

Two firms to clean up chemicals

United Press International
TRENTON, N.J. — State environmental officials said Thursday two Fair Lawn industrial firms have agreed to pay the borough a total \$1.2 million to clean up five municipal wells contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals.

Fisher Scientific Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Allied Corp., and Sandvik, Inc. have also agreed to clean up the sites around their plants that caused the con-

tamination, DEP officials said. The agreement by Fisher and Sandvik marks the second time state officials have reached such an agreement with firms identified as having caused toxic pollution. Last week, the Dallas-based Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Co. agreed to pay for the cleanup of dioxin at a site in Newark where it manufactured the herbicide Agent Orange from 1951 to 1969. High levels of cancer-causing dioxin were discovered last

summer near the defunct chemical plant on Lister Ave. The agreement with Fisher and Sandvik ended an investigation that began in 1978 when the DEP closed four wells found to contain cancer-causing chemicals used as industrial solvents. A fifth well, also found to be contaminated, had been closed earlier because of mechanical problems. Each firm has agreed to pay \$610,000. The money will be used to reimburse the borough for the cost of pur-

chasing water from outside sources and for the installation of a water purification system in each well. Sandvik, which manufactures cutting tools, has already removed a dozen 55-gallon drums from beneath the company parking lot that had leaked dangerous chemicals into the ground. Sandvik has also agreed to dispose of the contaminated soil within 120 days, DEP officials said.

Protection against rabies lacking in some humans

United Press International
ARLINGTON — A new genetic study indicates a small number of humans cannot produce the internal "killer cells" needed to combat infectious rabies, a Texas A&M veterinary pathologist reported Thursday. "Even with a rabies vaccine, some people just do not produce the necessary antibodies," Joe Templeton told delegates to the annual "Diseases in Nature" conference.

"There is a reasonable segment of people, perhaps 1 to 5 percent, who do not have the genetic capacity to make these antibodies. The evidence indicates that we must find a way of stimulating the body's own killer cells. We believe they must be modulated with a vaccine."

Templeton said his study of mice showed some animals died of rabies despite the use of a potent vaccine. "The serum factor does not necessarily correlate with protection." In a related report, Texas authorities said they confirmed 724 animal rabies cases last year — one of the highest totals in the nation — but 9 percent below the state's 1982 level.

Nearly half the cases were traced to skunks, said Victor Whadford, a technician at the state's zoonosis control division. Zoonosis is the study of animal diseases transmissible to man.

There were no fatal human cases in Texas last year, but dozens of people were inoculated.

"It's hard to tell somebody who has to go through the painful shots that the rabies situation is improving," he said. In addition to skunks, rabies was found in cows, bats, cats,

horses, foxes, dogs, raccoons, and, in three unusual cases, a bobcat, pig and deer. One of the horse cases, Whadford said, was a regular on the rodeo circuit. "After the horse underwent euthanasia, we traced the disease back to a pasture in Miller County, Texas."

Experts also reported on the outbreak of brucellosis, a disease common in cattle. Last year 84 human cases were reported, roughly double the rate from 1982, according to Dr. Ed Young, acting chief of staff at the VA medical Center in Houston.

Test tube monkey born

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Hospital officials Thursday handed out bananas to announce the birth of Pepito, the first monkey ever conceived with the egg and sperm of one species and grown to term in a female of another species. Officials at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio said the tiny male primate is only the third ever produced with the in vitro, or test tube, procedure. The baby, dubbed Pepito,

was born March 12 but the birth was not announced until today. Bananas were distributed by the hospital to mark the occasion. The birth was accomplished by a team headed by Dr. Jose Balmaceda, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Dr. Thomas Pool, a cell biologist. Both men are involved in the Center's in vitro program, which was established last year to help infertile human couples achieve pregnancy. Balmaceda said the monkey was born after scientists com-

bined the egg and sperm of two fascicularis monkeys in vitro, and planted the embryo in a female rhesus monkey. They said the birth represented the first in which the egg and sperm of one species of monkey grew to term in the female of another species. Pepito was delivered by Caesarean section to avoid any possible trauma to the baby during labor, Balmaceda said. The mother rejected the baby soon after birth. "When the mother is put to

sleep for the procedure, there is no baby," he explained. "When she wakes up, suddenly there is a baby. The mother has no memory of the birth or of being in labor, so she doesn't recognize the baby as hers." But he said the baby, whose 16-ounce birth weight was greater than that of most fascicularis monkeys, was healthy and thriving after being placed with a female rhesus "mother" monkey.

Kerr says allegations hurt his career

EL PASO — Former Assistant U.S. Attorney James Kerr testified Thursday he had the backing for a "high court" appointment until his career as a federal prosecutor suffered from published allegations in the El Paso Times. Kerr, testifying in the fourth trial day of his \$40 million libel lawsuit against the Times, told the jury an Aug. 6, 1978 opinion column written by reporter Ron Dusek damaged his career. The column alleged Kerr was "cheating" and "lied" in a 1978 federal narcotics trial when he told a jury that an El Paso drug

conspirator admitted to being the financier of a drug smuggling scheme. Kerr indicated Dusek's column might have cost him the high court appointment. He said he had the backing of U.S. senators from Texas until the column was published. "There is a blot on my record," Kerr told Times lawyer Richard Munzinger. "And I want that blot removed." Kerr earlier testified before 65th District Court Judge Edward Marquez he thought Dusek was favoring narcotics conspirators when the opinion

column was published. Kerr, now an administrative law judge, said "it is absolutely incomprehensible to me that an article like this could be printed unless the writer was defending convicted drug smugglers." The Gannett Co., and the Times are co-defendants in the suit.

Kerr testified that his reputation was damaged and denied he had lied or cheated when he made final arguments to the jury that convicted Rick De la Torre who, trial records showed, was described by prosecution witnesses as the financial backer of a drug smuggling conspiracy.

Nuclear site faces delays

FORT WORTH — The Comanche Peak nuclear power plant, already mired in cost overruns and construction delays, will be late by nine to 12 months in activating its first reactor, forcing another upward cost revision, a government official said. The delay in loading radioactive fuel in the project's reactor could add another \$550 million to \$730 million to the plant's already bloated price tag of \$3.89 billion, figures provided by the plant's owners indicated.

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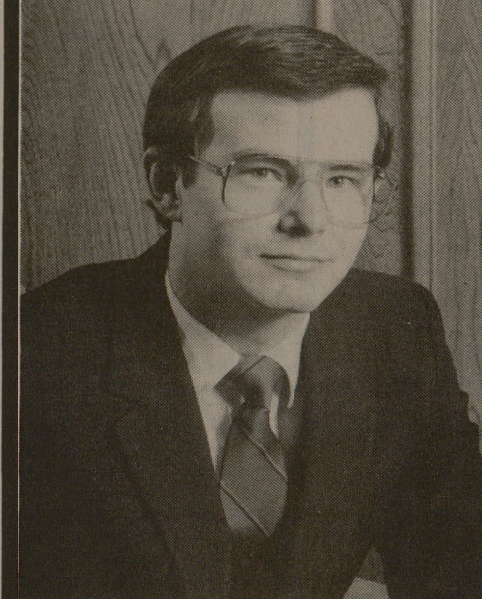
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