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Report/Article Title Letter with attachment: To Colonel James Rock, Vice Commander, USAF Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory, from Alvin L. Young, Senior Policy Analyst for Life Sciences, Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding dioxin conference paper, dated September 3, 1986

Journal/Book Title

Year 1986

Month/Day September 3


Color

Number of Images 2

Description Notes Conference paper abstract attached

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

September 3, 1986


Dear Colonel Rock:

LtCol Charles E. Thalken, Chief, Environmental Health, Yukota AFB, Japan, has brought to my attention that the program of the 6th International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds lists his presentation as a contribution of the USAF Occupational and Environmental Health Laboratory. Unfortunately, a section member of the Program Committee took upon himself the responsibility for selecting, from the provided abstract (see attached) the authorship and location of the contribution. You will note that two additional authors were on the abstract and no mention was made of OEHL.

The manuscript, a Long-term Study of Ecosystem Contamination with 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, is a contribution from the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The manuscript was prepared following my last trip to Eglin AFB (from this Office) and from my earlier work cleared for publication by USAF Public Affairs. Clearing authority for the current manuscript was the Executive Office of the President.

I was delighted to hear that you are now Vice Commander of OEHL. I have followed the activities of the Laboratory for the past few years and know of the many excellent contributions by the staff. Best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,



Alvin L. Young, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Analyst for
Life Sciences

Colonel James Rock
Vice Commander
USAF Occupational and
Environmental Health Laboratory
Brooks AFB, TX 78235

cc: LtCol Charles E. Thalken

A LONG-TERM STUDY OF ECOSYSTEM CONTAMINATION
WITH 2,3,7,8-TETRACHLORODIBENZO-P-DIOXIN

A. L. Young, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

L. G. Cockerham, Air Force Office of Scientific Research
Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

C.E. Thalken, Chief, Environmental Health
Yokota Air Force Base, Japan

ABSTRACT

A review is presented of the final results of a long-term field study of an ecosystem contaminated with 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD). The 15-year study focuses on a unique 3.0 km² military test area (Test Area C-52A, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida) that was aeri-ally sprayed with 73,000 kg 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) and 77,000 kg 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) during the period 1962-1970. Data from the analyses of archived herbicide samples and from soil samples collected from 1970 through 1984 suggested that less than one percent of the approximately 2.8 kg TCDD disseminated on the test area persisted in the soil environment. Over the years of observation (1969-1984), approximately 341 species of organisms were observed and identified as associated with the test area. More than 300 biological samples were analyzed for TCDD and detectable residues were found in 32 different species (mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians and fish). Examination of the ecological niches of the species positive for TCDD residue suggested that the commonality was a close relationship to contaminated soil. Studies spanning more than 50 generations of the beachmouse, Peromyscus polionotus, concluded that exposure to soil concentrations of TCDD in the range of 0.1 to 1.5 parts per billion (ppb), have had minimal effect upon the health and reproduction of this species.