



December 11, 1980

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region 1  
67 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Gentlemen:

A recent article in the December 4, 1980, Bergen Record (see attached article) entitled "Radiation Under Study in 2 Towns" pertained to the N. R. C. investigation of abnormally high radiation in the towns of Maywood and Rochelle Park.

Our TIMEPLEX headquarters facility is located on Railroad Avenue in Rochelle Park. The map used in the article indicates we are in close proximity to the abnormally high radioactive area. In addition, our facility was built on a former town dumping area, which causes us further concern.


We would appreciate any information you could provide us concerning our location and level of radioactivity.

The safety of our employees is our major concern and we want to be certain a health hazard does not exist.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

TIMEPLEX, INC.

  
J. J. Collins  
Assistant Vice President,  
Director of Engineering

JJC:lc  
Attachment

# The Record North Jersey today

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1980

Close-up in NS

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## Radiation under study in 2 towns

By Charles Austin

Staff Writer

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is investigating abnormally high radiation in Maywood and Rochelle Park at the sites of chemical plants that once used thorium in manufacturing gas lanterns.

Commission officials said the radiation posed no immediate danger. But the regulatory agency is planning additional studies, including an aerial survey, and says it wants to minimize the long-term effects of the slightly radioactive wastes.

The level of radiation found near Route 17 sometimes reaches three millirems per hour, said NRC officials at a special meeting with local leaders last night. Normal radiation in this area is about .02 millirems per hour.

"These levels are very low, but higher than we would expect," said John Kinneman of the NRC.

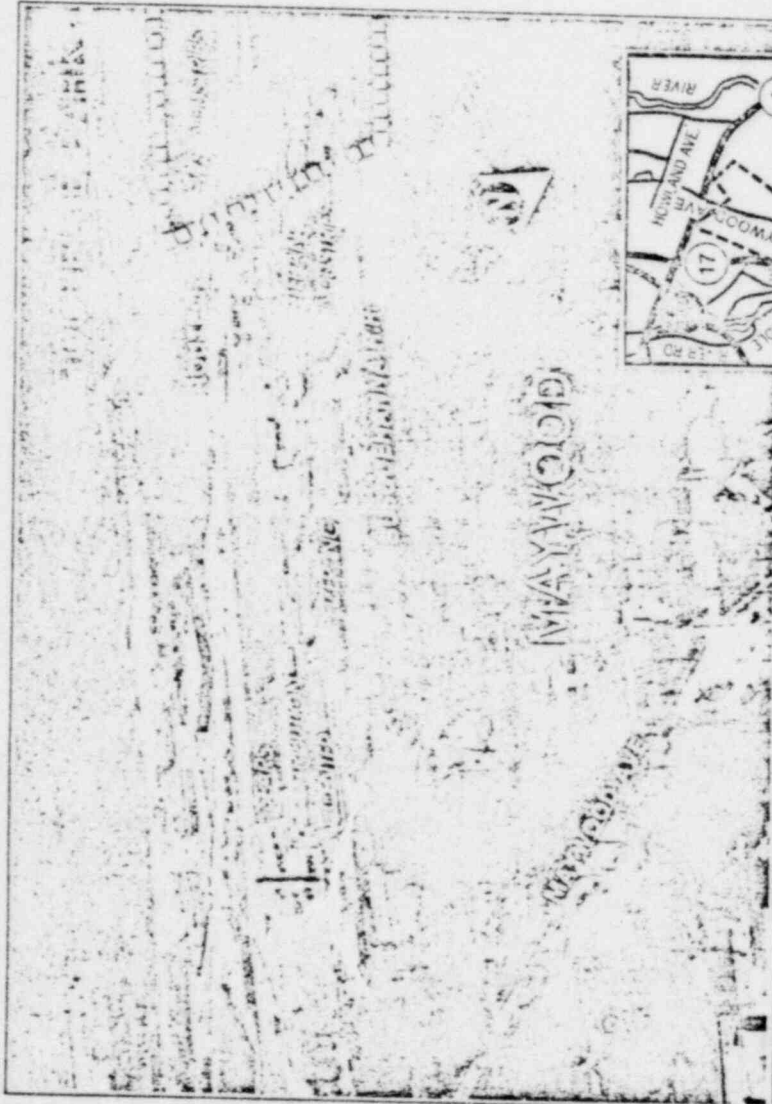
"Persons who casually pass by the sites are in no danger," he added. "nor are people working on the site in any immediate danger." The radiation is narrowly confined, local officials were told. Outside the sites, radiation levels declined to normal, the NRC reported.

