

KEPONE TASK FORCE
Conference Room L-3
Second Meeting - 3/24/76

Following the initial meeting of the Kepone Task Force, at which time assignments were given out to four sub-committees, a second meeting was held today and reports of those sub-committees returned. The following information by committee assignment is as follows:

Health Effects (Humans): Serum samples of workers at the Baltimore Allied Chemical Plant reveal that the mean level of kepone in those workers in September, 1975 was 525 parts-per-billion. Samples taken in February, 1976 show a mean level of 239 parts-per-billion, a significant drop. It was also reported that in Virginia the mean blood analysis samples of cases of kepone disease showed 8,480 parts-per-billion, while the mean of non-cases was 1,570 parts-per-billion. Since serum results are approximately twice as high as blood analyses, the levels in Baltimore employees is less than one-third the mean result of Virginia's non-cases. In Virginia, community levels revealed that 19 percent of 216 samples (persons) showed levels of from five to fifty parts-per-billion. Of these, 85 percent lived one-quarter mile or closer to the plant.

Allied Chemical officials reported that the half-life of Kepone indicated a mean of 113 days.

The 25 residents of South McComas Street (adjacent to the Allied Plant) will have blood samples drawn and a questionnaire filled out beginning this Saturday, March 27. This will be done on a voluntary basis.

It is appropriate to say that at this time there appears to be no kepone diseases among people potentially exposed in Baltimore.

Disposal Committee: The Environmental Health Administration has taken ten additional earth samples in the area, including two at the Swann Park playground. These samples are under analysis. The Task Force approved covering of the plant area with a layer of clay as a temporary measure. The committee will oversee the decontaminating of remaining kepone-blending machinery, and will develop appropriate methods for disposal of remaining sludge now being stored in metal drums.

Marine Life Committee: Samples of crabs taken at various points on both the Eastern and Western shores reveal trace levels of kepone only, and these traces are way below the action level of 0.4 parts-per-million. Virginia crabmeat sent to Maryland crab packing houses also reveal trace amounts only, as do samples of commercial crabs from North Carolina. Seed oysters from the James River of Virginia and planted in Maryland private beds indicate trace levels of kepone, except for two samples of the most recently planted seed oysters. None of these oysters sampled will be ready for harvesting for at least one year. Sampling of finfish has not yet been completed, but results from Virginia indicate channel catfish and shad are below the action level in kepone revealed.

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Air Quality Committee: Two additional air sampling stations have been put in operation to sample air near Allied Chemical. One is located at the Baltimore Gas and Electric Spring Garden Plant, one third of a mile from the Allied Plant. Both have been sampling for three days. They will continue for two weeks, with analysis being conducted as the samples are collected.