Northwestern University Medical School
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
W. G. KRUMMRICH STUDY

APR 14 1987

March 11, 1987

James H. Spraul, M.D.
Monsanto World Headquarters
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63167

Dear Dr. Spraul:

Enclosed is an interim report summarizing our recent progress in the Northwestern University project concerning worker health among former and current employees of the Monsanto W.G. Krummrich plant.

Sincerely,

Warren

Warren H. Wallace, M.D.
Principal Investigator

WHW:cyw
Enclosure: interim report

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Northwestern University

Department of Medicine

W.G. Krummrich Study

Interim Report

Submitted by

Warren H. Wallace, M.D.

Principal Investigator

February, 1987

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The purpose of this report is to summarize the activities of the Northwestern University Statistical Center for the conduct of the "Epidemiologic Investigation of the Health Status of Monsanto employees With Past Exposure to Chlorophenols, Chlorophenoxy Acid, and Their Dioxin Contaminants" at the W.G. Krummrich plant in Sauget, Illinois, since its January, 1987 report.

The activities at the Northwestern University Statistical Center focus on editing and entry of the last sets of data obtained from the interview component of the health examination, and upon validation of certain health outcomes reported by study participants.

Coding, editing and computer entry of the sections of the interview pertaining to physical activity and to the Non-Krummrich jobs and exposure contacts outside Krummrich have just been completed. The responses of the participants to the questionnaire pertaining to Krummrich jobs are being coded. Coding of all the drugs (prescription and over-the-counter) used and reported by respondents in underway. To date, the return rate on the three-day food records by the study participants is 88%. The dietary information contained in the records have been coded by dieticians trained in the use of The University of Minnesota Nutrition Coding Center procedures. A sample of the records has been recoded and checked to evaluate the reliability of the dietician coders. The overall reliability among coders was found to be acceptable, and hence data entry of the coded food records has begun. Follow-up of non-returned diet records still continues.

Efforts concerning the verification of select health outcomes reported by participants concentrate on obtaining: the birth certificates of offspring of study participants, the records of episodes of hospitalization pertaining to the study hypotheses, and the Krummrich plant medical records as they pertain to information on chloracne.

Approximately 95% of the birth certificates for the offspring of the study participants have been received, nearly 1000 have been abstracted for computer entry. To date approximately 90% of the hospital records requested have been received. The abstraction of medical records at the Krummrich plant had begun. The abstraction process follows a protocol for the identification of chloracne from plant medical records which was developed by NIOSH. Three Northwestern Staff have been trained in these procedures.

Efforts are still underway to determine the vital status of those who were not able to be located at the time of the study and whose vital status was unknown at that time. A search of death records from Illinois have been just received, and 15 individuals who we previously were unable to locate were identified as being deceased prior to the time of the study. A request for a similar death record search has been submitted to the State of Missouri.

The examination of the second update of the Monsanto computerized data base has been completed. The information contained therein are being compared to worker's response obtained

through the occupational history at the time of the health examination. A plan for contacting select prior (or current) employees of the Krummrich plant is being developed, the purpose of which will be to gain a historical perspective of some of the functions of various categories of workers in departments B821, 236, 237, and 268 during select time periods. Staff from Northwestern University will conduct these interviews. It is anticipated that analysis will commence when the data from these interviews and the standard manufacturing processing reports from the exposure departments of interest are received.

Approximately 800 medical reports have been processed for mailing. Feedback from the workers has been very positive concerning the quality of medical reports.

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