

Mohsanto

Isham Dep Cy #4
12/21/83 KK

FROM
(NAME--LOCATION--PHONE)

R. C. Isham - BLND

: February 12, 1979

cc.

SUBJECT : STURGEON, MO., DERAILMENT
POSITION STATEMENT

REFERENCE :

TO : D. R. Bishop J. T. Nolan
W. R. Corey P. S. Park
J. R. Foehr R. G. Pier
T. L. Gossage G. Roush
E. H. Harbison J. J. Spano
J. S. Metcalf R. A. Stohr
J. E. McKee G. Young
J. C. McPhillips

XC { M. E. MILLER
D. B. EDWARDS
D. P. Roman
FVL

[Signature]

If you have any corrections or suggestions to this position statement, please phone extension 4-2621. Also attached is the EPA news release of Sunday, Feb. 11.

R. C. Isham
R. C. Isham.

cc: J. S. McRAFF

RCI:smt

Att.

BOB,
We say that it's "probably not" the 2,3,7,8
issue yet EPA says it is. We better be able to respond
to our difference in opinion.

[Signature]

C00441

EPA NEWS RELEASE OF 9 a.m. SUNDAY, FEB. 11

(Phoned from EPA Region VII Public Affairs Department to UPI, AP, Kansas City Star, Columbia Daily Tribune).

On Friday evening, Feb. 9, the Monsanto Chemical Co. told EPA Region VII officials that the shipment of chlorinated phenolic compounds which was spilled in a rail car derailment in Sturgeon, Mo., on Jan. 10 contained trace quantities of a compound known as dioxin (TCDD). Monsanto reported three samples measured, averaging 37 ppb (34, 36, 40 ppb). The company could not identify which particular forms of TCDD were present. Acting on this information, Harry Gilmer, EPA Region VII on-scene coordinator, ordered the extraction of a sample of soil taken at the spill site sent to the University of Ill., Champaign. With the assistance of Region VII, Dr. Billie Fairless, Dr. R. D. Kleopfer, Dr. C. Cook of the University performed analyses which confirmed the presence of 2,3,7,8 TCDD at a level less than 0.01 ppb.

Gilmer's team had explored the possibility of dioxin contamination and had both performed some analyses and had contacted Monsanto on this point. According to medical scientists at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC, the new information is of concern but presents no cause for change in the cleanup procedures currently underway. Dr. J. Seister, senior medical advisor to the office of toxic substances, stated, "The presence of dioxin in the spill material changes the scope of our review but does not present cause for immediate alarm in the levels reported."