

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ETOWAH COUNTY
(Transferred from Calhoun County, Alabama)

SABRINA ABERNATHY, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

versus

MONSANTO COMPANY, et al.,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.
CV-2001-832
(Consolidated)

DEPOSITION OF EDWARD LAMAR MASON

The deposition of EDWARD LAMAR MASON was taken before Deborah Salers Garrett, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, as Commissioner, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on January 2, 2002, by the Plaintiffs, at the law offices of Fite & Miller, Suite 400, SouthTrust Bank Building, Anniston, Alabama, pursuant to the stipulations set forth herein.

Regional Reporting Service, Inc.
755 Walnut Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35901-0755

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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No exhibits were marked for identification,
offered or attached as exhibits hereto.

S T I P U L A T I O N S

IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED by the parties, through their respective counsel, that the deposition of EDWARD LAMAR MASON may be taken before Deborah Salers Garrett, CSR, RPR, as Commissioner and Notary Public, Alabama at Large, at Birmingham, Alabama, on January 2, 2002, at 9:00 a.m.

IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED that the signature to and reading of the deposition by the witness is waived, the deposition to have the same force and effect as if full compliance were had with all laws and rules of Court relating to the taking of depositions.

IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED that it shall not be necessary for any objections to be made by counsel to any questions except as to form or leading questions and that counsel may make objections and assign ground at the time of trial or at the time said deposition is offered in evidence or prior thereto.

IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED that notice of filing by the Commissioner is waived.

1 STATE OF ALABAMA, ANNISTON, JANUARY 2, 2002

2
3 EDWARD LAMAR MASON,

4 after having been first duly sworn, was
5 examined and testified as follows:

6
7 EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. COLEMAN:

9 Q. Mr. Mason, we have just been introduced.
10 For the record my name is Harrison
11 Coleman, and I represent the plaintiffs
12 in this case. This will be your
13 deposition taken pursuant to notice. I
14 just want to kind of go through some
15 grounds rules of deposition taking.
16 Have you taken a deposition before?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Then you know that we are going to need
19 you to give a verbal response to the
20 questions that I ask, which means yes or
21 no, and just try to avoid any uh-huh or
22 uh-uh because she has to take down
23 everything we say.

1 I don't foresee this taking all
2 that long, but if you need to take a
3 break at any time, just let me know, and
4 we'll go off the record. If you need to
5 ask your attorney anything in private,
6 we will take a break for that too.

7 Let's start the deposition with
8 your full name, please, sir.

9 A. Edward Lamar Mason.

10 Q. Where do you live now?

11 A. 1102 Lakemont Drive North, Southside.

12 Q. In Anniston?

13 A. Alabama.

14 Q. How long have you lived there?

15 A. Thirty-four years.

16 Q. When did you start working for Monsanto?

17 A. June of 1963.

18 Q. So thirty-four years -- You have lived
19 there since 1966, I guess?

20 A. '67.

21 Q. Between 1963 and 1967 where did you
22 live?

23 A. A couple of places. I lived out at

1 Wellington for a while when I first got
2 out of service. Then I lived up here at
3 Maplewood Avenue for a couple of years.
4 Then I moved out to Saks for six months.

5 Q. When you moved into the house you
6 currently live in in 1967, were you
7 married at the time?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Are you married now?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How many children do you have?

12 A. Two.

13 Q. What are their names?

14 THE WITNESS: Do I need to tell
15 him? Does he have to have
16 all that information?

17 MR. NEWSOM: He is entitled to get
18 into a little about your
19 background, particularly for
20 instance if they were living
21 in the area and might be on a
22 jury, for instance. Nobody
23 is going to contact them.

1 A. My son's name is Kevin, and my
2 daughter's name is Deanna.

3 Q. They lived in Anniston?

4 A. Yes. They were small children when we
5 lived down here.

6 Q. Do they live here now?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do they live in Gadsden by any chance?

9 A. My daughter lives in Southside.

10 Q. Is she married?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What is her last name?

13 A. Barfield.

14 Q. Okay. What's your understanding as to
15 your role as a witness or a deponent
16 today?

17 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

18 You may go ahead.

19 A. I don't understand what you are getting
20 at.

21 Q. Why are you here today?

22 A. Just to give a deposition about this
23 case.

1 Q. Okay. Are you retired?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When did you retire?

4 A. 1996.

5 Q. Okay. I'd like to get into a little bit
6 of your job history at Monsanto. I'm
7 going to ask you if you will, starting
8 in June of 1963 through to your
9 retirement in 1996, if you will just go
10 through the job titles that you held at
11 Monsanto and the particular departments
12 that you were in for that time period.

