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TO: ROYCE SCOTT, PLANT MANAGER, MONSANTO, NITRO
PIERRE WILKINS, DIRECTOR, CREATIVE SERVICES

FROM: CHARLES E. RYAN

DATE: JULY 26, 1979

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS (AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS) FROM JOHN MCCOY ON THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUE

1. HOW IS MONSANTO CURRENTLY DISPOSING OF ITS SOLID WASTE?

Answer We collect our solid waste from locations around the plant and move it by vehicle to the landfill site north of our facility, within our plant boundary lines. This landfill is operated under strict regulations and is inspected on a regular basis by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

2. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ANY OF THIS MATERIAL MIGHT LEACH INTO THE WATER TABLE AND THE KANAWHA RIVER?

Answer We have a series of perimeter and cross-crossing wells drilled through the fill layer, trash layer and a clay liner into the water table. We take samples from these wells and analyze them on a regular basis. These samples indicate we're not leaching any material into the water table.

3. (IN CASE A QUESTION IS ASKED ON WATER)

Answer The plant has only two outfalls. One comes from the water treatment plant where all our liquid runoff is treated before being released. This outfall is monitored and the process we use in treating the water has been used as an example of how to operate such a plant by the EPA.

(Royce, I'm pretty sure you said EPA used it as an example, correct me if I'm wrong)

The second outfall is from a non-contact cooling

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confidential areas of the Eckhardt report and I simply can't violate that confidentiality.

11. IS THERE ANY REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE AREAS?

Answer Insofar as we know, there was nothing done in the past that would affect the public.

245T disposal
PAS disposal

12. WHAT ABOUT THE TOXIC DIOXIN HERE AT MONSANTO?

Answer First, it should be clearly understood that the Nitro plant stopped manufacturing dioxin ~~or~~ 245-T in 1969* and the plant does not currently manufacture any chemicals which produce trace amounts of any unwanted contaminants in the dioxin family.

* Dioxin was a trace contaminate in the 245T process.

13. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MONSANTO BURIED THAT DIOXIN EQUIPMENT HERE AT THE PLANT?

Answer When we dismantled the equipment in the early '70's, we decontaminated it and buried it here on the site. We monitor the containment of all solid waste buried at Nitro through a series of wells around the plant and throughout the solid waste disposal area...that way we can ensure that the waste is being contained.

14. HOW DID YOU DISPOSE OF THE 245-T WHILE THE UNIT WAS OPERATING?

Answer There was no solid waste from the manufacture of 245-T. We did have filter clothes, dust bags and floor sweepings. Those were burned in the plant incinerator. That was an acceptable and standard procedure at that time.

15. WHAT DID YOU LEARN WHEN YOU ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS CONGRESSMAN ECKHARDT HAD?

Answer We learned nothing from the questions Congressman Eckhardt had, we were simply asked to reply to his questions.

(This is a question that McCoy told Fred Winterkamp he was going to ask but he did not ask the question)

16. ARE YOU FEARFUL THAT THERE MAY BE A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION FROM "DUMPING" THAT TOOK PLACE BEFORE YOU CAME TO NITRO?

Answer Again, insofar as we know, there was nothing done in the past that would affect the public.

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17. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE ECKHARDT REPORT TO BE MADE PUBLIC OR HIS COMMITTEE TO ACT?

Answer. We have had no indication that the report is to be made public nor have we had any indication that any action would be merited.

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