

Monsanto

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Gov. Bond

FROM
NAME-LOCATION-PHONE D. R. Bishop - A3NB

DATE February 11, 1983

SUBJECT

REFERENCE :

TO : J. T. Nolan
M. C. Throdahl

cc W. D. Carpenter - G3WG
G. F. Fort - G3WG
J. F. Hussey - A3NB
G. Roush - G2WG
J. H. Senger - G2WE
D. L. Spitzer - A3NA
J. D. Wilson - G3WG

I trust you've seen the makeup of Governor Bond's nine-member "citizens task force," charged with "studying the dioxin issue and recommending permanent solutions to the problems." In case you missed the announcement, it's buried in the attached article.

While this is clearly an opportunity to bring some reasoned thinking and sanity to this overblown issue, it's equally clear that Dr. Roush is going to have his work cut out for him, i.e., it's hardly a "Blue Ribbon Panel of Scientific Experts" a la Governor Carey's Love Canal approach.

Garth Fort and I have discussed a plan to work with Dr. Roush, up front, to develop a strategy and some achievable objectives for this task force. It will be interesting to see if good science can prevail over the emotions and political pressures of the moment.

We'll keep you posted on any significant developments.

DRB
Dan R. Bishop

DRB:ec

Enclosure

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003013

Times Beach residents pass 1st dioxin tests

By MARK EDGAR
Globe-Democrat
Jefferson City Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — No "immediate, acute" health problems have been found in initial medical tests on about 100 residents in dioxin-plagued Times Beach and at two contaminated sites in Jefferson County, state officials said Tuesday.

"We've seen nothing to alarm us or to make us believe Missourians are feeling acute health effects," said Dr. Robert Hotchkiss, director of the state Division of Health.

It was the first time a state official has said examinations so far show no immediate health problems, although possible effects from long-term exposure to the toxic chemical dioxin are still being studied.

In other developments here Tuesday:

► A state in-house investigation concluded that Missouri's health and environmental agencies were not at fault for not following a 1975 federal recommendation to remove contaminated soil in Jefferson County.

It also said state officials should not be blamed for apparently forgetting to check about other 1976 tests on the soil samples until last year.

Both instances of failure to act were disclosed in The Globe-Democrat.

► Results from more federal tests at confirmed contaminated spots in the St. Louis area and at 30 others suspected to be contaminated should be available by Friday or early next week.

► Gov. Christopher S. Bond named

Continued on Page 4A

Residents pass dioxin tests

Continued from Page 1A

a nine-member citizens task force to study the dioxin issue and to recommend "permanent solutions to the problem." He requested an interim report on Times Beach by July 1.

Hotchkiss said the division plans more tests but said it was "unlikely" acute health problems would be uncovered based on tests so far.

HE SAID 850 people have filled out medical questionnaires, 53 have received medical exams and 54 have had skin tests to check for chloracne, an outbreak of pimply skin that is the one of the most easily detectable results of dioxin exposure.

The investigation on the state's handling of the dioxin problem was ordered by Bond after The Globe-Democrat reported in January that Missouri officials had the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta run tests on dioxin-contaminated soil in 1976, but state officials apparently forgot about the results until 1982. The CDC said it had reminded the state but got no response.

The Globe-Democrat also reported that the Department of Natural Resources did not carry out a 1975 recommendation by the CDC that the soil be removed and dumped at a "remote, deep landfill."

Bond said Tuesday that the state's investigation — by the natural resources agency and social services department — found "there was no shortfall" in the duties by state employees.

"I believe that all DNR employees

acted in good faith and with the best scientific advice available at the time," department Director Fred A. Lafser said.

Lafser and Barrett A. Toan, social services director, said that because the CDC first indicated dioxins would decay over time, the state worked to try to clean up large quantities of dioxin found at a defunct chemical plant near Springfield.

It was later learned that dioxin did not break down that quickly, but Lafser blamed the health agency for not notifying the state about that until last year and said, "Had CDC responded with this information earlier, the department may have readjusted priorities."

DESPITE THE conclusions of the investigation, some legislators are pressing for a separate legislative inquiry.

Bond's task force is scheduled to meet twice monthly. Its chairman is retired Missouri Supreme Court Judge James Finch and the St. Louis area members are Perry King, director of quality assurance-chemicals for Mallinckrodt Inc.; Robert L. Powell, assistant professor of chemical engineering at Washington University and president of the Coalition for the Environment; Sharon Rogers, a member of Warren Countians Against Hazardous Waste; Betty Wilson, environmental quality chairperson of the League of Women Voters, St. Louis; and George Roush, director of the department of medicine and environmental health of Monsanto Co.