13 A. I hired into the plant in '63 as an
14 operator in the Aroclor department. In
15 1970 -- '69, I went into maintenance for
16 a little while in '69 as an electrician.
17 I went back to operation in the Aroclor
18 for three or four months and then back
19 to maintenance as an electrician.

20 In the '72 or '73 time frame,
21 somewhere in that area -- No, it wasn't
22 either. Let me back up. It would have
23 been about '78, really, I think. In

1 1978 I took a job as a foreman in the
2 electrical group. I stayed as a
3 foreman, what they call a foreman
4 until -- what was the time frame with
5 the -- y'all probably already know the
6 answer to it -- when the big shutdown of
7 the other department over there, '88?

8 MR. NEWSOM: '86? I'm not sure.

9 A. The '86 or '87 time frame, when all that
10 cutback went through, they made us first
11 level supervisors. And I remained as a
12 supervisor until just about a year or
13 two prior to my retirement, when they
14 made me a planner and scheduler at my
15 request, really. That's basically it.

16 Q. Okay. Beginning in 1963 when you were
17 hired in as an operator in the Aroclor
18 department through to about 1972 or '73,
19 besides this small stint in the
20 maintenance department, were you an
21 operator?

22 A. I was an operator.

23 Q. Okay. And who were your supervisors at

1 the time, during that time?

2 A. When I was hired in Burns Severson was a
3 supervisor, he and a gentleman named
4 Jack Maloy.

5 Q. What was the first gentleman's name?

6 A. Burns Severson. That was supervisor.

7 Q. Okay. During that entire period, that
8 ten or so years?

9 A. No, no. There were some others. I'd
10 really have to stretch to remember
11 names.

12 Q. If you happen to remember them during
13 this deposition, if you will, just let
14 me know what those are.

15 Describe if you will -- and I know
16 this may be hard for you to remember,
17 but if you can, describe sort of your
18 daily responsibilities as an operator
19 during that period of time.

20 A. Well, the responsibility was just to run
21 the process equipment, making the
22 product that we made, the Aroclor.

23 Q. And were you working inside or outside?

1 A. Both.

2 Q. What was going on outside?

3 A. Well, that is where your process
4 equipment was, some of it. Some of it
5 was inside, but when I first started
6 what I was running was outside.

7 Q. What equipment was that?

8 A. Chlorinators.

9 Q. How do chlorinators work?

10 A. Well, it was just a tall tank that you
11 put biphenyl in and had a chlorine line
12 running to it and a cooling coil in it.
13 You put a certain amount of charge in
14 that vessel and open the chlorine up to
15 it and put chlorine up through it until
16 it was finished.

17 Q. Did you then take samples for quality
18 purposes?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. And where were the samples processed?

21 A. In the control room.

22 Q. Were you responsible for running any
23 tests in the control room?

1 A. Yes. We ran what we call specific
2 gravity.

3 Q. And the specific gravity test was mainly
4 a quality control test?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. During that time period of 1963 to the
7 early '70s when you were an operator,
8 what was your role if and when there
9 were any chemical spills?

10 A. If it was in my area, if you had one,
11 you cleaned it up.

12 Q. How was that accomplished?

13 A. Well, it would depend on what the
14 material was. If it was something like
15 biphenyl, it solidified when it touched
16 the ground. And you just broke it up,
17 shovel it up, and put it back in the
18 drum and reprocess it.

19 Q. What safety gear did you wear at that
20 time?

21 A. We had gloves, safety glasses, hard
22 hats, steel-toed shoes, long sleeve
23 shirts.

1 Q. Did you launder your long sleeve shirts
2 yourself?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Was that done at the plant?

5 A. The company took care of the laundry.

6 Q. How about pants or trousers?

7 A. Well, had trousers, long trousers.

8 Q. And were those laundered at the plant
9 also?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How about any breathing apparatus?

