

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Series

**No.:**

AU023.017S

**FORMS PART OF:**

AU023 Martha Kostuch fonds

**TITLE:**

Animal and human health series

**CREATOR:**

Kostuch, Martha

**DATE RANGE:**

1964-2008

**EXTENT:**

2.01 m of textual records and other material

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY/ BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

In 1978, Martha Kostuch discovered a link between sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and their adverse effects on animal health while practicing as a veterinary surgeon in Rocky Mountain House, AB. She continued her investigations into health effects from oilfield and sour gas pollutants on both human and animal health. She was Co-Chair of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance's (CASA) Animal Health Project Team from 1999 to 2003, on the Human and Animal Health Implementation Team from 2003-2008 and on the Confined Feeding Operations Project Team. Prior to that, she was also on the Public Advisory Committee to the Acid Deposition Research Program that had conducted a human health study in the Pincher Creek and Waterton areas of Alberta.

As part of her work on these committees, she researched toxins and their effects on health and the quality of nutrients in food. She looked at studies and surveys of pollutants' effects on cattle and human health compiled by researchers from around the world. Kostuch attended and presented at workshops and seminars regarding toxicology in animals as a result of oil and gas industry pollution. The committees also made recommendations regarding regulations and policies for animal and human health to the Energy Conservation Resources Boards and the Environmental Council of Alberta. Kostuch also liaised with Alberta Health and Wellness and the Alberta Lung Association for presentations at seminars and recommendations of regulations and rules on toxic emissions.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

In April 2008, Martha Kostuch signed an agreement with Athabasca University to have her records digitized but she passed away before this work could be started. After her death on April 23, 2008, her records went into the custody of her son Edward and in July 2008, he donated the records to Athabasca University.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of material pertaining to developing improved regulations and policies regarding the adverse health effects on human and animal health caused by pollutants from the oil and gas industries.

Textual and electronic records include; reports, human and animal health studies, agendas, meeting minutes and attachments, correspondence, news releases, presentations, workshop proceedings, notes and newspaper clippings. As well, much of the material has been annotated by Martha Kostuch.

The graphic material in this series includes transparencies used in a presentation about flaring and venting from gas plants and include images of sick, diseased or dead cattle and damage to trees from sour gas emissions. One image also depicts the members of the Animal and Human Health Implementation Team. The electronic material consists of reports. One videotape is of a workshop, and the other videotape is of a television show on human health.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from the contents of the fonds.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Series also contains - 23 transparencies. -8 photographs. – 2 DVDs. - 2 videotapes - 1 CD.

**CONSERVATION:**

Conservation copies have been made of some of the newspaper clippings, thermal fax paper and mimeograph paper.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

Series have been based on the major topics identified from the creator's arrangement, though some records may pertain to a number of series.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

**FINDING AIDS:**

Box list and file list are available. Some of the material is available in electronic form.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2008.015

Further accruals are not expected.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history was obtained from the records and from *The Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Red Deer Advocate* newspapers.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Acid rain

Sulphur

Pollutants

Environmental policy

Environmental laws

Water - - Pollution

Diseases