

April 22, 2003

Christine T. Whitman
EPA Administrator
1101 A
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Ross Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

AR 226-1692

Dear Ms. Whitman,

As today is another Earth Day, it seems an especially appropriate time for me to write you in an attempt to provide you with some detailed information concerning the serious Ammonium Perfluorooctanoate (C8) problem perpetrated on the unsuspecting public by the Dupont Company. This is my second letter to you (the first letter dated 5/19/01) concerning this and other Dupont environmental abuses.

I worked for the DuPont Company for many years and have direct knowledge of their ongoing efforts to cover-up dangerous situations at or near various plant sites across the US. As in my previous letter, I have chosen to contact you anonymously because I fear for my safety as a result of what this company might do to me if my identity were known. While I worked for them, like some other Dupont workers, I regularly tried to do the right thing in reporting violations to management and was regularly threatened by their corporate "security" goons for doing so. I did nothing wrong. I only demanded that they follow existing law which they publicly said they were doing. The reality is a far different matter. The safety of the public health is only important to Dupont if they can make a quick and large buck without doing anything or without spending any money. The altruistic Dupont is part of the past. Rabid incompetence, indifference and overt violations of law have replaced corporate integrity and honesty. Their blatant and elaborate covers ups border on paranoia but are a way of life at today's Dupont. No matter how I look at what they continue to do, it is very wrong.

Their actions are the direct result of informed and deliberate decisions by DuPont Company management to deny, cover-up and otherwise circumvent the legal process as it pertains to the use of and the environmental release and/or disposal of C8. The behavior of Dupont management concerning the C8 compound is reprehensible and conspiratorial in every respect. There has never been any doubt that Dupont management knew the serious toxicity issues surrounding the C8 compound and, despite warnings from inside and outside the company, they have done absolutely nothing to make that chemical compound safe for their workers or for anyone else.

On the contrary, the story that Dupont continues to tell everyone on the outside is that C8 is safe to handle and safe to use while those of us who actually worked with the compound were routinely instructed to take MAXIMUM safety precautions when dealing with C8. One does not have to be a genius to see the obvious conflict and duplicity in this issue. The 3M Company in fact believed so strongly in C8's environmental dangers and possible toxicity that they no longer make the product they created. Yet, Dupont in its never-ending arrogance and corporate hubris denies the facts and attempts at every

164

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opportunity to con the public. If C8 is as safe as Dupont management would have everyone believe, why are the safety protocols concerning its use similar to that of PCBs? Why the deliberate secrets and outright lies about its use?

While I worked at Dupont, we were regularly told in writing, by email and in person by the Dupont legal people never to make a permanent record of our work concerning C8. There were to be no lab notebook records, no written reports, no emails, and no "unnecessary" personnel discussion of the issue. Any notes made during research were to be either turned over to legal or destroyed. We were told never to mention this work to anyone on the outside. What were they afraid of? With the C8 issue, Dupont management behaved in much the same way as it had earlier with research records pertaining to Benelate = deny everything, fabricate reality and then lie about it. Dupont legal, for alleged "security reasons," confiscated anything pertaining to the C8 compound. All documentation. All notes. All data.

Research that I was privy to showed C8 to be very persistent. We were charged with finding a means to detoxify C8 by chemically degrading the molecule to a more benign species. Management must have seen some value in doing this expensive research as it went on over several years. We found that C8 is completely incapable of breaking down in the environment and remains at full strength toxicity for centuries. It also has a strong propensity for seeking out and mixing in with groundwater making it a considerable public health hazard. It is dangerous in vapor form, in water and in contacting human skin directly. The obvious question begs that if C8 is such a benign compound, as repeatedly asserted by Dupont management, why would anyone want to detoxify it or degrade it in any way? What value or purpose would that serve? Obviously, C8 is NOT a benign compound, as Dupont maintains.

The Dupont Washington Works Site, in Parkersburg, WV, is the principal site where Ammonium Perfluorooctanoate (C8) has totally contaminated the site and nearby town and environs. The site and local drinking water supply is seriously contaminated with C8 from deliberate dumping and from water filtering through Dupont C8 materials in unlined landfills. Dupont is now manufacturing C8 in large quantities at its Fayetteville, SC site.

As I have said, Dupont upper and middle managers knew of and directly planned the questionable disposal of C8 laced materials, the denial of reality and ongoing cover-ups of incriminating data and information. In more than one instance, lawyers from "downtown" confiscated any references to well known illegal acts occurring at some sites. If that isn't a cover-up, I don't know what the word means. These Dupont managers have direct and detailed knowledge of the dangers of C8 and the resultant cover-up of the truth regarding C8, its toxicity, its handling and disposal at various Dupont sites: Edgar S Wollard, Jack Krol, Chad Holliday, Hugh Campbell, Dwight Bedsoe, Jim Meyer, Marsha Coleman, Joe Miller, Paul Arruda, and numerous others.

I am certain that a thorough investigation of this issue will uncover the secreted truth of this compound and help to safeguard the public health.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen