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NCBC GULFPORT
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LETTER FROM U S EPA REGION IV REGARDING LONG RANGE PROGRAM TO STUDY
EXTENT OF DIOXIN CONTAMINATION AND ASSOCIATED HUMAN HEALTH RISK NCBC
GULFPORT MS
11/18/1983
U S EPA REGION IV



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

November 18, 1983

REF: 4AW

Major General Clifton D. Wright
Director of Engineering and Services
Headquarters U.S. Air Force, H.Q. USAF/LEE
Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Major General Wright:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has initiated a long-range program to (1) study the extent of dioxin contamination and the associated risks to humans and the environment, (2) implement necessary clean-up actions at contaminated sites, and (3) further evaluate regulatory alternatives to prevent future contamination as well as disposal alternatives to alleviate current problems.

As part of this effort, EPA Region IV has recently conducted inspections at Eglin Air Force Base, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi; NASA National Space Technology Laboratories, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi where dunnage from the Gulfport NCBC is buried, and Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.

We wish to thank Lt. Colonel Michael J. Ryan and Captain Terry Stoddart of the the Air Force Engineering and Services Center, Tyndall Air Force Base, for showing us the sites where Herbicide Orange existed and for being such gracious and informative hosts during our inspections. We also wish to thank the many support personnel and base commanders at each location for their unbending support and assistance. For your information I provided a copy of the draft EPA dioxin strategy to Lt. Colonel Ryan.

We were pleased to see that the Air Force has the situation under close control and technical observatcn and that there are no known environmental contamination problems except within the small areas where Herbicide Orange was stored or tested. We are especially impressed with the network of monitoring for dioxin at Eglin and Gulfport. ✓

Now that we have completed these series of inspections, we would like to advise you of our observations and recommendations.

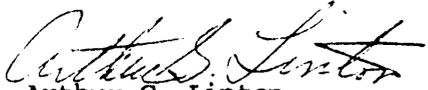
1. At Eglin Air Force Base, we believe the area around the hardstand should be fenced and posted.
2. At the NCBC Gulfport, the area around the storage site should have improved fencing and posting. Fencing at both areas should be to secure the areas from access. ✓

3. Periodic surface water tests for dioxin in the drainage systems should be conducted at the Eglin Air Force Base and the Gulfport NCBC using unfiltered samples.
4. EPA believes that the responsible party for the dunnage buried at the Mississippi NASA site is the Department of the Air Force. As a result we would recommend that the Air Force include tests for dioxin at the existing groundwater monitoring wells as part of their overall dioxin monitoring network.
5. At Warner Robins Air Force Base, the spray tanks and associated equipment used in the C123 aircraft for Herbicide Orange spraying should be tested for the presence of dioxin and depending on the results, eventually disposing of the tanks in an environmentally acceptable manner.
6. Based on your long-range research efforts to study detoxification techniques for dioxin, both the Eglin and Gulfport sites should eventually be remedied.

Lt. Colonel Ryan informed me that his office had prepared a report in draft form of the results of the Air Force dioxin investigations to date at Eglin and Gulfport. I would appreciate receiving a copy of this draft report to complete my file on the EPA inspections.

I would like to bring to your attention that under the provisions of 40 CFR 775.190(b), any person wishing to dispose of wastes which contain 2,3,7,8-TCDD must notify the EPA Administrator and the Regional Administrators in the regions where the materials would be disposed, 60 days prior to that intended disposal. That notice shall identify the site to be used for disposal as indicated on page 32687, FR Vol. 45, No. 98. The review will incorporate evaluations of potential sites and methods to be used, methods of analysis and any other relevant information. I am providing this information in case you have any plans for disposing of wastes which contain 2,3,7,8-TCDD.

Again, let me thank you for the assistance of the Air Force and if there is anyway EPA can help you in your studies, please let me know.


Arthur G. Linton

cc: Lt. Colonel Mike Ryan
Tom Sims, AFRCE