

ionsanto

Curry & Co. Vestal

DEC 11 1979

NAME - LOCATION - PHONE

James D. Wilson - N3A - 4-5274

DATE: December 3, 1979

SUBJECT: Veterans Administrations Interest
in Dioxins in Santophen

REFERENCE:

FILE

cc: C. F. Callis - B2SA
E. L. Head - B3SB
H. W. Kilbourne - N3A
J. C. McPhillips/R. G. Pier - B3SC
J. S. Metcalf - B2NK
F. A. Provorny - B3NJ
D. P. Roman - W. B. Bennet - N2B

Thursday, November 29, I received a telephone call from Dick Jente of Vestal Laboratories, asking about the 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-dibenzodioxin content of Santophen-1. I replied that:

a) We had seen no detectable 2,3,7,8-TCDD in S-1 using a validated method with a detection limit of 10 ppb; b) We were working on a new method, not yet validated, with a detection limit "around 0.5 ppb", and that current S-1 production showed no detectable 2,3,7,8-TCDD with this method. I also said that non-dioxin impurities in S-1 seemed to limit our sensitivity, with either method, to above 0.1 ppb.



He called us because two VA hospitals had called Vestal asking to be told that there were "no dioxins" in the cleaners Vestal sold. Jente replied that he could not prove the complete absence of any impurity, because "none means none". However, he assured them that there was less than 1 ppb 2,3,7,8-TCDD in their products, using the analog "less than one Ayatollah in the U.S. population" as a descriptive analogy. (He apparently learned from Bill Bennet that S-1 contained less than 10 ppb 2,3,7,8-TCDD.)

He wasn't sure, but thought that janitors at the VA hospitals had connected Santophen to dioxins via chlorophenols and Agent Orange, and demanded that hospital administration assure them they weren't being poisoned!

JDW
James D. Wilson

JDW/bh

002850

CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.