

General Offices

PX 2127

June 16, 1959

CHLORACNE PROBLEM - GERMAN ARTICLE

Reference: Your memo 6/8/59

Mr. L. C. Weger
Nitro, West Va.

I certainly thank you for the translation of the German article on chloracne. I wish we had been able to investigate the previous difficulties completely enough to isolate the chlorinated dibenzodioxine (diphenylenedioxide) as an important causing agent. Similarly, we would have been quite pleased if Monsanto research or that at Mellon Institute or Kettering Laboratory had developed the information on the 2,3,6,7-tetrachlorodibenzo-dioxine.

The article appears to bear out Dr. Oettel's statement in 1956 that he believed that a chlorinated diphenyloxyde was responsible and that such materials could be produced in any process of chlorination of phenol.

Elmer P. Wheeler

EPW:dh

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- 1) 6 to 8 times the recommended industry standard
- 2) In 65, Chemical Mfgs, led by Dow, are reported to have recommended reducing levels to 1 ppm after a series of studies showed possible health problems associated with exposure to dioxin
- 3) However letter from Roush to Burkhead, August 1982 said Monsanto 245-T, produced at Niter, contained an average of 6 to 8 ppm from 1966 to 1969. Before then, Roush said, samples ranged from undetectable to 18 ppm with occasional excursions to near 25 ppm. During one very brief period in 1965 - 3 samples measured between 40-55 ppm, according to Roush.
- 4) Goehring sent letters in 1957 to all American mfgs including - Monsanto - identifying dioxin as ~~an~~ a contaminant in 245-T and warning that it had been shown to cause chloracne -- and explained how to avoid it.
- 5) Yet Roush in his letter indicates Monsanto made no effort to test for presence of dioxin until 1965.

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September 21, 1990

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Ms. Erica Stuart

FAX No. 212-757-6975

Dear Ms. Stuart:

I am sending pertinent material all of which has come from Monsanto's company files.

Exhibit 1752 is a 1956 memorandum which refers to a visit that a Monsanto executive had with Dr. Oettel of the BASF Company.

Exhibit 1486 refers to the letters that BASF sent in 1957 to all American manufacturers. I do not know the author of this exhibit but it came from Monsanto's files.

Exhibit 2187 refers to the statement of Dr. Oettel and his belief at that time.

Exhibit 1760 is a report prepared by Dr. Suskind for the Monsanto Company which on page 8 refers to a finding by the German scientist in 1957 that the agent in the material is dioxin and Exhibit 1800 is a translation of a German article appearing in 1961 which refers to the earlier findings (page 10) that the chemical engineering process could be modified so as to avoid the formation of these dioxins and that they have been using that process in their plant without any symptoms of intoxication of any sort in the workers.

CARR, KOREIN, TILLERY, KUNIN, MONTROY, GLASS & BOGARD

September 21, 1990
Ms. Erica Stuart

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These enclosures should be sufficient to establish that the American chemical companies knew the contaminant in the chemicals that was causing the problems and knew how to get rid of the contaminant. I hope this helpful.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Carr", with a stylized flourish at the end.

RC:md
Encs.