12 A. There was breathing apparatus there. We
13 each got air packs and gas masks for
14 emergency purposes.

15 Q. You mentioned just then emergency
16 purposes. What are you talking about?

17 A. Well, they were there in case we had
18 some type of emergency. Might have had
19 a chlorine leak or something That was
20 the real danger there, was chlorine.

21 Q. Did you ever witness a chlorine leak
22 like the one you are talking about?

23 A. Yeah. We -- I saw a chlorine leak or

1 two but never had one enough that I had
2 to don an air pack or a gas mask to deal
3 with it.

4 Q. What other situations besides the
5 emergency situations were you required
6 to wear some sort of breathing apparatus
7 if at all?

8 A. I didn't wear any unless something like
9 that happened.

10 Q. Did you -- Did you have any
11 responsibility for cleaning out any of
12 the tanks?

13 A. I'm trying --

14 MR. NEWSOM: We are talking about
15 this same general '63 to '72
16 time frame?

17 MR. COLEMAN: Yes.

18 A. I really, to be honest with you, don't
19 remember cleaning out any of the tanks.

20 Q. Okay. Was that more a job for
21 maintenance?

22 A. Yeah. If they had to have went out --
23 If they had to go in them for some

1 reason or another, a coil have a hole in
2 it or something, cooling coil or
3 something, have to go in and repair
4 that, have to clean it out. I don't
5 really remember any specific times to do
6 that.

7 Q. Okay. And so besides cleanup, did you
8 have any other reason to go into the
9 tanks, you personally?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you have any direct responsibility
12 for the health and safety of others in
13 your role as operator, or were you
14 primarily responsible for your own
15 health and safety?

16 A. Primarily responsible for my own safety.

17 Q. Okay. Did you ever receive any
18 reprimand by your bosses for not
19 adhering to company policy on health and
20 safety?

21 A. I don't think so.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I don't remember it.

1 Q. Do you remember if -- strike that.

2 Did you participate in a job
3 interview in 1963 when you were first
4 hired?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were you told anything during that job
7 interview about the health and safety
8 aspects of working around PCBs?

9 A. To be honest with you, I don't remember
10 whether I was or not.

11 Q. And that's --

12 A. Like I say, I'm being honest with you.
13 That was thirty, maybe forty years ago.

14 Q. Right. I'm going to ask you some
15 questions that are related back to this
16 long period of time. If you don't
17 remember, it's okay too. Just to the
18 best of your ability, you need to come
19 up with the truthful answer.

20 Did you parties meet in any
21 meetings with Monsanto management
22 related to health and safety during that
23 period of time?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How frequent were those meetings?

3 A. We had safety meetings probably once a
4 month. Probably more often than that.

5 MR. NEWSOM: Again, are we talking
6 about the same --

7 MR. COLEMAN: Yes.

8 MR. NEWSOM: Just so we
9 understand.

10 Q. Do you remember the subject of those
11 meetings? It is a long time ago?

12 A. A lot of subjects in those safety
13 meetings. They covered a lot of things.

14 Q. Do you remember if there were any
15 minutes of those meetings taken and
16 circulated?

17 A. I don't remember. There may have been.
18 I don't remember.

19 Q. Do you remember during that time period
20 whether or not -- if there was any
21 discussion of PCBs or biphenyl and the
22 safety and health aspects of those
23 chemicals, working around those

1 chemicals?

2 A. I don't remember. There probably was,
3 may have been. But I don't remember
4 specifically.

5 Q. Do you remember reading any literature
6 whatsoever on PCBs and the health and
7 safety aspects of working around PCBs
8 during that time period?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Was there a lunchroom available in the
11 Aroclor department?

12 A. We had a lunch facility in our control
13 room.

14 Q. Okay. Was it separate and apart from
15 where you were taking the samples?

16 A. It was on one -- on the other end of the
17 room.

18 Q. Is that where the entire Aroclor
19 department took their meals?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was it company policy that you eat in
22 that area?

23 A. That was the area that was provided to

1 us.

2 Q. You talked about some spills a little
3 while ago. I think you said that if
4 biphenyl spilled, it immediately
5 solidified and you then put it in drums
6 and then it was reused.

7 A. (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

8 MR. NEWSOM: You need to say yes.

9 A. Yes. I'm sorry. Yes.

10 Q. What happened to the biphenyl that you
11 -- that wasn't reprocessed, if at all?
12 And there had to have been -- so a time
13 when you couldn't keep up --

14 A. Well, pretty much all of the biphenyl is
15 reprocessed. Pretty much all of that
16 was reprocessed due to the nature of it.

