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Fudy Beck - EPA

Pentachlorophenol-PCP

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Spray system - No analysis of product
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Was Crestline-"wright" some V- Jim Eick-Mayor MosiNee Mr Sinai - School of Medicine
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Roy

Larry Pelot

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(715) 359 0544

To: Dave, Lyle From: Neal

May 22nd, 1986

Re: Dioxin Contamination: SNE Company Wausau

Attached is the DNR release Winn sent out here.

According to Bob Rybarczyk, "SNE" Company had been the Crestline company until 2-3 years ago when Larry Riordan sold it to Sentry Ins.

The plant, together with another in Point, is probably going to be shut down soon, Jim Eick is negotiating to get it rebuilt in Mosinee. Its located at 910 Cleveland Avenue and has more than 100 employees.

There is a pool of Dioxin contaminated Pentachlorophenal or PCP floating on the groundwater under the plant. DNR and Wausau conducted a house to house survey in five block radius to determine if private well supplies had been contaminated, so far they have not.

According to Phil Landrigan at Mt. Sinai, 2,3,7,8-TCD is the worst form of Dioxin, causing soft tissue sarcomas in animals and is linked to birth

DNR is going to give the company 7 days to commit to doing the actual groundwater clean-up, so far they've agreed to doing an investigation (see DNR release).

EPA is being used for technical assistance, though they will move in an "emergency action" very quickly if the DNR/SNE cooperation breaks down.

According to U.W. Dr. Henry Anderson, (a former associate of Landrigan's), an immediate concern would be to ensure that spring rains don't cause groundwater to rise up into people's basements.

The plant is represented by the Carpenter's union and I extended your offer to help get a Health Hazard Evaluation by NIOSH if they want one. The local office says the plant guys are aware of the situation and that I should call the shop steward, the local didn't seem to concerned.

The steward is working now but will get back to me.

I don't see any reason to do anything further at this point unlless the plant workers or area residents want us to. I'll monitor situation.

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## Contamination Work Plan Received Rhinelander, WI.

The Department of Natural Resources and Seymour Kroll, President of SNE Corporation in Wausau, have agreed to work together to develop an appropriate program to address the long-term accumulation of wood preservatives in the soil on company-owned property and in the ground water in the vicinity of the

The contamination is a mixture of mineral spirits and pentachlorophenol, a common wood preservative used by the mill work industry. Sample analysis received last week indicate a presence of dioxin. The tests were preliminary in nature, so additional samples will be taken in the next few weeks to verify the results of the initial round. The area in Wausau affected by the underground contamination is bounded by Sherman and South First Avenue to the North and West, Myron Street to the South, and the Wisconsin River to the East.

The Marathon County Health Department and the City of Wausau have conducted a house to house survey of this area looking for private wells. Tom Wittkopf, Director Environmental Health Division, Marathon County Health Department, stated: "Based on the data available and the fact the area is served by a municipal water supply system, there is no immediate or long-term threat to the health of the residents from the ground water contamination in the area surveyed. Nevertheless, we have directed these residents not to install or use private wells for any purpose. In addition, the Health Department will be evaluating new data as it is developed on a continuing basis." Joe Gehin, Utilities Director, Wausau Water and Sewage, said: "The Wausau Municipal Water Supply System is not threatened by this contaminant."

SNE has submitted a work plan to the DNR that details a remedial action program. The program will start in June. Gary Kulibert, Solid Waste Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR, stated: "The information from the program will be used to evaluate the impact on the river system and the long-term fate of ground water and soil and to develop an appropriate plan to address the

If you have any questions on this matter, contact Gary Kulibert, Solid Waste Coordinator, at Rhinelander, Area Code 715-362-7616.

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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN DAVID R. OBEY (D-Wausau)
CONCERNING THE FINDING OF DIOXIN CONTAMINATION IN THE WISCONSIN RIVER

I am fully aware of the preliminary results of investigations which show dioxin contamination in the Wisconsin River Wausau.

My office has been in contact with both the Company which may be responsible for the discharge, as well as the local Union representing the health interests of the workers in the plant.

In addition, we have been consulting with representatives of the City of Wausau, State Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences Marine Biology Center in Milwaukee.

Dioxin is nothing to fool around with, it is one of the most potent chemicals known, something which our Viet Nam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange can attest to.

My office is prepared to do whatever is necessary to offer help and assistance in any way we can. This could be a very serious problem and I urge people to take adequate precations to protect their health.

At the same time I urge that people remain sober and thoughtful since a paniced reaction won't help in efforts to deal with the situation.

This whole matter (as with the Wausau area's Volatile Organic Compound problem) points up the necessity of having adequate protection of the public's interests, something we are trying to provide by passing a tough new "Superfund" toxic waste clean-up law.

For Use in day or Two when ONR confirms the isoles

## River shows traces of dioxir

By Mary Kauli Wausau Dally Herald

Minute traces of dioxin have been detected in Wisconsin River samples, taken near the SNE Corp. plant in southwest Wausan.

Gary Kulibert, solid waste coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources, said Thursday dioxin concentrations in parts per trillion have been found in groundwater and river samples taken from the area.

The DNR is making no conclusions on the raw data received Thursday, Kulibert said. "We just got the numbers back. We have to try and figure out what's going

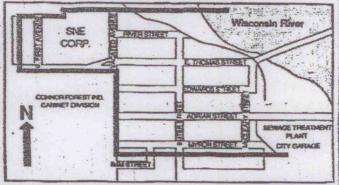
'SNE officials had no comment Thursday, saying they were still looking at the information.

There is no threat to drinking water because the area is served by a municipal water supply, city officials have said.

Kulibert, speaking from Rhine-lander, said the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control are testing fish taken from the river. "The concerns we have now are what are the health risks, if any,"

Dioxin is a suspected cancercausing agent. The Environmental Protection Agency's health standard for dioxin - at which adverse bealth effects could occur - is one part per billion.

The contaminant has been found in four of five samples at monitoring wells, and at two of



Contamination area: Map shows the area affected by the underground contamination of pentachlorophenol, or PCP, an ingredient in a wood preservative used by SNE Corp. in Wausau. Minute traces of dioxin have been found in PCP, which got into the groundwater around the plant.

five monitoring stations in the

DNR officials do not know yet where the dioxin in the river is coming from. "I'm not in a position to say the dioxin in the river is coming from SNE," Kulibert

The Stevens Point-based SNE is a manufacturer of wood doors and windows. The Wansau plant is located about one block from the river.

One ingredient used in SNE's manufacturing process is the preservative pentachlorophenol, PCP. Dioxin frequently has been found in PCP.

The area affected is bounded by

Sherman Street and South First Avenue to the north and west, Myron Street to the south and the Wisconsin River to the east.

Kulibert said it's difficult to make judgments about the con-centrations found in the samples because there are five types of dioxin - some much more toxic than others.

"The two diaxins found in the river are not the most toxic types of dioxin," he said. "We have to look at the types of dioxins found, where they were found."

Please turn to DIOXIM/ZA

☐Related story/3.

From Page 1A

Diexin showed up in two prelimimary groundwater samples taken in February. The results received Thursday were from second sam-ples, taken in June from the river and five of 20 monitoring wells on or around SNE property.
Wells were installed in 1985 after

PCP was found to a soil sample.

The DNR will be evaluating the lests and may have more information by the middle of next week, according to Kulibert. DNR officials will also talk to the EPA.

"We'll try to see if there are any big red flags here," he said.

Massive dioxin contamination closed down Times Beach, Mo., in

Area and state officials are just beginning to learn about the contaminant.

This is something new for us in Wisconsin," Kulibert said.