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United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 21, 1983

Mr. Thomas Eichler
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Sixth and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Eichler:

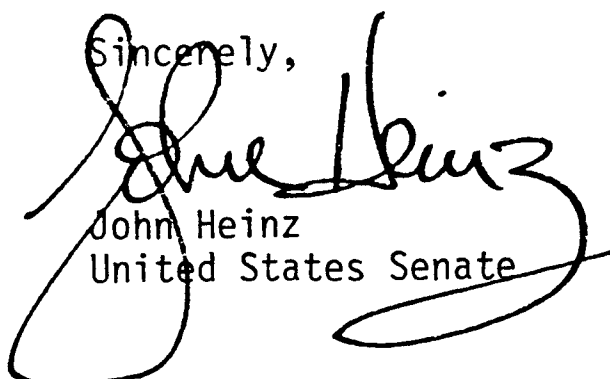
I am deeply concerned over the recent discoveries of Trichloroethylene (TCE) and vinyl chloride in the water supplies in and around Harrisburg International Airport. It is my understanding that wells in the areas of Londonderry Township, the Harrisburg International Airport, and two wells that are part of the municipal water system of Middletown Borough are contaminated.

In response, I am requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) coordinate a broad area-wide study to determine the extent and sources of contamination. EPA has completed similar studies on such emergency Superfund sites. Additionally, I believe it is very important that EPA rank this site under your National Priorities List Program identifying it for remedial action. Congressman Gekas and State Senator Shumaker have contacted your office in this regard.

The scope of the contamination in the airport area's water systems is not clearly defined and is the source of much speculation by local officials and residents. The Borough of Middletown has specifically requested such an area-wide investigation, and I feel a special obligation to these Middletown area residents who have suffered so much in the past few years.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not commend EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and the Air Force for their coordinated quick response providing safe water to the twelve affected residences in Londonderry Township. Please be assured of my cooperation in your future efforts to insure clean water to Harrisburg Airport area residents.

Sincerely,



John Heinz
United States Senate

JH:ksb