

KEPONE STUDY TASK FORCE
(HEALTH DEPT.-FOR INFO) 1976

OR-20/7/34



#9203-3R

draft: report to Dr. Solomon from Kepone Task Force

March 24, 1976

as estab by Dr. S

Following the initial meeting of the Kepone Task Force on March 11, 1976, at which assignments were given out to four sub-ⁿcommittees, a second meeting was held today and reports of those committees returned. The following information, by committee assignments, is as follows.

Health Effects (Human): Serum samples of workers at the Baltimore Allied Chemical Plant reveal that the mean level of kepone in those workers in September, 1975, was 525 parts-per-billion. Samples taken in February, 1976, show a mean level of 239 part-per-billion, a significant drop. It was also reported that in Virginia the mean blood analysis samples of cases of kepone disease showed 8480 parts-per-billion, while the mean of non-cases was 1570 parts-per-billion. Since serum results are approximately twice as high as blood analyses, the levels in Baltimore employees are less than one-third the mean result of Virginia's non-cases. In Virginia, community levels revealed that 19% of 216 samples (persons) showed levels of from 5 to 50 parts-per-billion. Of these, 85% lived ¼ mile or closer to the plant.

Allied Chemical officials reported that the half-life of kepone indicated a mean of 113 days.

The 25 residents of South McComas Street (adjacent to the plant) will have blood samples drawn and a questionnaire elicited on a voluntary basis beginning this Saturday, March 27.

It is appropriate to say, that at this time there appears to be no kepone disease among people potentially exposed in Baltimore.

Disposal Committee: The Environmental Health Administration has taken ten additional samples of earth in the area, including two at the Swann Park playground. These samples are under analysis. The Task Force approved Allied's request to cover the area with a layer of clay as a temporary measure, provided that additional chemical analysis of the earth at the plant are made, and the method of covering approved by the Task Force. The committee will oversee the decontamination of the remaining kepone-blending machinery, and will develop appropriate methods of disposal for the remaining sludge now being stored in metal drums.

Marine Life Committee; Samples of crabs taken at various points on both the Eastern and Western shores reveal trace levels of Kepone only, and these traces are well below the ^{FDA established} action level of 0.4 parts-per-million for crabs. Virginia crab meat sent to Maryland ^{shov} crab packing houses show trace amounts only, as do samples of commercial crabs from North Carolina. Seed oysters from the James River of Virginia and planted in Maryland private oyster beds, all of which have been sampled, indicate ^{only} trace levels of kepone in all but two of the samples. These two, from the most recently planted oysters, approached the action level. None of these oysters will be ready for harvesting for at least a year. The federal EPA and the FDA both concur that, from their experience, oysters cleanse themselves by depuration, and therefor it would appear that no problem exists with oysters. Sampling of finfish has not yet been completed, although results from Virginia indicate that channel catfish and shad have kepone in an amount below the action level.

Air Quality Committee: Two additional air sampling stations have been put in operation to sample air near Allied. One is located at the B.G. & E. Spring Garden Plant, and the other 1/3 of a mile

from the Allied plant. Both have been sampling for three days. They continue for two weeks with analyses being conducted as the samples are received.

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2007-04-20
4 images

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The Secretary, MDE needs this study as soon as possible. Please pull the following study, scan and email to patron and email a copy to Christine Alvey:

GOVERNOR (General File) 1978-1986 Box No.: 896

Kepone Study Task Force

MSA No.: T849-362, Location: OR/20/7/34

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Richard

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