

APPENDIX II

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE
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of liquid waste from the site into the marshy creek and surrounding land is common. Evidence attesting to this seepage is the red color of the creek (hence its name, Bloody Run Creek). In addition, workers from Grief Brothers noted that yellow and red streams regularly flow from the landfill out to and under their worksite.

Over the past 28 years, the landfill has reached a height of ten feet. Chemical "lagoons" have been built in the hill to collect and contain any liquid wastes that accumulate. However, overflow is a problem. Originally, barrels of wastes were simply dropped into dry land and exploded, releasing clouds of vapor into the atmosphere.

In 1971 the drain tiles under the moat surrounding the landfill clogged, exacerbating the problem of overflow. Hooker has undertaken a remedial program to replace the drain tiles and intercept the leachate, as well as to install clay covers to preclude the entry of direct precipitation. Of note is the fact that workers engaging in this reconstruction work are supplied with Scott Air Pacs and protective clothing, unlike workers at the adjacent plants. Also of note is the fact that since 1970, wildlife has virtually disappeared from the area; and a steel fence 100 feet from the site, on ILL Industries property, has been destroyed by erosion.

Hooker maintains that dumping of chemical wastes at this site was discontinued in 1976. Workers present at the meeting, however, described continued dumping by unmarked trucks in the early morning and late evening as late as one month ago.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has monitored sediment from Bloody Run Creek for chemical and pesticide residues, and plans an extensive program of ground water monitoring. A list of chemicals dumped --

is being compiled by the Conservation Department -- and lists that have been compiled by the State are appended (Appendix B).

The Problem

As stated, the purpose of the December 11 meeting was to attempt to define the problem by eliciting from the workers present information about the nature of the exposures and the presence of medical symptoms. Since both exposures and symptoms at the three installations are similar, they will be described together. Exceptions, where present, are noted.

Exposures. The major source of exposure seems to be fumes from the landfill. These fumes are most offensive in the morning, on humid days, and when the wind is out of the north or southwest (the prevailing winds in Niagara Falls are northwesterly). The fumes are present regardless of whether there is active dumping. They are strongest at Building 145, ILL Industries, which is 100 feet from the dumpsite.

The water supply provides another potential source of contamination. On two occasions, the last being six to seven months ago, in all three plants, the water was noted to be discolored, malodorous, and distasteful for a period of two to three days. No such problem was noted by inhabitants of an apartment complex across the street. The city of Niagara Falls was contacted. The problem was attributed to "algae"; no analysis of the water or follow-up of the problem was done.

Medical symptoms described by the workers present include the following:

Skin: Red spots on the face and hands, under the arms and on the trunk after exposure to fumes. Similar lesions have also been described by the drivers of trucks carrying the chemicals to be dumped. Diffuse itching was

The chronic effects are not known. Whether or not these chronic effects include emphysema, for example, is not known. Mirex, CCl_4 and trichlorophenol are known animal carcinogens; lindane is a suspect carcinogen. Dioxin can produce skin irritation and rashes, arthralgias, liver damage, and behavioral changes; it is a teratogen in animals and probably in humans. Mirex has reproductive effects in animals; specifically, it suppresses ovulation, probably by central suppression of LH (lutinizing hormone). Toluene causes dermatitis, CNS depression, and liver damage. Lindane can cause anemia and leucopenia. These are known effects of these chemicals. Other unknown effects may be present.

In summary, history and medical symptoms provide convincing evidence that workers at Niagara Steel and Finishing, ILL Industries, and Grief Brothers are experiencing hazardous exposures to toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. The most important source of exposure seems to be fumes from the landfill. Another potential source is the water. The significance of the cancers which have occurred is unclear. That many of the cancers occurred in the furnace workers at ILL Industries -- those workers in closest proximity to the landfill -- suggests that fumes from the landfill may be causally related. However, it is impossible at this point to rule out occupational exposures (e.g., nickel) within the furnace room as causal.