17 Q. You said it solidified after it hit the
18 ground, after it spills?

19 A. Yes. Kind of like pouring something out
20 on the table and just breaking it up in
21 pieces and scooping it up and reusing
22 it.

23 Q. And back to the subject of safety and

1 health, were you ever shown any material
2 safety data sheets on the products or
3 chemicals that you were working around?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you happen to save any of those?

6 A. What do you mean by that?

7 Q. You said earlier you don't have any
8 documents or such in your possession.

9 A. No. I didn't save any of that stuff for
10 my own personal use. Material safety
11 data sheets were company property and
12 were kept in books in the control room.

13 Q. Okay. After the early '70s you said
14 that you -- I have actually a little gap
15 here. You said in 1978 you became a
16 foreman in the electrical group.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. There is a time period in the early
19 '70s, between the early '70s and 1978
20 that --

21 A. I was an electrician in maintenance.

22 Q. Were your responsibilities plant-wide or
23 just the Aroclor department?

1 A. Plant-wide.

2 Q. What would be your daily
3 responsibilities particularly with
4 regard to the Aroclor department in your
5 role as an electrician?

6 A. Just maintaining electrical equipment,
7 everything from a light bulb going out
8 to a motor burning up, whatever it might
9 have been.

10 Q. And were you issued the same safety gear
11 that you had as an operator in the
12 Aroclor department?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That includes gloves and safety goggles
15 and steel-toed boots?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And the long sleeve shirt and trousers?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you ever have occasion during that
20 period of time in your role as an
21 electrician to use any breathing
22 apparatus?

23 A. I don't think so.

1 Q. Are you aware of any landfills on the
2 Monsanto property?

3 A. I'm aware that they had one across the
4 highway there, on the side of the hill.

5 Q. Did you have any job responsibilities of
6 the landfill?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Since your retirement have you attended
9 any meetings sponsored by Monsanto
10 regarding PCBs?

11 A. I attend a retiree breakfast that they
12 have a couple of times a year, the
13 Quarter Century Club banquets.

14 Q. Since your retirement in '96 how many of
15 these retiree breakfasts have you
16 attended?

17 A. I'd say they have two or three of them a
18 year. They are in February or so and
19 the other one in December, something
20 like that.

21 Q. Do you know if there are minutes of
22 those meetings kept?

23 A. No, I don't know that.

1 Q. Who usually runs those meetings?

2 A. The plant manager.

3 Q. Who is that now?

4 A. David Cain I guess. Ain't he the plant
5 manager now?

6 Q. I'm not sure. Has he been the plant
7 manager since '96?

8 A. No. I can't even think of his name.
9 Sorry.

10 Q. That's okay. If you remember during the
11 deposition, let me know.

12 And at those retiree breakfasts,
13 what has been told to you about this
14 litigation?

15 A. Nothing has been told to us about the
16 litigation.

17 Q. Have you talked about any other lawsuits
18 that are going on, Monsanto lawsuits?

19 A. When you talk about litigation and
20 lawsuits, we know the lawsuits are going
21 on.

22 Q. How do you know that?

23 A. They told us they are going on, but they

1 don't discuss those lawsuits with us.

2 Q. Have you had your blood tested for PCBs?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What were the results of those tests?

5 A. I don't remember, but it wasn't very
6 much, I don't think.

7 Q. Do you know who the doctor was that took
8 that?

9 A. Dr. Gehi.

10 Q. How do you spell his name?

11 A. G-e-h-i.

12 Q. When was that taken?

13 A. I can't remember. It's been several
14 years ago now. It has been since I
15 retired.

16 Q. Have you only had one test?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I forgot to ask this question earlier,
19 but how far would you say your house is,
20 the one you live in now and the one
21 you've lived in for thirty-four years,
22 how close is it to the plant?

23 A. Twenty-seven, twenty-eight miles.

1 Q. Do you have any knowledge of meetings
2 sponsored by or attended by any Monsanto
3 personnel with the residents of west
4 Anniston?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know anyone who is a plaintiff in
7 the lawsuits against Monsanto?

