

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MIC

SUBJECT: Crude Orthochlorophenol

REPORTER & MEDIA: Mike Hollender, Radio KBIA in
Columbia (312) 882-7591

TIME & DATE: April 12, 1979, 11:20 a.m.

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

Reporter said since OCP contamination of ponds in Sturgeon the EPA has started to draw blood and urine samples of citizens.

Q. Did you know that?

A. No. I knew the clean-up workers had been examined by the EPA, but not the citizens.

Q. Tell me where OCP is used, how many people work in the unit, what health problems do they have, do they wear protective equipment, how long did we know there were dioxins in OCP?

A. Answered from position book.

Q. What inhalation studies has Monsanto done on OCP?

A. (Called back at 3:50 p.m.) Monsanto has manufactured OCP since 1937, and we have experienced no problems with the product from the beginning. We know that workers in the OCP production unit can be exposed to OCP up to a level of one part per million (ppm) and there are no health problems. Almost immediately after the spill at Sturgeon, readings were taken by our own people at the area of the heaviest concentration at the tracks. The level was .085 ppm (or less than one-tenth of levels at the plant). Therefore, we feel that there should be no concern by the citizens of Sturgeon as to possible inhalation problems. Since the clean-up vapor levels have gone down dramatically. The problem is that OCP has an odor threshold at a very, very low level.

Q. Dr. Seifter from the EPA in Washington says clean-up workers were exposed to 31 ppt. What do you say about that?

A. I'm surprised. Our analytical equipment only goes down to 10 ppb and we've got some sophisticated equipment. That's much smaller than I knew anyone could measure.

Q. How could these workers be contaminated?

A. They were in the heavy concentration during the clean-up and perhaps got burned with the OCP. Wallowing in the product without the right protective clothing could have allowed them to absorb OCP through their skin.

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