

Monsanto

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY & HEALTH

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May 4, 1987

Marilyn Fingerhut, Ph.D.
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226-1998

Dear Marilyn:

I am enclosing the computer tape you requested in your memo dated April 10, 1987. I am sorry for the delay, but I was on vacation the week you sent me the letter, and your request required much programming, data manipulation and editing on my part. Please disregard any data tape sent to you prior to this one. I used the chronology sent to you on Nov. 12, 1985 to determine who was exposed, and I corrected some social security numbers and conflicting values for birth and hire dates. I did not use the chronology sent to you Feb. 8, 1983 because it does not accurately reflect the exposures. The files are identified in the following way:

COE5577: These are employees who were active between 1955 and 1977, and whose work histories indicate that they worked in either a 2,4,5-T or NaTCP department. The start and end dates of these departments are listed in the chronology sent to you on Nov. 12, 1985.

B55: These are employees who were terminated prior to 1955 and were potentially exposed to 2,4,5-T. See part Ic of my memo sent to you on Nov. 7, 1986 for information on how these employees were identified.

TCP: These are employees who were in the TCP accident study. I have included a female who contacted chloracne as a result of the accident, but wasn't included in the study.

SUS: These are employees who were in the Suskind/Hertzberg morbidity study and were exposed according to either the Monsanto or University of Cincinnati exposure criteria. These criteria were described in part 5 of my memo dated Nov. 7, 1986. Please be aware that Dr. Suskind used only the University of Cincinnati's "Exposed" and "Non-exposed" categories in his study.



Marilyn Fingerhut, Ph.D.

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In addition to the usual header record variables that you are very familiar with, I have added the additional variables you requested: a Monsanto and UC exposure variable for those in the Suskind study, a data source variable for those in the B455 file who were identified as potentially exposed from a source other than their personnel record, and a variable to indicate whether there was a work record in our computer file. I have also added a date of termination derived from 941 forms to those in the B455 group who did not have a personnel file.

Since I combined so many different files using various computer programs, I made many diligent attempts to check that I was including everybody I was supposed to. I even compared my final cohort to the names on the three lists I sent to you on Nov. 7, 1986. Unfortunately, I discovered that there were twenty-six names on my current file that weren't on those lists. All the names were from the Suskind study and had a ~~Monsanto~~ exposure code of either 1 or 2. (See attached list). I could not figure out why these omissions occurred, but I can assure you that this current file includes all the exposed Suskind cohort members.

The record format for the header and work records on this tape is in the attachment and the tape specifications are: non-labelled, 9 track, EBCDIC characters, density=6250 BPI, LRECL=97, BLKSIZE=6208, RECFM=FB and #RECS=6382. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Marcie E. Strauss

Marcie E. Strauss
Epidemiologist

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