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NCBC GULFPORT
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NOTHING BUT THE FACTS" NCBC GULFPORT MS
2/3/1977
SOUTH MISSISSIPPI SUN

Gravo, Jules ① 12. ~~One~~ info
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The Sun's views

Nothing but the facts

If, and when, the Air Force reaches the point where it is allowed to contract with an agent for the reprocessing of 800,000 gallons of Herbicide Orange stored at the Seabee Center in Gulfport, the Mississippi Air and Water Pollution Control Commission says it will conduct a public hearing on the agent's application for a reprocessing plant construction permit.

That's the way it should be. When the Air Force offered its reprocessing proposal, it also allowed a period for the public to comment on the plan.

The project is a delicate one, in terms of community and environmental relations. The Air Force knows this, we know it, and the public needs to know more about the reprocessing from authoritative sources.

The people want to be sure that the reprocessing on site at the Seabee Center involves no danger to the health of the community. And the separation of the banned contaminant dioxin from the herbicide, which was used to destroy foliage in Vietnam, does raise questions of disposal safety.

The Air Force believes its reprocessing proposal, based on a pilot project conducted last summer, presents little danger to the public. Getting rid of the dioxin is another matter. The Air Force says about 300 canisters of the material would result from reprocessing, and they would be stored — not in Mississippi — until an environmentally safe method of final disposition is found. And the Air Force should rapidly determine a method of ultimate disposal of the dioxin to lessen, if not eliminate, storage of the canisters.

B.
Dennis B. has been trying to get this one written for some time. Its a good one & all in our favor
Colt

South Mississippi Sun

Published by Gulf Publishing, Inc.

ROLAND WEEKS, JR., President ROBERT McHUGH, Executive Editor

AMBROSE G. HAMPTON, Publisher HEN R. MORRIS, Co-publisher

PIC FIRMIN, Editor

Thursday, February 3, 1977

Nothing will be done, however, until many more questions have been asked, answered and re-asked by other federal agencies, concerned citizens and state officials. Making the project a political issue won't cut it; the herbicide has been on the Coast for some time now, without a whimper from those who suddenly want to get rid of it.

We all want to see the material leave Gulfport in a safe and sane manner. But let's know what we're talking about so things aren't done in a half-baked manner.