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# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED  
STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

November 15, 1977.

Mr. Joseph N. Hendrie  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Several months ago I asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to comment on some findings by Dr. Ernest Sternglass which established, according to the professor, a direct causal relationship between high levels of infant mortality in the State of Connecticut and the radioactive emissions from nuclear power plants operating in the same geographic area. In response I received a report from the Commission which, in my opinion, satisfactorily responded to Dr. Sternglass' allegations.

I have now received a follow-up report from Dr. Sternglass focusing on the levels of Strontium-90 found in the milk and diet near the Connecticut nuclear power plants. It is my preliminary impression that the questions raised by Dr. Sternglass in this report are essential to any debate on the effect of sustained radioactive emissions from nuclear power plants on the public health. In light of the importance of this debate, and of the recent conclusions of the General Accounting Office on the subject, I feel that these questions deserve to be carefully addressed by our national regulatory bodies.

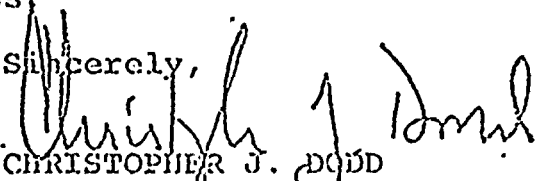
As the Representative of the Congressional District in which the nuclear power plants in question are located, I request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission examine the Sternglass document and respond to it fully. In particular, I would appreciate a detailed response to the following questions:

- 1) Do you consider the amounts of Strontium-90 found in the milk and diet around the Connecticut plants to be unrelated to plant operations? If so, why?
- 2) Are levels of Strontium-90 taken into account when federally regulated testing of the environment around the nuclear power plants takes place to measure controlled substances? If not, why not?
- 3) Are the levels of Strontium-90 calculated by Dr.

Sternglass accurate? Do the professor's extrapolations, in terms of the total bone and body doses received by the population surrounding the plants, have scientific validity? If not, why not?

I would, Mr. Chairman, deeply appreciate your giving this matter your prompt attention, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation in the conduct of a full and responsible investigation of the findings contained in the attached report by Dr. Sternglass.

Sincerely,

  
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
Member of Congress

