



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 10, 1980

Docket No. 50-320

The Honorable John Heinz  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

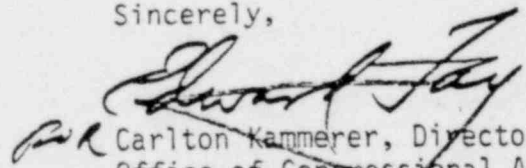
Dear Senator Heinz:

I am writing in response to your note of May 14, 1980, to NRC's Office of Congressional Affairs regarding the letter from your constituent, Ms. Darlene Mattson. Ms. Mattson submitted an article from the Paxton Herald that discusses problems that have been affecting farm animals in the vicinity of Three Mile Island (TMI).

NRC's Terrestrial Resources Section, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, is currently conducting a study of possible health effects on farm animals in the vicinity of TMI. This study is examining both the radiological effects of the TMI accident and possible links between cooling tower operation at TMI and animal pathology in the area. The investigating team has met with many area farmers and veterinarians. Field studies have been completed and the data is currently being evaluated. The investigating team plans to issue a report of its findings, which will be available to the public, in mid-summer. They will send you a copy of the report when it is completed.

I trust that the report will adequately address the concerns raised by Ms. Mattson and by the Paxton Herald article.

Sincerely,

  
Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

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April 17, 1980

The Honorable H. John Heinz, III  
United States Senate  
443 Russell Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinz:

Enclosed is an article entitled "Those TMI Related Animal Reports -- Are They True?" from The Paxton Herald of February 27, 1980 which I just recently read. My reasons for sending you this article are two-fold.

My first request is that you investigate these instances and delve into reports or lack of cooperation in obtaining reports and discover the truth and then have your report written up in The Paxton Herald as well as other local newspapers, and also given on TV and radio. It seems to me that this would be a logical way to deal with this situation.

The mental and emotional states of the people have been referred to a great deal recently. Can you imagine the frustration of these people, as well as us, the readers of these articles? If you can, I am certain you will want to get to the bottom and then have the results released. If the results indicate that the various problems were not caused by TMI - that should be said. On the other hand, if these instances are related to TMI - then you will want to honestly let the people know and take action to save the people - who I, in my value system, place first on the listing of priorities. We do not want the same cover-up here as took place out west.

Articles appearing in periodicals do cause the readers to react. I feel this article had a very frightening effect. I also feel that responsible reporting is so important - especially at this time. Having read many articles on this subject, as well as other subjects, I have found articles are not always accurate. If I were to point these situations out - I would really be kept busy.

The Honorable H. John Heinz, III  
United States Senate

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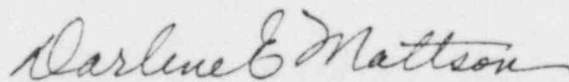
April 17, 1980

I am sorry to say, I do not trust the reporting, either in the newspapers, TV or radio. This brings me to my second item. How do you as an official in our government, and I as a citizen communicate, efficiently, on matters of such great importance? I am requesting that you gentlemen have a regular - TV, radio press conference, opening with a statement, clearly outlining the facts that need to be presented, and then be free for questions from the press and commentators afterwards. This should be done during evening prime time - and not, for example, on Sunday a.m. when many concerned persons are worshipping their God in Church. We, the people, will then be able to hear what you have to say and form our own opinions. We will not need to have someone come on after the presentation to interpret your comments to us. Instead, the time will be used for you and the question and answer period. Should we, the public have questions, we can write, as I am doing now - to use another means of communication, or could call a number for direct questions on the air.

In closing, I want to reiterate my first concern, and that is -- I want to know if these animal problems are related to TMI. If they are, let's admit it and do something about it. Let's be honest - let's put people above the almighty dollar. If the animal problems are not related to TMI - what is causing them? (In terms we can understand)

I look forward to hearing from you! Thank you for your commitment to your fellowman in serving the people as you do in your position in government.

