

DATE September 26, 1983

SUBJECT Dioxin strategy

REFERENCE

TO J. D. Wilson - G3WG

I think the strategy correctly emphasizes more technical study of the behavior and distribution of 2,3,7,8 TCDD and related compounds. Not much more work can be done on the relationship of such compounds to cancer in the Monsanto work force other than the updates mentioned in part 2 on page 5, but it is certainly appropriate to do those.

I would favor increasing our PR efforts. Part of the problem is that we cannot get people to look at data that we already have, and I anticipate a similar problem with data that we obtain in the future. Perhaps the answer is to direct more effort toward the academic scientific community.

Bill Gaffey

William R. Gaffey

ajm

*Hutzinger - 1982
Chlorinated Dioxins
- G1221
- R6#E1*

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SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.

004982

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MIC

SUBJECT: OCP SPILL IN STURGEON

REPORTER & MEDIA: Liz Forrestal
Chemical Week

TIME & DATE: May 9, 1979 - 11:55 a.m.

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

☒ News Bureau
☒ J. T. Nolan
☒ J. E. McKee
☒ D. R. Bishop
___ W. J. McCarville
___ W. R. Mulhall
___ J. F. Hussey-Washington, D.C.
___ S. Pickard-Washington, D.C.
☒ New York Public Relations
___ Brussels Public Relations
___ MAP PR
☒ MCI PR
☒ MIC PR (Glynn Young)
___ MPR PR
___ MTC PR
___ INT'L PR
☒ E. L. Head
☒ J. C. McPhillips
☒ J. S. Metcalf

Reporter is doing round-up story on dioxin found in blood of Western Environmental Services workers.

Q. What kind of dioxin was found in the workers' blood?

A. Explained that there are 75 types of dioxin and that I didn't know which type was found by the EPA. (Suggested she call them. Reporter stated she can't get an answer from the EPA.)

Q. Were we surprised to find TCDD in our OCP?

A. Yes. Reviewed past product testing and lack of TCDD findings historically.

Q. Will Monsanto eliminate the TCDD from the process?

A. Yes. We're committed to eliminating the TCDD. It wasn't there in the past and we're going to eliminate this undesirable production contaminant.

Q. Did the OCP cause the dioxin in the blood samples?

A. In the part per trillion range the media has reported that dioxin contaminated the blood of the workers, this may be a testing abnormality. We've got very sophisticated equipment and can only measure down to 10 ppb. We know of no test that can measure accurately in the low part per trillion range. Also the contract clean-up workers have been exposed to other potential contaminants besides this spill.

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C17650

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SOURCE OF ANSWER Files

HANDLED BY: R. C. Isham