

St. Louis District Office

December 10, 1968

E. C. Wilde
M. F. Wheeler - ~~WHEELER~~
W. F. Waychoff - WWAYC

INTERCHEMICAL
Aroclor 4465

FILE

On November 25 George Weston, the Purchasing Agent at Interchemical's Presstite Division here in St. Louis, phoned to inform me of a plant strike at their operations here in St. Louis. Apparently two men were overcome by Aroclor 4465 fumes Friday, November 22 and caused a union strike within the plant.

The Aroclor fumes originated in the heating apparatus where they heat the drums of Aroclor 4465 in order to extract the material. We have not been shipping them the special drums which are heavy gauge steel but have been shipping the Aroclor in thin walled drums. The drums become damaged during shipping and result in weaknesses in the steel which have leaked and caused the Aroclor to exude onto the floors of the heater, thereby causing fumes in the oven.

Upon receiving this information I contacted Gene Wilde and he in turn called Mr. Wheeler in our Medical Department who talked to Mr. Rataczak at Interchemical about the accident from a medical standpoint. Mr. Wheeler informed me that Interchemical does not have special ventilation over the ovens but feels that they have adequate local ventilation throughout the plant. Exposure would not result in chloroacne for employees who were overcome by the Aroclor fumes. Mr. Wheeler said that he would follow up with a letter to Interchemical to prevent any future litigation against Monsanto.

I called Cuming Paton and Bill Sturm and we will ship a new shipment of Aroclor 4465 in the special drums on or about December 4, 5 or 6. This answer satisfied George Weston at Interchemical. I made a call on Interchemical on Tuesday, November 26 and talked with George Weston, who informed me that the plant was still on strike, but they felt that with the heavy gauge drums this problem would not come up in the future. They did not hold Monsanto to blame as they had been informed about the thin gauge drums. For the time being, it seems as though the problem has been corrected.

James H. Schuch

/ng

MONS 096767