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Weed B Gon 2,4,5TP [Silvex] and Dioxins

- *To:* "Multiple recipients of list" <dioxin-1@essential.org>
- *Subject:* Weed B Gon 2,4,5TP [Silvex] and Dioxins
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- *Date:* Tue, 12 Nov 96 18:14:33 -0800

Two weeks ago EPA reported on prime news that it had conducted a test of herbicides and found that the level of contamination found INSIDE homes after outdoor spraying was TEN to ONE HUNDRED times stronger than what was found outside. Brought in on shoes and by pets, the floor and carpet concentrations were astronomical and readily picked up by children from direct dermal contact as well as orally. In fact the video portion of the story showed four babies crawling on the floor and mouthing every toy, thoroughly.

That media report by EPA and the report of 10-100 times greater concentrations inside is indeed sobering when you know the following.

On my webpage you will find a case report concerning Joe Pickering who died from a soft tissue sarcoma - very rare in a 40 year old - as a result of being exposed to dioxin heavy "Weed B Gon" manufactured by Chevron under the Ortho line of products. The actual chemical in Joe's case was 2,4,5 TP or silvex which was loaded with dioxins. Although we litigated this case in 1995, we located and tested cans of Weed B Gon found in garages in South San Francisco Bay's Santa Clara County where they had been sitting for 20 years. We were able to time date the products based on Chevron's label numbers and confirmed that the products we tested had been bottled in 1972-74. It contained 2 4 D and 2, 4, 5 TP [silvex] and was loaded with dioxins. Because of that testing we were able to successfully conclude that legal claim for Joe Pickering.

This is not the first case in which we have found "archive" samples of chemical carcinogens sitting on garage shelves. We successfully followed the same protocol in our leukemia cluster in Northern California where we proved that dioxin laced pentachlorophenol was the cause of four leukemias in employees of a small lumber mill.

The Weed B Gon on the store shelf today is a much different formulation than what was sold in the past, but the untold story is that Weed B Gon using silvex was sold across the U.S. through 1980 and it was heavily contaminated with dioxins and furans.

Gardeners who regularly used the product and therefore had a chronic exposure are progressing towards a time when soft tissue sarcomas, leukemias, and Non-Hodgkins Lymphomas, among others, may be presenting. The latency period is on the order of 10 to 20+ years. That's what we learned from Seveso.

The sad fact is that many who will get these diseases may never learned that they are suffering because of chronic toxic exposures that occurred years ago.

That silvex is dangerous is confirmed in EPA's regulatory file on the product that was the focus of regulatory action. I have been to EPA and have read most of this file. The industry fought regulation very hard and for many years, but then in the late 70s simply gave up, and EPA banned 2,4,5 TP from public use. Obviously the time and money spent in fighting regulation allowed the company to clear its shelves of 2,4,5 TP or else ship it all offshore.

The public needs to know that the old can of Weed B Gon on the back shelf in the garage may be loaded with dioxins.

The public also needs to know that the family gardener who used Weed B Gon for years who now has been diagnosed with soft tissue sarcoma, leukemia, or Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma must take legal action at the earliest possible date in order to avoid having their legal rights barred by the passing of their state's statute of limitations.

If anyone has any suggestions for the best forums for sharing this information, please share it with me.

Cordially,

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