Sincerely,



Darlene E. Mattson  
409 Longmeadow Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

DEM/rmc

Enclosure

cc: Governor Richard L. Thornburgh  
The State Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

cc: Congressman Robert S. Walker  
1028 LHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Paxton Herald  
101 Lincoln Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Lancaster Newspapers, Inc.  
8 West King Street  
Lancaster, PA 17601



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Exclusive....

# Those TMI Related Animal Reports - Are They True?

Read This and  
Decide For Yourself



...Near TMI  
Mother Cow mourns her stillborn calf

-by Mary Jane Horning

The Paxton Herald has learned that, within a 5 mile radius of TMI, farmers have been having serious problems with their animals.

Everyone we talked to says essentially the same thing, that these problems started since the fueling of TMI, and that before that time they only had a few minor problems that can be expected whenever anyone raises animals.

## TMI WAS ADMITTEDLY SPEWING FORTH RADIATION EVER SINCE IT "FIRED UP"

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Conley, who own a farm within 1 mile of TMI, told us that their troubles started a few years ago when a white powdery substance started appearing on their grass. When it rains, the rain turns milky when it hits the ground. Around the spouts that carry the rain off their house and barn roofs, no grass will grow anymore. The bones in three of their steers got so weak that the steers would get down and be unable to get up. They dragged themselves around until they died. Animals suffer from diarrhea and weakness. The veterinarian has informed them that they must feed their steers extra minerals in order to have them survive, which is costing them 2 1/2 times the normal amount for feed. The vet also said if the mineral loss in the ground continues, the farmer will be unable to grow hay. Last summer 10 kittens from two separate litters all died. One kitten unable to turn his head. In the fall, a hunter brought a perfectly healthy stray cat to their farm, but some time later the cat got sick and died. Mrs. Conley herself says she "hasn't been feeling too good" and her daughter has also been ill. "You never know when the blamed thing (TMI) is going to blow up," Mrs. Conley said.

## FARMER MOVES OUT, ACCIDENT LAST STRAW

Mrs. Conley told us that relatives of theirs took their 60 head of cattle and moved out the day after the TMI accident because their stock was already experiencing reproduction problems, weakness, and severe nervous disorders, so much so that it was necessary to hobble their legs in order to milk them. The accident was the last straw. A white substance was also accumulating in their watering troughs overnight, and when they tried to sweep it out, it turned milky white. She also told us that a cousin of her's, who is a dairy farmer in Lancaster County has been having trouble with his milk cows getting lumps in their legs.

## BLIND CALVES WITH SOFT BONES

Mr. & Mrs. Fitzgerald, who live in Etters, have had two calves born blind and with soft bones, one whose both hips broke with no discernible explanation. They took parts of the animals to the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, for examination after the calves died. The results that came back were written in such a way that Mr. Fitzgerald, who teaches Agriculture, and the local Veterinarian could not understand them. This is part of the report: "(Costochondral junction) Rickets categorized by persistent hypertrophic chondrocytes into metaphysics. Vascular invasion of physal cartilage is markedly irregular. A broad zone of fibroplasia fibrocartilage and cartilage formation approximately 1 cm. from the physis is compatible with a spontaneous fracture. Cortex (humerus bone) severe osteoporosis characterized by numerous large resorption cavities throughout the cortex." Mrs. Fitzgerald said they never had any of these problems before TMI and since it has been shut down, she has gotten two more calves, who seem to have no problems.

## PROBLEMS WITH GOAT, RABBITS, AND SHEEP TOO

Mrs. Hardison, who has a farm near Middletown upon which she raises goats, sheep, and rabbits, is having problems right now. Her goats won't dilate for delivery. Her sheep just had another stillborn lamb.



### Goat with sores that appeared on its' back after Three Mile Island Accident

which resulted in multiple fractures, which would not respond to treatment. Samples of dead animals sent to the University of Pennsylvania for tests came back with the diagnosis of "Severe deficiency". Dr. Weber, anxious to find out what the severe deficiency was, said he has "asked repeatedly for soil studies to be done." In June he was informed that a grant had been approved for the study but Dr. Weber said he "has heard nothing since." After the TMI accident Dr. Weber had many stillborn animals. He contacted Met Ed about the problem but was told the story was completely unfounded as the wind 90% of the time blows over Lancaster County. But, according to Dr. Weber this may be true in good weather when vapors from the cooling towers rise high in the area and disseminate over a large area. But in rainy weather the wind changes and the vapors hang over the immediate area and come back to the ground full strength.

