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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 18, 1981

HONOLULU OFFICE:
3104 PRINCE KUHIO BUILDING
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honorable Carlton Kammerer
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20505

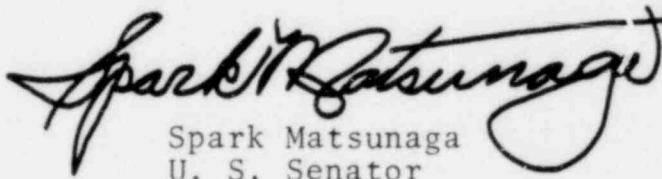
Dear Mr. Kammerer:

A constituent of mine has brought to my attention an article from a Hawaii newspaper entitled "TMI's Woe: Oh, Rats!" concerning contaminated rodent droppings which have been found in the basement of the reactor control building at Three Mile Island.

I have enclosed a copy of this article for your perusal. I would greatly appreciate it if you could furnish me a report concerning this matter so that I may forward the additional information to my constituent.

Aloha and best wishes.

Sincerely,


Spark Matsunaga
U. S. Senator

Enclosure: Copy of newspaper article entitled "TMI's Woe:
Oh, Rats!!"

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TMI's woe: Oh, Rats!!

WASHINGTON — As if the management of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant didn't have enough to worry about, radioactive mice are now apparently whooping it up in the reactor control room building.

At least, radioactive rodent droppings have been found in the basement of the building where the nation's worst nuclear scare occurred in March 1979. The Metropolitan Edison Co. management, in an announcement, said teams of exterminators are trying to catch the little devils — for testing, of course.

The public has nothing to worry about, Met Ed said. "Contaminated mice or rats or their droppings would have to be ingested in relatively large quantities for humans or field animals to pick up detectable radiation from them. Rodent bites would not transmit radiation."

The creatures might have been contaminated from drinking some of the 600,000 gallons of radioactive water still flooding the basement of the containment building next door, but no one is certain. Their droppings, according to Met Ed, are giving off 70 millirads of radiation per hour, about half again as much as a chest X ray.

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