

8:15 a.m., Jan. 12, 1979

MCI PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT -- STURGEON, MO. DERAILMENT

The lab at Krummrich at about 8:00 a.m. this morning completed analyzing the last of eight air samples from the area of the Sturgeon, Mo., derailment. The results, by converting milligrams per cubic foot to parts per million, were that the samples show "less than .05 ppm." That is one-sixth of 3 ppm governmental TLV standard on phenol exposure.

The information has been transmitted to the EPA's Region Seven Office in Kansas City - Harry Gilmer (816) 374-4461. Monsanto will not release this information to the press. The decision on whether to announce an end to the evacuation is to be made by the EPA and local authorities.

From scores of press calls handled in connection with the incident and initial news media reporting it appears that publicity is heavy and extensive, regionally. I am not aware of any network TV coverage although it is difficult to conclude that there was none. It also appears that reports generally zeroed in on how people were bearing up in the sub-zero evacuation rather than on the scare-type coverage. Larry Conners of KMOX-TV reported incorrectly from the scene that the damaged car was owned by Monsanto. It is a car leased from GATX and efforts are being made to correct the record.

Five representatives of Monsanto are still on the scene to advise local authorities and assist in any way they can. A decision has yet to be made on how the cleanup will be accomplished.

John J. Spano

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