

St. Louis

Nitro Plant File
Mr. E. E. Wheeler

February 24, 1965

2,4,5-T

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FILE

I talked with V. K. Rowe, of Dow, this morning. He stated the following:

1. Dow has 20 cases of chloracne. He did not tell me whether or not their plant was down.
2. They analyzed the trichlorophenoxyacetic acid we sent them and found 3 - 10 ppm of 3,4,7,8-trichlorodibenzodioxane. This, he states, he is sure is the chloracne agent, although there may be other impurities. At any rate, he is so concerned that they are having a management meeting to decide whether to use these five carloads of material we sent them.
3. He had definitely caused chloracne on rabbit ears with this material. When I tried to say that some of our people have not been able to cause it with other material, he just scoffed and said there was no doubt in his mind that he can tell chloracne by this rabbit ear test and that he has run about 500 tests on rabbit ears.
4. Dow has been receiving complaints from their customers (whether formulators or ultimate users, I don't know). He was not too clear on whose material it was and how much chloracne developed.
5. He had heard that "the PHS is looking into this problem and has contacted some of Dow's customers concerning the occurrence of chloracne."
6. Dow will have a management meeting today to decide whether or not they will accept this 2,4,5-T we sent them. He asked if we had any specifications on the presence of this particular contaminant and I said we did not.
7. He wanted some sort of crash meeting with all the producers to try to reach some specification level in order to eliminate this particular contaminant before the PHS got into the act.

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I, then, met with Rumer, Hoffman, Payton, Arvan and Dunlap. All of the above was hashed over again. The only thing the Agricultural Division people could add was that they had no history of chloracne from any of their customers. They are going to call AmChem, who has bought about 1.2 million pounds of 2,4-D, to find out if they had any trouble. Rumer is to check Thompson Company to see if the PHS has been after them. They also stated that if such a meeting occurs Dr. Jacobs, who is a combination quality control/process man, would be their representative, along with someone from the Medical Department.



R. ~~Ernest~~ Kelly, M. D.

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