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PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Monsanto Company

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DRAFT/Suskind Study

REPORT FAILS TO FIND
LINK BETWEEN TCDD AND
REPORTED HEALTH
PROBLEMS

HOWARD J. BROWN, ST. LOUIS, MO

ST. LOUIS, NOV. 00 -- A study on the long term health effects of worker exposure found no link between exposure to the dioxin TCDD and several physical diseases and disorders including cancer, cardiovascular ^{disease} and reproductive abnormalities.

The health effects study, which required three years of analysis, was conducted by Raymond A. Suskind, M.D., one of the world's leading experts on ^{the human effects of} dioxin exposure, at the University of Cincinnati's Department of Environmental Health. TCDD, ^{The human health effects of exposure} a contaminant found in a herbicide component of Agent Orange, is at the center of a controversy over the health effects of ^{the} Agent Orange ^{multidistrict litigation} exposure, ^{brought by some} on Vietnam veterans.

According to Dr. Suskind, ^{found} there is no evidence of ^{adverse} identifiable long term effects on the cardiovascular system, including hypertension or coronary artery disease, ^{on the} liver, gastro-
^{intestinal tract} or ^{on} peripheral nerve function attributable to exposure to the chemical. There is also no indication, based on individual and family medical histories obtained from those participating in the study, of greater risks for miscarriages, stillbirths or birth defects among the families in which the

male parent was exposed to TCDD. Additionally, Dr. Suskind did not find ^{any higher than would normally be expected} an abnormally high cancer rate among the study participants.

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However, Dr. Suskind did conclude that for employees exposed to TCDD, there were long term skin effects including chloracne, the hallmark of TCDD exposure, and the loss of skin elasticity around the areas affected by chloracne.

Dr. Suskind examined 418 current and former male employees of Monsanto Company that produced the herbicide 2,4,5-T at its West Virginia plant between 1948 and 1969. ~~TCDD has been identified as a contaminant in the production of 2,4,5-T.~~ The employees involved in Dr. Suskind's study included workers who had been exposed to ~~TCDD~~ during a 1949 manufacturing accident in the 2,4,5-T unit, as well as those who worked with the herbicide over the years.

unknown
product of
runaway
reaction.

This health effects study is the second major study conducted by Dr. Suskind ^{in recent years} on Monsanto's West Virginia employees. In 1980, he co-authored a report on the mortality (cause of death) of employees who had been exposed to TCDD during the 2,4,5-T accident in 1949. The results of that investigation indicated no excess in total deaths or in deaths from cancer or cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Suskind recently presented a review of his health effects study at the Third International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds in Salzburg, Austria.

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2,4,5-T was a component of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by U.S. military forces during the Vietnam War. Dr. Suskind's latest study on the long term effects of TCDD exposure supports the majority of medical and scientific data which has failed to show a cause/effect relationship between Agent Orange exposure and health problems reported by Vietnam veterans.

is a significant contribution to the body of systematic scientific and medical inquiry into the ^{long term} consequences of exposure to TCDD.

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investigation indicated no excess in total deaths or in deaths

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