

Monsanto

FROM : J. S. Metcalf, St. Louis B2NK

DATE : April 16, 1979 cc. D. B. Edwards B3SC
SUBJECT : o-CHLOROPHENOL CRUDE T. L. Gossage B3SB
REFERENCE : B. G. Hammond A2SC
TO : File R. C. Isham B1ND
H. W. Kilbourne N3A
J. C. McPhillips B3SC
M. E. Miller B3SB
G. E. Paget A2SC
R. G. Pier B3SC
F. A. Provorny B2SC
D. P. Roman N2B
J. D. Wilson N3A

On Friday morning, April 13, I called Dr. Joseph Seifter at EPA* relative to a conversation he had had the previous day with a reporter about the OCP crude spill at Sturgeon, Missouri.

He was very unhappy with the reporter, felt he was badly misquoted, and appeared glad of the opportunity to give Monsanto the "straight" story. He rambled a lot and was hard to follow, but gave me the following information.

Twelve Western Environmental Services (WES) people were involved in the spill cleanup. The urine of all twelve was examined for phenol, chlorophenols, and their conjugates. None showed phenol, but seven of the twelve showed traces of chlorophenols and their conjugates.

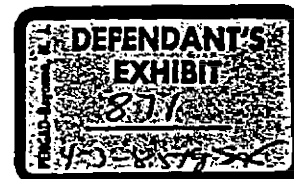
The three workers with the greatest exposure had blood samples tested for dioxins, with findings of 31, 7, and 0 parts per trillion. The particular isomers were not identified, and Dr. Seifter said they didn't even know the degree of chlorination. He further said that two EPA analysts felt the diagnosis of "dioxin" presence was incorrect.

He did not know any details of the analytical methodology used, method sensitivity, or who performed the analyses. He offered the following names of those who could furnish this information. Both are at EPA Region 7, Kansas City.

John Wicklund, Coordinator for the Sturgeon incident
William Rice (Harry Gilmer's boss)

*Phone (202) 755-4894

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Many citizens of Sturgeon have been examined for skin problems, but none have been found. The random sampling of 20 people reportedly started on April 12 is factual, but this involves analysis of urine for phenols, not blood for dioxins.

The four citizens who have consistently complained of problems will have blood samples analyzed for dioxins, and, in addition, the blood of the three WES workers with maximum exposure will be retested.

Dr. Seifter firmly believes that there is no health problem related to the Sturgeon spill.

I have calculated that a level of 31 ppt "dioxin" in blood equates to 0.17 micrograms total body burden and 3 nanograms per kilogram for a 60-kilo man.


J. S. Metcalf

/dmw