Recommendations

In order to more fully evaluate the nature of the exposures and the effect of these exposures on the health of the workers in these three plants, the following recommendations are made:

1. That a general health history questionnaire and a specific reproductive questionnaire be administered to exposed workers. Consideration should be given

1. Hexachlorocyclopentadiene

2. Dioxin
3. Tetrachloride
4. Trichlorophenol
5. Toluene
6. Tetrachlorophenol
7. Tetrachlorobenzene

3. That biological tests on workers in each plant for the following chemical substances be done in an attempt to measure (a) level of absorption and (b) extent of effects, if any:

- a. Blood analysis for the following:

- 1) Lindane
- 2) Mirex
- 3) Dioxin
- 4) Toluene
- 5) Trichlorophenol
- 6) Tetrachlorophenol

- b. Urine analysis for hexachlorocyclopentadiene.

- c. Blood tests for liver function, and complete blood count and platelet count.

- d. Pulmonary function tests, if results of the questionnaires indicate that a need exists.

- e. Physical examinations to include specifically skin, pulmonary, liver, and neurologic examinations, if results of the above indicate a need.

4. Final analysis of this data to determine whether further investigation is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Oliver
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APPENDIX C

CLASSIFICATION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

I. By HIOSH Pesticide Criteria Document

A. Group I: Acute effects at extremely low dose, or serious irreversible effects

1. Benzoic acid
2. Lindane
3. Endosulfan
4. Mirex
5. Tetrachlorophenols
6. 2, 4, 5 trichlorophenol

B. Group II: Acute effects at lower doses than Group III.

1. Hexachlorobenzene
2. Hexachlorocyclopentadiene
3. Dichlorobenzene (o & p)

II. By EPA choice as pesticide candidate for additional oncologic testing, February 1976

- A. Benzoic acid
- B. Endosulfan
- C. Tetrachlorophenols
- D. Hexachlorobenzene
- E. Pentac

III. By carcinogenicity in animal studies

- + = definite carcinogen
 + = indefinite carcinogen
 NEO = neoplastic

A. Hexachlorocyclohexane	NEO.
B. Carbon tetrachloride	+
C. Dichlorobenzene	+
D. Benzylchloride	+
E. Trichlorophenol	+
F. Dichlorophenol	+
G. Mirex	+
H. Lindane	+
I. Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	NEO
J. Tetrachlorobenzene	NEO
K. Dioxin	NEO
L. Benzoic acid	NEO

IV. By reproductive effects
Mirex: inhibits ovulation

Effect: palate, animals
 absent kneecap and shin bone } suspected,
 deformed fingers and toes } human

By mutagenicity
 None reported

TESTIMONY OF CARL SABEY

Mr. SABEY. Inasmuch as my colleagues covered most of the medical problems, my statement deals more with how the dump was run.

I have worked for N.L. Industries on Hyde Park Boulevard in Niagara Falls, N.Y., going on 31 years this October. I started to work in the yard department. I worked in this department for about 8 years from 1948 until 1956.

About 1952 Hooker started a landfill dump just over the fence from N.L. Industries. The northern side of the yard department was right up to this fence. The yard department is two departments in one known as alloy. This is the yard and furnace room.

The first thing I noticed was they would dump drums into the pit day or so, then cover them with dirt. Some of these exposed drums would blow up and fly up into the air. We learned later that this happened when some of the drums got wet. After a short time, fumes would come out of the dump and cover the department and many times the plant. Whenever this happened, my eyes would water and my skin would burn. If you could not run away from these fumes, then your throat would burn also.

Whenever the fumes got bad, the workers would complain to the vice. We were told that the plant called Hooker each time this happened. A short time later, as a rule, they would have someone all over the dump. At times fumes caused work stoppage for short spans of time. At night it was the same—a call was made, then you would wait. At night it took much longer before the fumes were stopped. As to how much of the plant was covered could depend on the wind. At times the fumes covered our plant completely.

As time went on fumes were noticed in an elevator shaft, and along the main railroad track a colored and smelly slime formed. The elevator pit is not far away and the track is right along the fence. The railroad bed has now been replaced. A lot of stone and new ties were put in.

There was also the time when our front office was being painted. During the night the dump emitted fumes causing damage to the fresh paint. The next day the paint looked like it had been burned. It was a mess.

I would like to elaborate on that a little bit. It looked as though somebody took a blowtorch and went over it preparing the paint, instead of just being painted.

As background, from 1949 I became involved with union work. At one time or another I held every office within the local union. Also I moved into maintenance as a millwright. I state this only as reference to the fact that I became a member of the union.