

CC: F.E.M.
E.N.B.
M.D.
C.P.F.
W.A.B.
J.R.T.
N. L. A. N.
n. k. e.
u. B. P.

REPORT ON CHLOROPHENOL TANKCAR DERAILMENT -- Jan. 11, 1979
8:15 a.m.

52/12
The latest report from Krummrich is that the 20,000 gal. tankcar full of chlorophenol has drained out and the car is empty. The area has been diked off and work has been started to cover the chemical with sand.

The background is that early today a derailment occurred at Sturgeon, Mo., which is about 130 miles west of St. Louis, on a Norfolk and Western line. The tankcar was enroute from Krummrich to Tacoma, Washington. Radio reports are that 800 to 1,000 residents were evacuated after the car was punctured by a wheel that had become detached during the derailment.

A team from Krummrich including Phil Kirk and Joe Starzak was enroute to the scene. Bob Neunreiter is also on the way.

Ort. Chlorophenol is an intermediate chemical used for wood preservative. It is also described as chlorinated carbolic acid. It is listed as corrosive and toxic. It is irritating to the eyes and respiratory system and can burn on contact with the skin. It can burn but does not support burning by itself.

C00824

Monahan

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

DATE :	February 27, 1979	cc	K. W. Easley	1920
			D. B. Edwards	B2NA
SUBJECT :	OCP Crude		J. R. Foehr	B2SA
	Sturgeon Spill		T. L. Gossage	B3SB
REFERENCE :			R. C. Isham	B1ND
			D. E. Munie	B3SB
TO :	File		D. P. Roman	N2B
			P. A. Tierney	N3A
			J. D. Wilson	N3A

On February 27, 1979, I received a phone call from a Ms. Jo Ann Perwak, A. D. Little. Charles Poole, of EPA-OTS, had given her my name.

ADL has an EPA contract with the Monitoring and Data Support Department (?) to evaluate the environmental impact of 2,3,7,8 TCDD. Since this compound was allegedly present in the OCP Crude spilled at Sturgeon, she wanted to know how it was used.

I told her the vast majority was used as an intermediate in the preparation of pentachlorophenol. I did not divulge names of customers, but mentioned that there were few producers of penta.

I explained to her our concern over the unfortunate EPA press release, the fact that none of the three scientists involved in the University of Illinois claimed the 2,3,7,8 isomer had been proven present, the general chemical facts behind our belief that this isomer, if present at all, could not be the predominant tetrachloro isomer present, and finally our hope that A. D. Little would not add to the confusion already existing over the dioxins in OCP Crude.


J. S. Metcalf

/dmw

C00459

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Chemical car derailment at Sturgeon, Mo.

REPORTER & MEDIA: Ed Shafer, AP; Dave Punt, KWIX;
Curtis Peck, Mexico Ledger; Howard Mitchell, KFRU,
TIME & DATE: January 11, 1979 et al

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

The derailment of a Norfolk & Western train at Sturgeon, Mo., caused a leak in a tankcar of 20,000 gallons of an industrial chemical en route from Monsanto's plant at Sauget, Ill., to Tacoma, Wash. An evacuation of residents was ordered this morning as a precautionary measure. The railroad has experts on the scene to direct the cleanup. A team of specialists from Monsanto is on the scene to advise.

The product is described as an intermediate chemical used as an ingredient in wood preservatives. It is called chlorinated carboic acid (ortho chlorophenol-crude). It is a non-explosive corrosive liquid that can burn. It is irritating to the eyes and respiratory system, is toxic, and can burn the skin on contact.

☒ News Bureau
☒ J. T. Nolan
☒ J. E. McKee
☒ D. R. Bishop
☒ W. J. McCarville
☐ W. R. Mulhall
☐ J. F. Hussey-Washington, D.C.
☐ S. Pickard-Washington, D.C.
☐ New York Public Relations
☐ Brussels Public Relations
☒ MAP PR
☒ MCI PR
☒ MIC PR
☒ MPR PR
☒ MTC PR
☒ INT'L PR
F. E. Reese
E. N. Brasfield
M. Dmytryszyn

C00823

SOURCE OF ANSWER Howard Curtis, Charlie Farley,
Joe Metcalf

HANDLED BY: John J. Spano