MONSANTO

From: James J. Collins, Epidemiology, A2SL, 4-8811

Date: November 6, 1991

cc: G. F. Fort
B. R. Friedlander
M. A. Pierle

Subject: Communication to Employees on Monsanto Update of the 1949 Accident at Nitro

Reference:

TO:
D. Bartolanzo
T. Blank - Krummrich
K. Cahill
P. Conner
T. Kokotovich - Queeny
F. Krewet
L. Wassell
W. McCarville
M. McCombs
N. Pollock
H. Sherman - Nitro
D. Snively

Attached you will find a draft of our letter to employees at Nitro, Krummrich and Queeny telling them of the results of the NIOSH study as well as the results of the 1949 chloracne incident at Nitro. Please review this draft and send comments to me prior to 11/13.

We have identified 10,924 persons who have worked 1 day or more in one of the three plants during the times when there was potential exposure to dioxins or 4-aminobiphenyl. We would like to mail the letter to the entire group to be absolutely sure we have contacted all persons with potential exposure. So please review the letter with this in mind.

We have mailing addresses on only those persons who are currently active or are retired. We have contacted two government agencies who can help us notify most of the remainder of former employees. If all goes according to plan, we can begin mailings by the end of November.

We have made a presentation of study findings to the management and union of the Queeny plant. We will be scheduling presentations at Krummrich and Nitro prior to beginning the mailings.

J. J. Collins

DSW 134239

STLCOPCB4034197

[3] From: ANNE L BRUNSWICK at DEC 11/6/91 6:00AM (3622 bytes: 69 ln)
To: JAMES J COLLINS at MONESH01
Subject: 2NIOSH.
---------- Message Contents ----------
----- ITEM 1 -----

REDRAFT WORKER NOTIFICATION LETTER
October 25, 1991

Dear X,

The results of two studies on the possible health effects of dioxin exposure are available. The first study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) was completed in August 1990 and the second study conducted by Monsanto was just completed.

The study by NIOSH, a federal agency which researches industrial health, included employees at two Monsanto plants (Nitro and Krummrich) and 10 non-Monsanto sites. Monsanto provided NIOSH with information on employees who worked in departments with potential dioxin exposure. Among those exposed to dioxin, NIOSH did identify seven cases of a rare cancer called soft tissue sarcoma and reported elevated death rates for respiratory cancer.

Monsanto conducted a separate study which updated a 1980 report on employees involved in a 1949 trichlorophenol accidental at the Nitro plant which released an unknown level of dioxin. The results of this updated study indicate workers exposed only to dioxin do not have elevated death rates from cancer, including soft tissue sarcoma. In fact death rates among this group were no different from workers not exposed to dioxin, people living near the plant, or the general U.S. population.

Monsanto's updated study also confirmed earlier findings that employees who worked with p-aminophenyl (PAB) have an increased risk of bladder cancer. Monsanto stopped using PAB in 1955. A program has been in place for many years to inform workers of potential health hazards associated with PAB and to conduct medical surveillance of previously exposed workers.

Other preliminary findings in the Monsanto study are increased

DSW 134240
STLCOPCB4034198

mortality rates for: (1) respiratory cancer in employees who developed chloracne from the accident and also were exposed to PAB, and (2) soft tissue sarcoma in employees who also had PAB exposure. These findings, however, should be considered preliminary because of the small number of workers studied and the inability of the study to examine such factors as cigarette smoking and other workplace exposures. An additional study is currently underway at the Nitro, Krummrich and Queeny plants to reexamine these preliminary findings. When this study is completed at the end of 1992, the findings will be reported to you.

Monsanto's Medical Department advises that no individual action is believed to be necessary based on the findings of either the NIOSH or Monsanto study. Those who want further information may

contact Dr. Patrick Conner in the Department of Medical and Health Sciences, Monsanto, 800 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63167. You can call Dr. Conner collect at 314-694-8807.

James J. Collins, Ph.D.
Epidemiology Director
Director

John H. Baker, M.D.
Corporate Medical

DSW 134241

STLCOPCB4034199