8 MR. NEWSOM: Let me just -- It is
9 not a real objection but a
10 clarification. He may know
11 them and not know they are
12 plaintiffs. You are just
13 asking the ones he knows and
14 knows they are --

15 A. I don't know of anybody personally who
16 are plaintiffs in the case. Again,
17 there may be some that I know, but I
18 don't know it.

19 Q. Sure. I just need to know if you know
20 it now.

21 Have you ever attended any meeting
22 sponsored by Monsanto about the health
23 and safety effects -- or the health and

1 safety with regard to your use of PCBs
2 as an operator?

3 MR. NEWSOM: Let me just object to
4 the form. I think he
5 testified earlier there were
6 monthly meetings that
7 probably did or may have
8 included PCBs. I don't know
9 if this is different from
10 that. He may not realize --
11 Having already testified to
12 that, he may think you are
13 asking something else.

14 Q. Specifically, do you remember attending
15 any meetings where PCBs and the health
16 and safety of those products was
17 discussed?

18 A. Let me expound a little bit. We had
19 safety meetings, and everything was
20 talked about in those safety meetings to
21 wearing Scott air packs to steel-toed
22 shoes to safety on the job dealing with
23 the products, et cetera, et cetera. And

1 during your everyday work, you were
2 continuously in discussion about what is
3 going on with the job. So if you are
4 talking about meetings, depends on what
5 you call meetings. You could say there
6 was one every day. It just makes sense
7 that if people are on a job they are
8 going to talk to them about what they
9 need to be doing on their job. As far
10 as just a sit-down meeting and this and
11 this and this and this, no. It was just
12 routine, everyday job duties.

13 Q. I'm going to ask you a couple of
14 questions and ask you in very general
15 terms if you ever learned of or were
16 told or have ever heard the statements
17 I'm about to read. Okay? Have you ever
18 heard that prolonged exposure to Aroclor
19 vapors will lead to systemic toxic
20 effects?

21 MR. NEWSOM: Let me object to the
22 form. Are you asking him
23 whether he recalls the

1 specific words of that
2 statement, or are you asking
3 him something that may be, as
4 you put it, very generally
5 related to that? His answer
6 could be very different, I
7 would think, based on which
8 way you are asking him.

9 A. Repeat that question.

10 Q. Have you ever heard that prolonged
11 exposure to Aroclor vapors will lead to
12 systemic toxic effects?

13 A. I've heard it.

14 Q. Where have you heard that?

15 A. News releases, papers we had at the
16 plant.

17 Q. Papers you had at the plant?

18 A. Well, basically I'm talking about --
19 basically that is news releases that
20 they have posted there where EPA or
21 somebody claims something.

22 Q. And where were those releases made
23 available to you?

1 A. Bulletin boards.

2 Q. Was that during your entire career there
3 or --

4 A. Well, I wouldn't say during any entire
5 career, because after -- what was it,
6 '72 when we quit making it? It pretty
7 well went away, you know. I mean, we
8 quit making Aroclors. There wasn't any
9 reason for me to be concerned with it.

10 Q. Do you remember the specific date when
11 Aroclor production was shut down at the
12 plant?

13 A. Not the specific date, no. Like I said,
14 it was somewhere around '72 I think or
15 something like that.

16 Q. Have you ever heard that repeated bodily
17 contact with Aroclors may lead to a form
18 of skin acne?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you learn that in the same manner
21 you learned the previous information?

22 A. Learned that through some of the
23 discussions we've had on the job. You

1 learn that through experience.

2 Q. What kind of ventilation was used in the
3 control room?

4 A. You know, an air conditioning unit.

5 Q. Were there any ventilators that sucked
6 air out of the room?

7 A. Nothing other than the air conditioning
8 unit.

9 Q. Have you heard that exposure to PCBs can
10 cause cancer?

11 MR. NEWSOM: I'm sorry. Would you
12 read back the question?

13 (Requested portion of record
14 read.)

15 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

16 A. Do I need to answer?

17 MR. NEWSOM: Yes.

18 A. Yes, I've heard that.

19 Q. Where have you heard that?

20 A. News releases, bulletins that come out
21 at the plant. You know, EPA put this
22 out. I also heard they haven't ever
23 proved it either.

1 Q. Where did you hear that?

2 A. From the same bulletins.

3 Q. Do you take any measures now in your
4 retirement to learn more about PCBs?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You mentioned earlier the Quarter
7 Century Club banquets. What goes on at
8 those banquets?

