Monsanto

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November 20, 1986

cc

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JECT :

Northwestern/Monsanto Health Study - Trip Report

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W.R. Gaffey - F1WK

Representatives from the Northwestern University Medical School and the Monsanto Company met in Chicago, Illinois on November 6, 1986 to discuss the status of the Northwestern/Monsanto health study. Those attending the meeting were the following:

Northwestern University

Daniel Hryhorczuk, MD
Denise Oleske, Ph.D
Victoria Persky, MD
Warren Wallace, MD
Carol Guse
Joe Schreiner

Monsanto Company

Terry Leet, MPH

The following issues (which are summarized in more detail in my letter dated November 13, 1986 to Denise Oleske) were discussed during the meeting:

- historical information concerning departments 226 (sulfonic toluene derivative), 236 (pentachlorophenol/SANTOBRITE), 237 (chlorophenol) and buildings BO and BD at the Krummrich plant

- the differences in departmental coding schemes that were used by the personnel department and the accounting department at the Krummrich plant

- the possibility of misclassifying employees in the study population because department 226 was incorrectly associated with SANTOBRITE production and because the re-editing of work histories corrected a few errors that allowed a small number of employees to be selected erroneously for the unexposed study population

- the confirmation of the criteria used to select the exposed and unexposed study population

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- the lack of job descriptions for the jobs in the chlorophenol, pentachlorophenol, and 2,4,5-T esters departments prior to the 1960's

Other topics or requests that were discussed were as follows:

- provide Northwestern with a computerized matrix of job titles that were used each year for the sulfonic toluene derivative, chlorophenol, pentachlorophenol, and 2,4,5-T esters departments

- provide Northwestern with the same maps of the Krummrich plant and the above departments that were given to NIOSH

- provide Northwestern with SMP reports for the above departments and determine if there were SMP reports for the Chemical Warfare Services plant (department 260 or 270), which was active during World War II at the Krummrich plant.

- provide Northwestern with start-up and shut-down dates for department 226 and the date department 237 moved outside of Building BO

- provide Northwestern with a copy of one roll of microfilmed Krummrich medical records to allow them to review the type of records that were kept by the Krummrich medical department

- provide Northwestern with a new computer tape containing the header and work records for the study population, which will include the edited work histories for each employee in the study, the work histories for the employees listed in the chloracne notebook, the end dates in addition to the start dates for each work record, and the addition of work records that may have been entered into the MEHI system since September 1985 (when the last computer tape of header and work records was created)

- provide Northwestern with a frequency distribution of demographic information for the maintenance workers in the exposed study population, the maintenance workers who were erroneously included in the unexposed study population, and the maintenance workers who were in neither group

- determine whether there were other combinations of exclusionary departments, e.g. 233/218, and whether the department codes for these departments were ever used for a different product

- determine why there appears to be a discrepancy in the total number of hours reported for a maintenance employee during a six-month period beginning in January 1982

- determine whether departments A-254, B-254, and C-254 ever existed

- determine whether Monsanto can provide Northwestern with a copy of the SAS software for a personal computer

Furthermore, Northwestern was informed that the National Death Index was able to match approximately 60% of the 300+ employees that Northwestern

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was unable to locate and to invite to participate in the study. Monsanto will confirm the matches by obtaining death certificates and will inform Northwestern if the employee is truly deceased. In addition, Northwestern stated that the final report is scheduled to be completed in May 1987, although they are presently one or two months behind schedule.

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