

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Director

September 21, 1949

J. R. Durland, Plant Manager
Monsanto Chemical Company
Nitro, West Virginia

Dear Dr. Durland:

As you know, all attempts so far to identify the reaction material from the process which went out of control last March 8 have failed except in a general way. Consequently we are unable to determine whether dirt etc. on the building and fixtures and dust in the air remaining after various cleaning operations contains any of the chloracne producing properties of the original material.

I have recently conferred with a personal acquaintance who is in charge of one of the two industrial biochemical laboratories in the country which are equipped and have done considerable work in experimentally producing chloracne in laboratory animals. I am advised that by testing various scrapings and air borne dust from the building on experimental animals that they could quite probably determine for us whether or not any of this material in active form yet remains in the building. I am advised, however, that they would not wish to undertake such work unless it was also requested by the chief medical director of the company.

Since we are particularly anxious to take every step possible to assume that the building has been properly decontaminated we desire very much to have your medical director, Dr. Emmet Kelly, concur with us in requesting that this particular work be done. We would like your thoughts along the lines of our contacting Dr. Kelly to discuss this problem in detail and suggesting that he request this work to be done.

Very truly yours,

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene

By _____
P. D. Halley,
Industrial Hygienist
Acting Director

PDH/je

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