9 A. We eat. That's basically about it. We
10 go for a big dinner, and there is a
11 little program to honor people who got
12 service awards. That's it.

13 Occasionally they have some kind of a
14 program, some kind of entertainment.

15 Q. Is there any discussion about PCBs at
16 these banquets?

17 A. No.

18 MR. NEWSOM: I think it is more a
19 social organization.

20 MR. COLEMAN: I'm just asking.

21 A. It is not a business meeting. We've
22 even had a politician or two speak to
23 us.

1 Q. Have you ever heard that PCB exposure
2 can cause liver or kidney damage?

3 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

4 A. Not specifically that. Mostly what I've
5 read and heard, cancer, I think.

6 Q. Have you ever been -- Have you ever been
7 tested for cancer?

8 A. What do you mean by that?

9 Q. Have you ever -- Well, do you go to the
10 doctor?

11 A. I've been tested for about everything in
12 the book. I don't know whether you can
13 call it cancer or not. I don't know. I
14 have blood work done twice a year
15 because of my heart condition.

16 Q. Okay. What is that condition? What is
17 your heart condition?

18 A. I have arthrosclerosis.

19 Q. So you have blood work done twice a year
20 for that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you have never known that the blood
23 work showed any --

1 A. I've always been good, except my
2 cholesterol was high to start with.

3 Q. All right. What other health problems
4 do you have?

5 A. Don't have any.

6 Q. Are you aware of any tests done by
7 Monsanto on fish?

8 MR. NEWSOM: At any time?

9 MR. COLEMAN: Yes.

10 MR. NEWSOM: For any reason?

11 MR. COLEMAN: Yes.

12 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

13 A. I don't know of any on fish. I don't
14 know that.

15 Q. Have you seen any fish advisories?

16 A. Oh, yes, I've seen those.

17 Q. Under what circumstances did you see
18 those?

19 A. Newspaper.

20 Q. And what bodies of water did those fish
21 advisories relate to if you can
22 remember?

23 A. Weiss Lake, Neeley Henry Lake, Logan

1 Martin Lake, whichever one is down the
2 Coosa chain.

3 Q. How about Choccolocco Creek?

4 A. Choccolocco Creek, that is part of Logan
5 Martin.

6 Q. How about Snow Creek?

7 A. Yes. Well, not specifically Snow Creek,
8 no.

9 Q. What is your knowledge of any, if any at
10 all, soil tests done for the presence of
11 PCBs in the Anniston area?

12 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

13 A. The only knowledge I have is just to
14 know that EPA and the company both have
15 tested around the area since all of this
16 began.

17 Q. Do you know the results of those tests?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you recall an incident where Monsanto
20 management or Monsanto itself purchased
21 some hogs around the plant?

22 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

23 A. No. No. I don't know anything about

1 that.

2 Q. In your entire career at the Anniston
3 plant, did you have any dealings with
4 the Krummrich plant?

5 A. I went to the Krummrich plant late, just
6 a few years before I retired, really,
7 for a school that they had up there,
8 maintenance type school.

9 Q. Are you aware of an early -- Strike
10 that.

11 Are you aware of a test that was
12 performed on the Krummrich plant
13 employees in the '70s for lung cancer?

14 A. No.

15 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

16 A. No.

17 Q. Have you ever heard that a study was
18 performed in the 1970s on rats exposed
19 to Aroclor 1260?

20 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

21 A. Yes. That's the study I think EPA or
22 whatever it was did that said they could
23 cause cancer in the rats.

1 Q. And did you learn -- How did you learn
2 of that study?

3 A. That study was posted in our plant.

4 Q. Was there any special meeting about that
5 particular study?

6 A. No, not that I remember.

7 Q. So you learned of that study through
8 bulletin board postings?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay. Do you remember exactly when?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you remember who performed the study?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Have you ever heard of a Dr. Renate
15 Kimbrough?

16 A. No.

17 Q. How about Industrial Bio-Test
18 Laboratories?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Have you ever heard that an eight-hour
21 daily exposure to Aroclors is unsafe?

22 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

23 It fails to include any level

1 of exposure, vague and
2 ambiguous.

