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Herbicides - Information re Analysis for Dioxin in Tissue
(fat) from Dr. Caroline Offutt, October 17, 1978

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OCTOBER 25, 1978

SUBJ: Agent Orange - Herbicides - Information re Analysis for Dioxin in Tissue (fat) from Dr. Caroline Offutt, EPA, Washington, DC, October 17, 1978

1. At the suggestion of Dr. Michael Gross, I called Dr. Caroline Offutt, EPA, Project Manager for Herbicides (Agent Orange) Telephone No. (202) 755-9336.
2. Dr. Offutt as project manager is quite knowledgeable about the competence of various laboratories performing analyses for herbicides and especially for the contaminant dioxin.
3. I asked her about the laboratory of Dr. Gross.
 - a) He has had about 1½ years of experience performing analyses for the EPA - and probably some other experience before.
 - b) The cost for the analyses at \$400 to \$800 per specimen is a reasonable one.
 - c) Dr. Offutt has validated confidence information on analyses 10 parts per trillion or above, however, has no validated confidence information below 10 parts per trillion. Some analyses which he will do soon may provide this information.
 - d) Dr. Gross' previous EPA contracts for the performance of these analyses could be stated as a reason for a sole source contract. He is also able to do the analyses rapidly.
 - e) In addition he has an ultra high resolution mass spectrometer-- an AEI M-S-50 dedicated to dioxin analyses - others have instruments of lesser resolution (Dr. Tiernan at Wright State University Dayton has an AEI MS-30).
 - f) The fact that VA will do only about 20 determinations should also favor the need for a sole source non-competitive contract, however, if an extensive program is envisioned then competitive bids will probably be required.
 - g) Dr. Offutt indicated that there are other laboratories with good competence such as their new EPA laboratory at the Durham Research Triangle.
 - h) Dr. Offutt said that she would have liked to offer to do the analyses for the VA, however, they cannot at this time. If the VA program is not underway in 1 to 2 months she might be able to offer this service.
4. We discussed sample size--use of extracts etc. A 20 gram sample could be split and 1/2 kept for confirmatory analyses by another laboratory. If kept in the frozen state there would be no danger in loss of the dioxin.

5. Dr. Offutt would be interested in the results of our survey and is willing to discuss matters at anytime. I gave her our telephone number for any future calls.


PAUL C. LEGOLVAN, M.D.