

Isham Sep 94 #2
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JOPLIN, MO.
GLOBE
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MAY 23 1979

Monsanto Alters Production Of Toxic Chemical Element

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Co. apparently has succeeded in removing detectable levels of a toxic substance in its production of a chemical which was spilled in a train derailment near Sturgeon, Mo., in January.

Company spokesman Robert Isham said changes were made in the process for manufacturing orthochlorophenol, the chemical involved in the spill, and that initial tests showed no measurable amounts of the highly toxic impurity tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD).

Isham said very low levels, .037 parts per million, of TCDD were found in the 20,000 gallons of orthochlorophenol which were spilled near Sturgeon, prompting concern for the health of persons who came into contact with the chemical.

"We are continuing our evaluation of the process," Isham said.

Isham described TCDD as "one of the most highly toxic poisons" and said it occurs as an impurity in orthochlorophenol, an intermediate chemical used in manufacturing processes, especially in the production of wood preservative chemicals.

The chemical spill was caused when a Norfolk & Western Railway train derailed.

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.
CAPITAL NEWS
D. 5,000

MAY 23 1979

Dioxin reportedly removed from chemical

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LIMA, OHIO
NEWS
D. 42,918 SUN. 47,525

JUN 7 1979

Farm family sues for chemical spill

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A farm family has filed a \$7.65 million damage suit against a railroad and three other firms, claiming a winter railroad derailment and chemical spill damaged their land and caused them "great bodily harm, the extent of which is still not known."

William Kemmer, his wife, Linda, and his mother, Frances, filed the suit in Boone County Circuit Court Tuesday, naming Norfolk & Western Railroad, Dresser Industries, G.A.T.X. Corp. and the Monsanto Chemical Co. as defendants. About 1,000 persons were evacuated from their homes when the N&W train derailed Jan. 10, spilling 20,000 gallons of chlorophenyl, a toxic chemical, and traces of dioxin, a highly tox-

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