The above problems seemed to have disappeared since last summer but now a new problem has set in sheep and goats will not delate when birthing. Dr. Weber said this does happen occassionally but an injection will start up dilation. Now an injection is like injecting water. Operations must be performed to deliver kids and lambs when placentas loosen. Dr. Weber said, "Earlier problems were limited to a five mile area, but these latest problems seems to be spreading out to a 10 mile radius.

Dr. Weber reported one farmer, whose calves all were born without horns after the TMI accident. His cows, after calving, couldn't get up for days. The farmer moved to Chambersburg since, and has had no problems since. After Christmas, Dr. Weber talked with the farmer and he had his first calf born with horns. Dr. Weber finished by stating "There definitely is a problem in this area."

One of the facts to be considered here, is that all through history, nature tries to warn the human race when something is amiss. Unless one listens to nature, sooner or later the human race is affected, as we have seen in the problems associated with toxic wastes. Is the government going to wait until it is too late before doing anything? Hopefully, some action soon will be taken to find out exactly just what is going on here.

Tasha, who have been experiencing reproduction troubles, lambs dying when several days old, and one lamb was born with only one eye, all since the installation of TMI. After the accident, one adult female sheep died which was pregnant, three lambs, two to three hours old and perfectly formed died; one pregnant female goat died carrying four kids; and three kids had to be bottle fed because the mothers had no milk. Three mother rabbits, one bred twice, each delivered eight rabbits per litter, and all the baby rabbits died. One of her lambs was born deformed in the front shoulders, and she had to teach it to walk. Mrs. Hardison, whose farm looks straight out on TMI's towers, could not stay in the day of the accident, as advised, because her animals were birthing, and an open cut she had on her arm healed up with a strange sponge-like effect. Her doctor said it could be a deposit of minerals causing it. Mrs. Hardison feels very discouraged, since she says no one will pay any attention to these problems or give her any answers.

#### PROBLEMS WITH RABBITS, DEFORMITIES, BREEDING, ETC.

Four and 9/10 miles from TMI, Glenn and Alice Wilt raise rabbits. They started experiencing breeding problems in 1978. Rabbits bred either produced no results, aborted or had false pregnancies. After 23 baby rabbits died following birth, the Wilts sent a specimen to Ohio laboratory for testing. Nine months later, no results, only that the specimen is frozen and will be examined. The Wilts lost 13 rabbits in the week following the TMI accident, all between nine and ten weeks old. This is an odd age at which to die as most baby rabbits die usually three to four weeks after birth if something is wrong. The week in February when the emissions occurred at TMI, the Wilts lost four more rabbits. The Wilts are also concerned with the mutations that have been occurring. Rabbits are being born without legs, without ears, or hind quarters completely gone. Mrs. Wilt said "they were shaped like Casper the Ghost." a corroborating story has come from a hunter who shot a rabbit in hunting season in the Middletown vicinity which he described as appearing like "Casper the Ghost." Mrs. Wilt feels the whole situation is completely hopeless. "Nobody cares", she said. They never had any rabbits die before the installation of TMI. "One day they're fine, the next day they're dead," Mrs. Wilt exclaimed. One rabbit that was their favorite pet just died one day with no apparent cause. They have called the Department of Agriculture asking for a study to be done on their rabbits, but Mrs. Wilt said she was informed that the Department only tested milk; they don't have time to test animals. Mrs. Wilt said that the call from the Paxton Herald was the first call she has ever had on her problems; she didn't think anyone cared.

The Kauffman, who also live near TMI, have also been having problems with their steers losing control of their hindquarters. Their cats are all suffering from the same symptom; very ill and unable to get up. Mrs. Kauffman said, "We never had any trouble all the years we lived here until that thing (TMI) came here."