3 A. No.

4 Q. How long were your shifts especially
5 when you were an operator?

6 A. Eight hours.

7 Q. Have you ever heard that PCB exposure
8 has been associated with developmental
9 or IQ problems?

10 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

11 A. No.

12 Q. I think you said that you don't know
13 what the results of the blood test for
14 PCBs were.

15 MR. NEWSOM: I think he said he
16 didn't know exactly but it
17 was low.

18 A. I don't know exactly, but it was
19 relatively low.

20 Q. Has anyone else in your family been
21 tested?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you ever work specifically with an

1 incinerator at the Anniston plant?

2 A. What do you mean by work with?

3 Q. Did you ever have any responsibility for
4 work --

5 A. When I was an electrician, we just
6 maintained it, the controls.

7 Q. Were you responsible for boilers in that
8 role also?

9 A. Yes. I had direct responsibilities for
10 boilers when I was electrical foreman.

11 Q. And what did that responsibility entail?

12 A. Supervising the operation of the boiler.

13 Q. Would that include providing fuel for
14 the boiler?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What form did that fuel take?

17 A. We used natural gas. We used propane
18 gas. We used number two fuel oil,
19 number six fuel oil.

20 Q. Did you ever burn any waste products?

21 A. Later on.

22 Q. What do you mean by that?

23 A. Later on we burned waste product.

1 Q. What year in specifically did that
2 begin?

3 A. Well, that was way after Aroclor was
4 shut down.

5 Q. During that period of time you worked in
6 the Aroclor department as an operator,
7 you didn't have any responsibility for
8 the boilers?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Do you know how waste was disposed of in
11 your entire career at Anniston?

12 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form,
13 overly broad.

14 Q. You may answer.

15 A. Waste was handled in different ways,
16 depending on what it was. Some of it
17 went to the landfill. Depending on what
18 the waste was, it may have went to a
19 disposal facility somewhere, Emelle or
20 somewhere like that.

21 Q. But you never had, I think you said, any
22 responsibility for the landfill?

23 A. No. To be honest with you, during the

1 years I worked in that plant I never
2 went across the street and into that
3 landfill, never. I had no reason to go
4 there.

5 Q. Did you have any responsibility for
6 barreling up waste?

7 A. Just I was an operator, yes. That's
8 what we did.

9 Q. Tell me about that.

10 A. Like I said about the biphenyl. You
11 scooped it up with a shovel, put it back
12 in the barrel. You heated it up and
13 sucked it back into the system.

14 Q. Okay. Did you meet with anyone before
15 this deposition besides the meeting just
16 before the deposition?

17 A. No.

18 Q. How did you learn that your deposition
19 would be taken today?

20 A. Mike Kelly called me and told me.

21 Q. Did y'all have any discussion about what
22 this deposition would entail?

23 MR. NEWSOM: Object to the form.

1 He is with our firm, so that
2 is protected by
3 attorney-client relationship.

4 Q. Do you still get a pension from
5 Monsanto?

6 A. I don't know how to answer that. Let me
7 explain. I took a lump sum retirement
8 when I retired, so Monsanto doesn't pay
9 me a pension. I pay me a pension.

10 Q. Are you still getting any benefits?

11 A. Yes. They still cover my health
12 benefits.

13 Q. And is that for the rest of your life
14 that you will have that health insurance
15 benefit?

16 A. I will have that health insurance until
17 I start drawing social security, I
18 suppose. I'd like to have it for the
19 rest of my life.

20 MR. NEWSOM: We'll do what we can.

21 MR. COLEMAN: That's all I have.

22 (The deposition concluded at
23 10:50 a.m.)

1 I do hereby certify that the witness
2 whose attached deposition was taken before me
3 was by me first duly cautioned and sworn to
4 tell nothing but the truth in the cause
5 aforesaid; that the testimony contained herein
6 was by me reduced to writing in the presence
7 of said witnesses by means of stenography and
8 afterwards transcribed by means of computer
9 aided transcription. The foregoing is a true
10 and accurate transcript of the whole of the
11 testimony given by said witness, as aforesaid.

12 I do further certify that I am not
13 connected by blood or marriage with any of the
14 parties or their attorneys or agents and that
15 I am not an employee of any of them, nor
16 interested in the matter of controversy.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
18 my hand and affixed my notarial seal at
19 Gadsden, Alabama, County of Etowah, this 11th
20 day of January 2002.

21 -----
22 Deborah Salers Garrett
23 Certified Shorthand Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public, Alabama-at-Large
My Commission expires: 3-6-05