARGARET REILLY OF THE STATE BUREAU OF RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL THAT MAYBE THE FACT THAT ANIMALS SPEND MUCH MORE TIME OUTSIDE AND DERIVE A MUCH LARGER PORTION OF THEIR FOOD DIRECTLY FROM THE AFFECTED LAND THAN HUMANS WHO'S FOOD COMES FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES

COULD BE WHY PEOPLE AREN'T DYING. (YET) WITH AS MANY UNKNOWN AS THERE ARE WITH NUCLEAR POWER, HOW CAN ANY PERSON OR AGENCY POSSIBLY MAKE ASSURANCES ABOUT IT'S SAFETY. LARGE INSURANCE POOLS WOULD NOT EVEN TAKE THE RISK OF INSURING THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

I FEEL THAT EVERYONE: GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND INDIVIDUALS MUST MOUNT AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO UTILIZE SOLAR POWER AS OUR PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCE TO INSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE ON EARTH IS NOT GOING TO DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

LET'S ALL FACE THE FACT THAT THE POWER WE USE IS GOING TO COST MORE ANNUAL IN THE YEARS TO COME UNLESS WE START USING SOLAR POWER. IT IS GOING TO TAKE SOME SACRIFICES FROM EVERYONE, BUT IT MUST BE DONE. START BY CONSUMING LESS, RECYCLING MORE. IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD CHANGE YOUR OWN LIFE.

SHUT DOWN 3 MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR PLANT IMMEDIATELY AND START PHASING OUT THE REST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DON'T PUT ECONOMIC BEFORE HUMAN LIFE!

IF SCIENCE CAN SPLIT THE ATOM — WHY CAN'T THEY FIND MORE AND

## Where to voice opinion

- If you want to express your view on nuclear power and Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom atomic power plants, you can write to:
- Letters to the Editor, York Daily Record, 1750 Industrial Highway, York, Pa. 17402.
- U.S. Rep. Bill Goodling, 1713 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- U.S. Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, 1159 Federal Building, Harrisburg, 17105.
- U.S. Sen. H. John Heinz III, P.O. Box 55, Federal Square Station, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105.
- Dr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1717 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Room H-403, Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- U.S. Rep. Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, Room 435, CHOB, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- Herman Dieckamp, President and Chief Operating Officer, General Public Utilities Corp., 287 Cherry Road, Parsippany, N.J. 07754.
- James Lee Everett, President, Philadelphia Electric Co., 2301 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19101.

Acknowledged by card... 3/17/78

BETTER WAYS TO HARNESS POWER FROM SUNLIGHT John J. Kluck

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Dear Sirs:

In view of the problems encountered by some of the residents in the area of 3 mile Island Nuclear Power Plant I feel it should be closed down permanently. I see no reason why it should be delayed any longer. There are too many unknowns with nuclear power, for anyone to make assurances about its safety. Let's concentrate on solar energy potential.



Margaret Klunk  
Ken Skell  
David Mc...  
Chap...  
John J Klunk

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Acknowledged by card 3/27