

ADELAIDE • AMSTERDAM • ANCHORAGE • AUCKLAND • BOSTON • BRUSSELS • BUENOS AIRES • CHICAGO • COPENHAGEN • DUBLIN
FORT LAUDERDALE • GÖTTENBERG • HAMBURG • LEWES — U.K. • LONDON • LUXEMBOURG • MADRID • MONTREAL • OSLO • PALMA DE MALLORCA
PARIS • ROME • SAN FRANCISCO • SAN JOSE — COSTA RICA • SEATTLE • STOCKHOLM • SYDNEY • TORONTO • VANCOUVER • VIENNA
WASHINGTON • WORLD PARK BASE — ANTARCTICA • ZÜRICH

GREENPEACE NEWS

Greenpeace USA • 1436 U Street NW • Washington DC 20009 • Tel (202) 462-1177
Tlx 89-2359 • Fax (202) 462-4507

EMBARGOED UNTIL:
NOVEMBER 29, 1990

CONTACTS: Joe Thornton, Greenpeace Research Analyst 202-462-1177
Pat Costner, Greenpeace Research Director 202-462-1177
Lynn Thorp, Greenpeace Toxics Campaign 202-319-2479
Julie Brenegar, Greenpeace Media 202-319-2490

GREENPEACE EXPOSES FRAUD IN INDUSTRY DIOXIN STUDIES; CALLS FOR EPA ACTIONS TO PREVENT DIOXIN POLLUTION

WASHINGTON, DC -- Exposing fraudulent and manipulated science in several key industry studies of dioxin's health effects on humans, the international environmental group Greenpeace will petition the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Thursday, November 29, to revoke all past decisions based on these studies. The petition also calls on EPA -- based on new evidence showing dioxin to be far more toxic than previously thought -- to implement a national strategy to eliminate major dioxin sources.

Greenpeace will submit the petition to EPA under the authority of the U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act and release it at a 10.00 a.m. news conference at the National Press Club, Lisagor Room, 14th and F Streets N.W., Washington, D.C.

The Greenpeace petition outlines major flaws in the design, conduct and interpretation of key dioxin studies conducted or funded by Monsanto, one of the world's largest chemical companies. The studies, published between 1980 and 1984, were conducted on workers exposed to dioxin during accidents and the routine production of herbicides at Monsanto's plant in Nitro, West Virginia. Scientists, attorneys and EPA whistleblowers have raised concerns about the studies since 1985; the Greenpeace petition contains the most thorough analysis of the studies to date and the first move for official action to discontinue their use in government policy.

Greenpeace analysis of several of the studies shows that dozens of workers with cancer and heart disease, who were known to be exposed to dioxin, were inappropriately shifted into unexposed "control" groups or excluded from the studies altogether. In some cases, those classifications were contrary to the studies' stated criteria; in others, the criteria were designed specifically to allow exposed workers to be misclassified. Similar concerns have recently been raised about manipulations in a study conducted by the German chemical company BASF on dioxin-exposed workers at one of its European plants.

(more)

000474
C00358