



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED

P. O. Box 1217
PARKERSBURG, W. VA. 26101

POLYMER PRODUCTS DEPARTMENT

AR 226-1330

CC: Jack J. Schra. Regional Adm.,
EPA, Region III
Permit Programs Monitoring Unit,
3EN43MI
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

C. Ronald Sandy, Supervisor
W. Va. Div. of Water Resources
6321 Emerson Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

June 9, 1981

CERTIFIED MAIL -
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

David W. Robinson, Chief
W. Va. Division of Water Resources
1201 Greenbrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311

Dear Sir:

This letter is to inform you of toxicity information we have received from our supplier of the surfactant ammonium perfluorooctanoate, also known as FC-143, which is present in our outfall 005 (permit (WV0001279) in a concentration of about 0.1 mg/L. The 3M Company has advised us that this material has been found to cause defects in the unborn when fed by stomach tubes to female rats in a preliminary laboratory experiment. Du Pont uses FC-143 in the manufacture of fluoropolymer resins.

Much more testing must be conducted to determine the significance of the 3M experiment. As part of the ongoing program to determine the safety of our materials, both Du Pont's Haskell Laboratory and 3M are now planning more detailed experiments. However, we have taken the precaution of reassigning female personnel of childbearing capability to areas outside those in which fluoropolymer resins are manufactured or FC-143 is handled.

At this time, we do not know the significance, if any, of the preliminary animal experiment. FC-143 has been in use for decades without apparent adverse affects in humans.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

A. C. Huston
Environmental Control Consultant
Washington Works

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