Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Dept. of Medicine & Environmental Health - David Musch

DATE: June 6, 1978

SUBJECT: PCB Epidemiology Study
~~Krummrich Plant Visit~~, 6/2/78

REFERENCE:

cc: C. Elmer-A2SA
P. Heisler-1740
F. C. Meyer-A2SA
Judy Zack-A2SA

cc J. Molloy
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TO File

On Friday afternoon, June 2, 1978, the Krummrich plant was visited by Dr. F. C. Meyer, David Musch, and Randy Picolet. Five supervisory personnel (Paul Heisler, Robert Macklin, Arnold Zavadil, Virgil Brawley, and James Cagle) who had worked in department 246 were interviewed, as well as a secretary (Gloria) who had assisted in the earlier Monsanto PCB study.

After Dr. Meyer explained the purposes of the present PCB epidemiology study to the interviewees, Gloria reviewed the data sources and the methods of ascertainment which were used in the earlier PCB study at the Krummrich plant. The cohort studied in the earlier investigation was obtained via a hand search of the work history records by 15 inexperienced, temporary employees.

Information on the work force size, exposure levels, and work force history was obtained from the five supervisory personnel. First, the job title listing was reviewed with the men. The department operated around the clock, with 11-12 employees on the day shift and four employees on each of the other two shifts. During the day shift, there were two operators working prior to 1971. A column operator was added to this number in 1971. One helper assisted the operators. There were two packers (flakers, stand-operators) on the day shift. This job was a heavy-work position involving the moving of 600 lb. drums, and there was a high employee turnover rate among packers. The packers worked in department 246 only 4-1/2 - 5 hours out of the shift.

The rest of the day shift work force was composed of a half-time porter, a one-fifth time swingman, a full-time repairman, two foremen, one supervisor, and one cost analyst from 1967 on. The other two shifts employed four men each, with three operators and a helper. The turnover rates of all jobs were very low with the exception of packers and utility helpers, who held a 30-day maximum position. Rotation of jobs independent by the listing on the work history records apparently did not occur.

This work is being redone to help Corp Monsanto Legal Dept's defense in a Cancer case.

Second, the exposure levels of the various positions were ascertained. The interviewees emphasized that the exposure levels were quite uniform and fairly high. The smell of Arochlor was omnipresent in the department, and all workers from the packer to the foreman were coated to some degree with the sticky substance by the end of the shift. Third, the work force history was obtained. No layoffs were noted, but three strikes were mentioned - in 1953 (short), 1955 (8 weeks), and 1958 (11 weeks). No seasonal fluctuations in the work force size occurred.

The men were then questioned with regard to the method of production. Prior to 1968, batch chlorination of biphenyl occurred in five chlorinators. In 1968, continuous chlorination was begun, and in

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1971 a column was added which facilitated continuous chlorination. The workers were exposed to several chemicals other than PCB. These included HCl (not much), trichlorobenzene, tetra-TCB, biphenyl, and chlorine gas - none in significant amounts.

The supervisory personnel then went over a list of 31 department 246 workers who were identified as lost-to-follow-up by the DMEH. Of these 31, 13 were identified as either alive or dead, and reference was given to the place of employment of another. Most of the department 246 employees lived in St. Clair County, and a lesser number lived in Madison, Monroe, and St. Louis County (especially salaried personnel). The use of the yellow medical cards was suggested as an alternate data source, but they noted that these cards often did not include necessary data such as the worker's department number.

The work histories of several department 246 workers from whom DMEH had no record were also obtained, and a future visit was planned in order to complete the requisition of data and obtain the completed computer listing of all department 246 workers from Henry Hoch.

David C. Musch

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Att.

PCB STUDY LOST-TO-FOLLOW-UPS IDENTIFIED AT THE KRUMMRICH VISIT

| Name | Employment Status | Vital Status |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Allard, Kenneth E. | Terminated | Alive |
| 2. Black, John L. | Terminated | Alive |
| 3. Blackburn, James E. | Terminated | Alive |
| 4. Bryant, Thomas E. | Terminated | Alive |
| 5. Cunningham, George T. | Terminated | Dead (Illinois) |
| 6. Davis, James B. | Terminated | Alive |
| 7. Dean, Raymond E. | Terminated | Alive |
| 8. Fitzgerald, Robert | Active (Salaried) | Alive |
| 9. Smith, George | Terminated | Possibly works at Washington Park Police Dept |
| 10. Smith, Melvin V. | Possibly active-truck driver | |
| 11. Smith, Paul B. | Terminated | Alive |
| 12. Swan, Charles J. | Terminated | Alive |
| 13. Witmer, Frank C. | Active | Alive |
| 14. Maclin, Booker | Retired | Alive |

Note: 17 names remain to be identified with regard to their vital status.

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