PROTECTED MATERIAL - MONSANTO INSURANCE COVERAGE LITIGATION

MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY
At: Texas City, Texas

S.L.Hunter/B.L.Williams
C.L.Gilmore
J.S.Putnam
H.K.Eckert
R.W.Rotzler
Jack Garrett - St.L.

Jan. 19, 1959

To: R. J. Schatz

At: Texas City, Texas

Subject: Department 18 Soot

As you know, B. L. Williams and I talked with Joe Houghton, of LibertyMutual via telephone the week of Jan. 4 in an effort to determine what studies were planned or should be planned relating to determination of active polynuclear compounds on Department 18 soot or polymer. Copies of the follow-up letter from Houghton are attached. Note that he has no plans for further tests and is waiting to hear from us.

I have not yet talked to Dr. Kelly's office in St. Louis but I will probably call Jack Garrett there next week. My present conclusions are these:

1. Incomplete combustion of gaseous fuels, including acetylene, forms condensed polynuclear hydrocarbons. Those found fairly conclusively in the work of references 4 and 5 (Tebbens) included 3,4-benzpyrene and 1,2,5,6-dibenzanthracene which are known to be carcinogenic. Of course, these compounds are also present in cigarette smoke, road tar, and the air.

2. Any extensive analytical work on Department 18 soot will without doubt in my mind find some 3,4-benzpyrene. The definition of "some" is the hooker in this whole problem. Houghton says the presence of benzpyrene - from his lab work - can be suspected. I think he has shown it is present. His addition of known compound to the unknown compounds from our soot enhanced the fluorescence peaks, but did not shift them at all. Dibenzanthracene, the other of the two most active carcinogens, did now show up in his work. This only indicates that the compound, if present, is present in concentrations below some value, estimated at about 2% of the volatiles adsorbed. In other words, known dibenzanthracene in concentrations of 3 ppm shows a strong absorbance peak which is not shown by 122 ppm concentrations of "total soot extract".

3. Reference 2 (Ingalls) gives a definite clearance to workers who have had long exposure to daily skin contact with soot in the carbon black industry.

4. The carcinogenic activity of carbon-black soot extracts has been demonstrated by the work of Nau (3) and von Hamm (6).

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5. Nau, Neal and Stembridge (3) working with mice, monkeys and rabbits at Galveston have found that carbon black soots as produced and used have no observable harmful skin effects, although the agents are present and can be desorbed(extracted) with organic solvents to give positive tests. Benzpyrene was shown to be present.

Possible courses of action:

(1) We can encourage Houghton to extend his work to get a better, more certain estimate of the amount of benzpyrene on Dept. 18 soot, or different soots produced under different conditions, and possibly also the polymer. We would then have to decide how much is too much, probably by skin tests on animals.

(2) We can go ahead now to have enough skin tests done hoping to show that our soot is similar to all the types of carbon black soots which have been shown to be inert. That is, that the compounds, though present, are so strongly adsorbed as to be inactive.

(3) We can assume this Dept. 18 soot is similar to all the commercial soots and thus we can anticipate no problem.

(4) We can approach other acetylene producers to determine whether they have satisfied themselves concerning these same questions. They may have the answers already - or be willing to share the cost of finding the answers. Such an approach should be handled through Dr. Kelley's office.

M. L. Owens, Jr.

MLO:jc

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

MONSANTO COMPANY, Plaintiff,	:	Civil Action Number
v.	:	88C-JA-118-1-CV
AETNA CASUALTY & SURETY COMPANY, et al., Defendants.	:	NON-ARBITRATION CASE

KELLY DEPOSITION EXHIBITS

PROTECTED MATERIAL: MONSANTO

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Washington, D. C.

Thursday, February 4, 1993

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