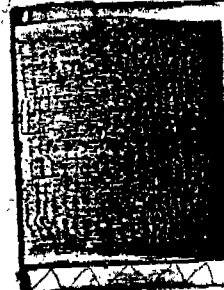
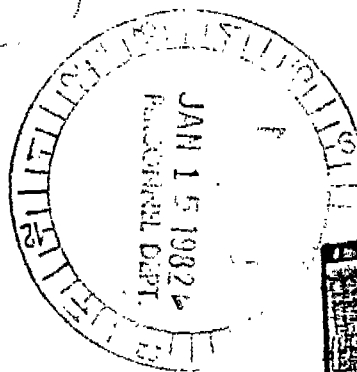


Paul Bureau

From George Griffin
via special courier.

Shelly

To: Paul Bureau



POST-DISPATCH MON - JAN 11, 1982

Cancer Deaths, Link To Certain Areas In New England Monsanto Plant Studied

AMHERST, Mass. (UPI) — Cancer deaths of people who worked at the Monsanto Co. plant in Springfield, Mass., may be linked to exposure to materials used in specific work sites, a new study says.

A spokesman for Monsanto, which has world headquarters in St. Louis, said the chemical company would wait until release of a further study of cancer cases at the Springfield plant before addressing the questions raised by the University of Massachusetts study.

That study was the fifth conducted at the Springfield plant. A team of researchers investigated the deaths of 110 men who used to work there. They said 34 were caused by cancer that might have been work-related.

Dr. Kenneth Rosenman said, "People who worked there longer, who had a longer latency period, had higher risks of dying of all malignant neoplasms." Dr. Rosenman directed the study.

Monsanto's epidemiology manager, William Gaffey of St. Louis, said, "I think we'll know within a couple of weeks whether there really is any connection between these excesses and any past exposures in the plant."

The Boston Globe reported Sunday that the university research team believed more studies of specific work sites were needed to determine if the deaths were definitely related to exposure to vinyl chlorides.

Dr. Rosenman sent a letter to the company's plant manager saying previous studies did not investigate specific work areas. "I think these studies are indications there are problems with specific work sites in Monsanto," he wrote.

"No one is saying every job in Monsanto is hazardous," he said. But he added, "There are strong indications that workers have developed disease as a consequence of working" at areas where they have been exposed to the chloride.

The study was of former employees who worked at the plant while the vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride were used between 1948 and 1975.

The team said the former workers had mouth, digestive and lymphatic cancers. The team found one death due to a liver cancer associated with exposure to vinyl chloride.

Older workers also were found to have a greater risk of contracting cancer, even with a short exposure to the plastics material.

