

Monsanto

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Raymond C. Loehr, Ph.D.
Chair, Executive Committee
Science Advisory Board
Office of the Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Monsanto Company and Epidemiology Studies Concerning
Dioxin

Dear Dr. Loehr:

Monsanto has learned of the EPA's receipt of highly inflammatory and inaccurate information pertaining to epidemiology studies involving Monsanto's Nitro, West Virginia plant. The materials forwarded to your office are contained within a legal brief submitted by the plaintiffs' attorney in the appeal of a lawsuit filed against Monsanto and includes allegations that published study data and results were falsified by the University of Cincinnati's Kettering Institute and by Monsanto in a purported effort to mislead the scientific world and public regarding the toxic effects of dioxin. These accusations were first issued years ago by the same lawyer in the same lawsuit and are utterly untrue and contrary to the record in that case.

Considering the genesis of these accusations it is recommended that they be examined critically, especially in light of the EPA's previous experience with this source during the Kanner trial at which several government witnesses (including Dr. Kloepper of EPA and Dr. Kimbrough of CDC) testified. The Kanner trial at which these charges arose involved the claim that Sturgeon, Missouri was unsafe due to dioxin contamination and that its residents (plaintiffs in the suit) had been injured by the teaspoon of TCDD contained in the 19,000 gallons of orthochlorophenol crude spilled during a 1979 train derailment. These health claims were contrary to the conclusions reached by the EPA, the Center for Disease Control and the jury. Given the arduous nature of the inaccurate and misleading representations contained in the materials in circulation within the Agency, Monsanto believes it is important that the record should be kept straight on the subject.