

Monsanto

PX 1480

AUG 27 1979

FROM
(NAME-LOCATION-PHONE)

F. J. Holzapfel - B2SB

DATE : August 24, 1979

SUBJECT : NITRO HEALTH STUDY TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8/24/79

REFERENCE :

TO : Those Present:

W. R. Gaffey - C2SH
F. J. Holzapfel - B2SB
W. J. McCarville - A3NC
F. C. Meyer - A3SH
P. S. Park - E2NE
B. J. Wander - C2SA
P. R. Wilkins - 1650

and

D. R. Bishop - A3NB
C. F. Callis - B2SA (R. S. Nelson, substitute)
E. Tillman - A2SB

Next Meeting: Friday, August 31
8:30 a.m. Room A-331N

cc: W. D. Carpenter - C2NA
E. L. Head - B3SB
J. E. McKee - A3NB
L. A. Miller - B3SA
J. T. Nolan - D1A
W. B. Papageorge - G4WA
C. J. Smith - B2SL
M. C. Throdahl - D1D

1.) Miscellaneous Handouts

- a. Memo Eckel to Galloway 8/23 - Status report on miscellaneous samples of water analyzed for dioxins and 2, 4, 5 T.
- b. Memo to Carbide employees re Carbide-NIOSH Epidemiology Study.
- c. Charleston Daily Mail article - 8/22/79 - "(Congressman) Slack to Demand Probe of Health Forums" - alleges link between environmental group and left wing elements.
- d. Charleston Gazette article - 8/15 - "Hazard to Water Suspected at 6 Dumps" - mentions Monsanto.
- e. Charleston Daily Mail article - 8/15 - "State Dumps' - Hazards Probed" - mentions Nitro Municipal Dump and Monsanto's own landfill - indicates DNR had requested further sampling.
- f. Journal of Commerce article - 8/17 - "Judge Refuses to Ban Sale, Use of 2,4, 5 T" - relates to class action suit on Agent Orange.

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SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

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2.) Monsanto Mortality Study

Do not yet have acceptance of our draft by Suskind. However, he has promised to review next week. Meyer will follow up.

This study involved 121 people who were both involved in the 1949 incident at Nitro and had chloracne (generally accepted as a sure sign of a large dose of dioxins). Most of these are still alive.

By contrast, the Carbide/University of Pittsburgh study involved 819 deceased workers who had been employed at its South Charleston plant. Carbide's study showed higher than normal incidence of three types of cancer and led to the larger 40,000 man epidemiology study announced last week.

We must be prepared to differentiate between the two kinds of studies, if our future news release is to have credibility. Dr. Gaffey explained that a study which included only deceased employees would be expected to show more cancer than a study of an entire group (living and dead) that had been exposed to an "incident" such as ours in 1949.

3.) Suskind Study - Follow-Up to Employees

Dr. Suskind has advised Dr. Meyer that he will send a report on each patient examined to that man's personal physician, and will send a letter to each man examined advising him that the file has been sent to his physician. We understand that the Monsanto medical community will receive a copy of the test results for that individual's medical file. Some confusion exists as to where this will be sent or when. Dr. Meyer will attempt to resolve, and will attempt to get a copy of the type of letter sent to each man examined.

4.) Communication With Nitro Employees

Task Force agreed that we should either publish an article in the plant newspaper early next week, or have the Plant Manager send a letter to the home, dealing with two subjects:

- a. The Carbide Epidemiology Study - point out that we are doing the same thing with our MEHI approach, started last year, and expect results early in 1980.

- b. Suskind's feedback letters to those examined and their doctors.

Pierre Wilkins will work with Roy Scott on this on Monday, 8/27.

5.) Public Attitude Survey

(See minutes 7/20 meeting - W. Va. Mfg. Assoc.). Wilkins will follow up to expedite selection of firm to conduct survey.

6.) Chloracne

The group agreed that we should identify those employees hired since January 1973 and examine their medical history to determine how many (if any) cases of chloracne exist. Presumably this group was not exposed to 2,4, 5 T or the equipment involved in its manufacturing. The absence of chloracne could be construed as indicating that any exposure to dioxins since 1973 is relatively harmless. Dr. Tillman and Judy Zack will consider this recommendation and how to implement it and report back. We may wish or need to look for "current" or "active" chloracne in the next round of annual physicals.



F. J. Holzapfel

/cc