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RESULTS FROM SAMPLES
TAKEN NEAR IMPERIAL,
MISSOURI RELEASED

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released test results from samples taken in October in residential areas near Imperial, Missouri. Over 300 samples were collected and analyzed by EPA. All data was subject to rigorous quality assurance and reviewed by experts in EPA Research and Development Laboratories. By devoting extra resources to the effort EPA was able to release the results of the analysis more than three weeks in advance of its original schedule.

The purpose of the sampling was to determine exactly where and in what concentration dioxin is present in the area. On the basis of preliminary sampling conducted in May 1982, EPA sampled four areas. Ninety-five samples were taken at the Minker site; 151 samples at Romaine Creek, 53 at the Stout property; and 13 at Country Club Manor.

Samples from the Country Club subdivision indicate no detectable contamination above 1 ppb. Concentrations of dioxin in soil at the Stout property were found at the same levels detected in previous sampling but no higher. A high of 22.2 ppb at a depth of 10 feet was found at one point on the property.

The highest levels of dioxin contamination in the area were found in fill material at the Minker residence and down the slope behind the house, where one sample indicated 301 ppb.

(More)

In Romaine Creek concentration of dioxin in sediments were highest where drainage from the Minker property enters the creek. The concentration, however, decreased sharply to below the 1 ppb detection level after 6,000 feet downstream.

Samples of dust from vacuum cleaner bags were collected from five areas houses. Dioxin contamination was found only in the sample from the Minker residence and there at only 3.6 ppb.

Rita Lavelle, Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, stated, in a letter to Missouri Governor Christopher "Kit" Bond "I have determined that, based on EPA sampling of October 1982, the contamination in and around the Minker residence and portions of Romaine Creek; and to a lesser extent the Stout residence [warrants] initiation of a planned removal action....the data supports my earlier decision that the situation does not warrant emergency action....However [it] does warrant expeditious handling."

EPA has promised to give residents first notice of all test results plans and developments. To fulfill this promise citizens in the affected areas were notified by EPA officials of the findings yesterday evening.

Acting Regional Administrator Bill Rice announced that EPA staff will be available to answer all citizen inquiries at Suite 21-23, Rodeway Inn South, 3660 South Lindbergh, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Sunday, December 12.

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