### No water affected

Two pieces of land — one recently discussed as the site of a residential development — are of special concern to the NRC. One is a portion of the Stepan Chemical property in Maywood, just east of Route 17, along the tracks of the Susquehanna railroad. The other is in Rochelle Park west of Route 17. SWS Industries recently leased the property, and is planning to build a manufacturing plant and warehouse on the eight-acre site. Until developers changed their plans last summer, a town-house development had been considered for the site.

No water supplies are affected by the radiation, said local officials.

Stepan Chemical, located on West Hunter Avenue in Maywood, is licensed to store radioactive materials. But the radiation seems to be coming from thorium wastes that have been on the site for decades. The now-defunct Maywood Chemical Co., purchased by Stepan Chemical in 1959, is believed to have used the thorium. George Smith of the NRC's radiological protection unit said the thorium could be surface residue or it could be the peak of more extensive fillings buried on the property.



Staff photo by Peter Karas

Aerial photograph and map show location of abnormally high radioactivity.

Stepan Chemical said last night that it is fencing off the affected area. Maywood Mayor John Stewart said he was confident that the chemical company would be cooperative in dealing with the problem, and Quentin Stepan, president of the firm, said the company had already been working with the NRC to determine the extent of the radiation.

Questioned by Rochelle Park Mayor James Fallour, Kinneman recommended further

studies before any excavations were undertaken on the sites. Nearby property owners were advised to contact the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) before any excavations.

NRC officials said they would be willing to meet with local residents who have questions about the sites, and the agency representatives

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## Freeholders act to raise their pay

By Peter Cary  
Staff Writer

With no notice or discussion, Bergen County's freeholders have set in motion the process of giving themselves 20 percent raises.

Copies of a resolution to raise salaries for the nine freeholders from \$15,000 to \$18,000 were placed before each freeholder yesterday by a clerk as their public meeting was ending, and a quick vote followed to schedule a public hearing and final passage of the measure.

"It was just dropped on my desk. I haven't heard any talk about raises for a month," said John F. Curran, who said he abstained from voting because the introduction of the measure surprised him.

Freeholders Jeremiah F. O'Connor and Charles E. Reid also abstained. But they, like Curran, said they believed a raise was justified, and that they would likely vote for its passage Dec. 17.

### 25% increase in 1978

The freeholders last received a pay raise in 1978, when salaries were raised from \$12,000 to \$15,000, and the proposed hike would bring their pay to the maximum allowable by state law. The freeholder-director will continue to earn an additional \$1,000, and the freeholders will continue to receive new-leased automobiles for their personal use, with all automobile expenses paid by the county.

Voting for the raises were Freeholder Director F. J. Mahalik and Freeholders Harry J. Gerecke, Joan Benmacker, Gerald A. Calabrese, and Joseph Carucci. Those opposing the measure said the raise was justified because of inflation and the continually increasing hours that the nominally part-time officials spend on the job. Freeholder D. Bennett Mazur, defeated for reelection, was absent. He and O'Connor, who did not seek another term, will not be on the board next year.

Mrs. Mahalik said after the meeting that the matter had been discussed a month ago and put off, but several freeholders agreed at the end of yesterday's afternoon work session that the question had to be introduced immediately to set up final passage before Jan. 1.

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