

Consanto

FROM : LOCATION - PHONE : Glynn Young - BLND

DATE : March 23, 1979

cc: D. R. Bishop
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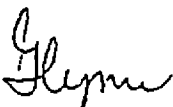
SUBJECT : CHANNEL 5 REPORT ON STURGEON

REFERENCE :

TO : J. R. Foehr
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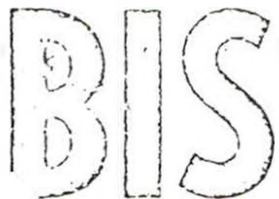
Attached is a transcript of a newscast by Channel 5's 6 p.m. news last night concerning environmental problems at Sturgeon, Mo. The report also appeared on the 10 p.m. news, and a story was carried by KSD-Radio this morning.

The newscast cites orthochlorophenol as relating to the deaths of fish and frogs in a pond, and says that dioxin is the main danger. It also mentions that EPA has alerted Boone County doctors to report any unusual ailments.


Glynn Young

GY:smt

Att.



BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICES, INC.

25 E. Frisco — St. Louis, Missouri 63119

PHONE: 314-961-4113

CLIENT: Monsanto
PROGRAM: Eyewitness News Central
DATE: 3/22/79
STATION: KSD TV
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
CITY: St. Louis

PATRICK EMORY: "Ten weeks ago there was a massive chemical spill in a train accident in the central Missouri town of Sturgeon. According to Senator Tom Eagleton and people in that area the EPA was much too slow on moving on decontamination in the region.

"Now, at Eagleton's urging, EPA is intensifying its work. Chris Condon has a report from Sturgeon."

CHRIS CONDON: "Today rail crews were rebuilding the right of way. The tank car ruptured right in the middle of town, first spilling along the right of way. After half a mile they finally got the train stopped and most of the twenty thousand gallons of the chemical that Monsanto was shipping out to the West wound up in a farm field.

"It took the EPA well over a month to remove the contaminated soil, down to a depth of four feet, along the right of way and in the field. That field drains into Bill Kemner's farm. Since then he has had three calves die and many fish and frogs in his farm pond are dead.

"So far lab tests indicate no chemical involvement in the calves' deaths, but there was enough of the spill detected in the farm ponds to account for the fish and the frogs.

"The EPA had trouble deciding what to do about the contaminated material, and moved it around, contaminating other areas in Sturgeon, particularly on the Kemner farm."

MRS. BILL KEMNER: "If the chemical could have at least been cleaned up while things were still frozen then I don't believe we would have had this runoff into our two ponds."

CHRIS CONDON: "We know now that the main danger is from a tiny quantity of dioxin that was found in the solution that was spilled. But even the tiniest amount of dioxin can be deadly. Only recently was its presence disclosed.

"Less dangerous are the fumes from the Monsanto product, ortho-Chlorophenol. EPA claims to have removed it all, but ten weeks later the smell is still enough to make people sick.

"Ray Gilpin and his wife had to move out of town for five weeks."

RAY GILPIN: "Well, it just stopped our breathing where we

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couldn't get the air."

CHRIS CONDON: "I spoke with one woman who can still smell the stuff even though she lives on a farm six miles out of town."

MRS. RAY FINLEY: "When I come through town, and things like that, when I come through town I have the same problems, the problems some of them living here in town with, it chokes me up."

CHRIS CONDON: "The mayor of this town of eight hundred people is philosophical about it by now."

D.C. WHITE: "I've got a concern about it. I don't know as there any use to worry about it, but we've got it, we've got to live with it if we stay."

CHRIS CONDON: "The EPA's slow response was () least because never before has there been so large a spill. EPA has belatedly moved many thousands of barrels of contaminated earth from this community out to Kansas. The agency says the smell should be gone by mid-summer. But it can give no real assurances about that, nor any assurances about the possibility that the dioxin will cause unknown and serious problems in the future.

"And only this week the EPA has alerted all doctors in Boone County, asking them to report any unusual ailments involving the skin, the liver, the kidney, the lungs, the reproductive organs and any nerve damage.

"Chris Condon, Channel Five News, on the Kemner farm, Sturgeon, Missouri."