#### PARALYZED STEERS ON THIS FARM

Mr. Fisher, who has a farm on the west side of TMI has also been experiencing breeding problems and bone problems with his steers. In July, a litter of four kittens all died. Two of his goats aborted. He has lost five steers, all of which became unable to stand because of paralysis in their legs. They would lie around, usually from six to eight weeks when their hearts and livers would deteriorate and they all died. One steer, Mr. Fisher fed selenium to, and the steer recovered. Mr. Fisher is convinced that somehow there is a problem with a mineral deficiency in the steers and the soil from the pollution from TMI. Mr. Fisher said he has appealed to at least a half a dozen state agencies without any satisfaction. He even appealed to Mr. Geesey, his legislator, who promptly

sent out a team to investigate. They took samples of the soil, feed, hay and water last July, but to this date he has not heard a word. Mr. Fisher said that where the water runs off his roof, there is a two to three foot path over ten feet long that will not grow any grass. Under his metal fence, where the moisture drips off on the grass, is also a three inch path where no grass will grow. Recently his goats, who should have had ten kids, delivered only two. Last Tuesday a still-born kid was delivered, fully developed. Mr. Fisher doesn't know what the answer is, but his biggest gripe is that the state won't give him any help in finding out what the problem is. He feels

it is "a big coverup, a big whitewash." He has even called the Governor's Action Center, and was told that they'll get the answers. A lady with a Doctor's degree said she would get the answers even if she had to go to Washington. Later she called back and said she couldn't get any answers at all, and suggested a lot of aches in his muscles and joints of late. He said his farm has been in the family for 210 years and there has never been problems like this before.

#### MORE ANIMAL PROBLEMS

On the Jeremiah Fisher farm, the problems are essentially the same, all starting in 1977. They have also been having problems with their ducks. Out of 70 eggs laid by four female ducks, only seven ducklings developed in 1978. One was a mutation, that never fully developed. The feathers were brittle and stood out. Beneath the feathers was a hard bone structure, very hard without any flesh. This duck was fed the same feed, supplemented with minerals and given extra attention to keep it alive, but its condition never showed improvement and six months later it died. In May of 1979, another mutation, with the same symptoms was born but died two days later. In 1978, the Fisher's pet cat was found dead in a barn loft. Since rigor mortis had not set in, the cat was taken to the vet for an autopsy. The Vet described the cat as healthy and in good physical condition. Death was due to some type of poisoning which he was unable to name, and despite the symptoms of poisoning, he found no poison mixed with the residue in her stomach. When asked it this was unusual, the vet explained that when an animal is poisoned, there is usually a residue of the poison mixed with the stomach contents. Right after the accident, a nanny goat had a still-born, a week old calf had to be she because sides caved in, it couldn't walk or eat. In different litters of cats born after the accident, 11 died. Only one kitten survived, which appears to have damage to its nervous system. It can only take a few steps and then it flops over, whereby it earned the name Flip-Flop. There is a definite weakness in the hindquarters and eating pecks it's food like a chicken. While eating, Flip-Flop must stabilize itself under something three inches off the floor or otherwise it will lose control and flip over backwards landing on its back. In August another litter of kittens were born, all in different stages of development. One was born with fur which died the next day, one was smaller with no fur, one smaller yet in lesser fetal stage. The Fishers are also having breeding problems with their cows. Some of the cows have either not bred, aborted, had stillborns, and cysts have developed. The Fishers feel that this is only the "tip of the iceberg", as many farmers are fearful of revealing their problems because of the economic consequences.

On other farms there also have been reports of animals with cancers, goats developing sores the size of half dollars, ducks laying 200 eggs without a single hatching, 19 guinea pigs dying and 100 goose eggs with only one hatching which died.

Mr. Weber, the veterinarian that serves most of the people on the western side of the river, said, "There is definitely a problem. Problems with animals in this particular area started in 1976, chiefly among young calves from 250 to 450-500." The problems involve were blindness anemia and severe deficiencies