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FOR Full Report TX-1614-(1)

APR 11 1954
K-1715-(13)
D. D. I. ✓

Biochemical Research Department

Noted E. E. D.

The Dow Chemical Company

APR 16 1954

RESULTS OF RANGE FINDING TOXICO-
LOGICAL TESTS ON BROMINE IN
ETHYLENE DIBROMIDE (1 HBJ-X)

File ~~72-30-21-1~~
Chg. 1219-2
Rept. By M. A. Wolf

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Checked D. D. McCallister

Date 3-29-54

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PROBLEM

New processes for making ethylene dibromide are being explored. This mixture is one that is being considered as a part of a new process. What are its hazards and what are the precautions necessary for its safe handling? How does it compare toxicologically with ethylene dibromide alone?

CONCLUSIONS

Ethylene dibromide containing free bromine (1 HBJ-X) is moderately high in acute oral toxicity, markedly irritating to the eyes, and seriously corrosive to the skin. The material may be handled safely only if chemical workers goggles and protective clothing, as described, are worn.

By way of comparison, the undiluted mixture is more hazardous to handle than ethylene dibromide when considering both the eyes and the skin. This, of course, is most likely due to the presence of the free bromine which is known to be corrosive to the skin.

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DO 130618
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