

PX 1757

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Mr. J. A. Durland

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CONFIDENTIAL

As you know we have recently discussed with Dr. Suskind of the Lettering Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati the possibility of continuing test work on the 2,4,5-T chloracne problem. You also know that the 2,4,5-T problem has not been solved and chloracne remains as the outstanding problem of the Nitro plant in dealing with hourly personnel. Although the present plant is considerably safer than previous operations, we know of three new chloracne cases during the past year. Since a large percentage of the men who have worked in the new department had chloracne from previous exposure, it is not possible to say that they would not have contracted chloracne in the new department.

I am convinced that the only solution to the problem is to isolate the chloracne causing material and remove it from the process. Our experience and that of Dow and Diamond Alkali indicates that distillation of the trichlorophenol can provide this solution to the problem.

The Lettering Laboratory has successfully developed a test using human subjects and I have asked them to estimate the cost of establishing definitely whether or not the distillation step will effectively control the problem. A copy of Dr. Suskind's answer and cost estimate is attached.

It is my recommendation that we proceed with this work as rapidly as possible.

R. E. Soden

RES/tr

Attachment

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