

Nitro, A. W.

J. L. McClint
J. C. Meyer
J. L. Kelly - St. Louis

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Mr. J. A. Murland

Alberta Building

Monsanto

CONFIDENTIAL

As you know we have recently discussed with Dr. Suskind of the Kettering Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati the possibility of continuing test work on the 2,4,5-T chloracene problem. You also know that the 2,4,5-T problem has not been solved and chloracene remains as the outstanding problem of the Nitro plant in dealing with hourly personnel. Although the present plant is considerably safer than previous operations, we know of three new chloracene cases during the past year. Since a large percentage of the men who have worked in the new department had chloracene from previous exposure, it is not possible to say that they would not have contracted chloracene in the new department.

I am convinced that the only solution to the problem is to isolate the chloracene causing material and remove it from the process. Our experience and that of Dow and Diamond Alkali indicates that distillation of the trichlorophenol can provide this solution to the problem.

The Kettering Laboratory has successfully developed a test using human subjects and I have asked them to estimate the cost of establishing definitely whether or not the distillation step will effectively control the problem. A copy of Dr. Suskind's answer and cost estimate is attached.

It is my recommendation that we proceed with this work as rapidly as possible.

Shuman SFP

R. E. Soden

RES/TF

Attachment

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SCHEDULE 44

FILE

I talked with V. E. Howe. of Dow, this morning. He stated the following:

1. Dow has 20 cases of chloracne. He did not tell me whether or not their plant was down.
2. They analyzed the trichlorophenoxyacetic acid we sent them and found 3 - 10 ppm of 3,4,7,8-trichloro-dibenzodioxane. This, he states, he is sure is the chloracne agent, although there may be other impurities. At any rate, he is so concerned that they are having a management meeting to decide whether to use these five carloads of material we sent them.
3. He had definitely caused chloracne on rabbit ears with this material. When I tried to say that some of our people have not been able to cause it with other material, he just scoffed and said there was no doubt in his mind that he can tell chloracne by this rabbit ear test and that he has run about 500 tests on rabbit ears.
4. Dow has been receiving complaints from their customers (whether formulators or ultimate users, I don't know). He was not too clear on whose material it was and how much chloracne developed.
5. He had heard that "the FMS is looking into this problem and has contacted some of Dow's customers concerning the occurrence of chloracne."
6. Dow will have a management meeting today to decide whether or not they will accept this 2,4,5-T we sent them. He asked if we had any specifications or the presence of that particular contaminant and I said we did not.
7. He wanted some sort of crash meeting with all the producers to try to reach some specification level in order to eliminate this particular contaminant before the FMS got into the act.

Dow

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February 24, 1965

Then, met with Rumer, Haines, Barton, Arvan and Dunbar. All of the above was passed over again. The only thing the Agricultural Division people could add was that they had no history of chloracne from any of their customers. They are going to call AmChem, who has bought about 1.2 million pounds of 2,4-D, to find out if they had any trouble. Rumer is to check Thompson Company to see if the PHS has been after them. They also stated that if such a meeting occurs Dr. Jacobs, who is a combination quality control/process man, would be their representative, along with someone from the Medical Department.


R. Ernest Kelly, M. D.

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SCHEDULE 44

JOHNSANTO CORPORATION
SCHEDULE 44
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