

Key Dates - Monsanto Manufacture of 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol (2,4,5-T)

- 1948 Manufacture at Nitro initiated.
- 3/8/49 Autoclave rupture disc blows, exposing 114 people to the reaction mixture. A number of cases of chloracne resulted.
- 1949-1953 Dr. Raymond Suskind, a recognized dermatological expert now associated with the Kettering Institute in Cincinnati, examined 37 of the workers involved in the 1949 incident.
- 1949-1969 Some 116 people involved in manufacture of 2,4,5-T were examined over the years by dermatologists in relation to chloracne complaints.
- The 2,4,5-T plant was shut down in 1969.
- 1957 Dioxins, a known by-product of 2,4,5-T manufacture, were identified as causative agents for chloracne.
- 1972 The 2,4,5-T unit was dismantled by outside contractors and disposed of in a buried dump.
- 7/10/76 A dioxin accident at the Roche plant in Seveso, Italy spread material over a broad area and created an international incident (dioxins are now alleged to cause long-term health effects, including cancer).
- 6/78 Suskind contacted Monsanto and requested permission to do a follow-up study on the group involved in the 1949 Nitro accident.
- 8/14/78 The Environmental Policy Committee approved Dr. McCarville's recommendation to initiate an epidemiological study of the exposed Nitro personnel in cooperation with Dr. Suskind. Work began on this immediately.
- 12/78 International officers of the Steelworkers' Union (which represents Nitro employees) contacted Monsanto to communicate their interest in doing a health study on the personnel involved in the 1949 incident and 2,4,5-T manufacture, and to request medical records and other data on the employees involved.
- 1/79 Selikoff asked Suskind if he would cooperate in Monsanto study.

EX. 60

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University of Cincinnati Medical Center

3723 Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45267

Institute of Environmental Health
Kettering Laboratory
Raymond R. Suskind, M.D., Director
(513) 872-8701

June 9, 1978

Dr. George Roush, Jr.
Medical Director
Monsanto Chemical Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear George:

I was pleased to have the chance to talk with you on the phone. Enclosed is a list of 37 employees who were examined by us in the period from 1949 to 1953. Four of the most severely involved (Ival McClanahan, Jesse J. Steele, Paul Willard, and J.A. Hurley) were seen at the Holmes Hospital by myself and Bill Ashe at the request of Emmet Kelly.

Since many of the group in the attached list were in their 20's and 30's when we saw them, I would not be surprised that some of them are still employed at Monsanto and others continue to live in the Nitro, West Virginia area and be accessible.

Our interest in following these cases is of course stimulated by our greater knowledge regarding the toxicologic effects of TCDD. However, the one substantial gap in our scientific knowledge is the possible long term effects of such exposures and whether the risk for a variety of common ailments of man is altered by TCDD exposure.

A systematic retrospective epidemiologic study of this group might be quite time consuming and require a considerable amount of record review. We would certainly be willing to supply both the manpower and support for such a study.

I do hope that your explorations in this matter bear fruit.

I deeply appreciate any help you can give us in this matter.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Raymond R. Suskind, M.D.

RPS/bmr

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2/2/79

Within the past week the Steelworkers' Union has stated they plan to bring a team of eight doctors into Charleston on April 6-8 to examine all involved personnel willing to cooperate. The study will be done with the cooperation of Dr. Selikoff of Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Partial results from the Monsanto-Suskind epidemiological study underway since 9/78 indicate no cause for concern in the pattern of 30 deaths in the group of 114.

Suskind has volunteered to do a more intensive health study on all exposed personnel beginning in March at an estimated cost of \$60,000-\$75,000.

Recommendations

1. Monsanto proceed, in cooperation with Dr. Suskind, to complete the epidemiological study started last September.
2. Monsanto-Suskind meet with Union representatives in February to review our past actions and present the protocol for the more intensive examinations of the involved personnel planned in March. Ideally, the Union would agree to suspend their program pending results of this study -- but odds of this are considered low.
3. Proceed with two independent reviews of the involved personnel, with the Suskind study starting in March.

Lee A. Miller
2/5/79

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Recommendations

1. Monsanto proceed, in cooperation with Dr. Suskind, to complete the epidemiological study started last September.
2. Monsanto-Suskind meet with Union representatives in February to review our past actions and present the protocol for the more intensive examinations of the involved personnel planned in March. Ideally, the Union would agree to suspend their program pending results of this study -- but odds of this are considered low.
3. Proceed with either a joint Suskind-Selikoff review, or alternatively, if a satisfactory protocol cannot be developed, with two independent reviews of the involved personnel.

LAN
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