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Report/Article Title Revised Memorandum: From Ralph T. Ros, Office of Special Pesticide Reviews, United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding an error in TCDD level reporting in beef fat at Dioxins Analytical Collaborators Meeting from June 25, 1976, dated July 7, 1976

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

7 JUL 1976

SUBJECT: Erata: 2,4,5-T Dioxins
Analytical Collaborators Meeting
June 25, 1976 - MEMORANDUM

FROM: Ralph T. Ross, Ph.D. *RTR*
Dioxin Project Manager
Office of Special Pesticide Reviews

TO: See Distribution

There is a typographical error in a memorandum dated June 25, 1976, which summarized the analytical collaborators meeting in Washington, DC, on June 15, 1976. The memorandum was sent to all who attended this meeting. Part I of the conclusions given by the analytical collaborators should read as follows:

1. Of the beef fat samples (85) analyzed, one shows a positive TCDD level at 60 ppt; two samples...

The memorandum stated 90 ppt, which is incorrect.

I regret this oversight in proofing. I hope it has not caused any inconvenience.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Revised Copy

JUN 25 1976

SUBJECT: 2,4,5-T/Dioxins: Analytical
Collaborators Meeting
June 15, 1976.

FROM: Dioxin Project Manager
Office of Pesticide Programs

TO: See Distribution

The analytical collaborators met on June 16, 1976, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D. C., in order to discuss the results of the analysis of the 85 beef fat samples and 43 liver samples collected in phase I (Between February and March 1975) of the short term beef fat monitoring program. These data represent the final results from Dow Chemical USA, Wright State University and Harvard University (See attachment for list of other attendees). The data from EPA's Research Triangle Park Laboratory and the University of Utah were not completed at the time of this meeting. Therefore, no representatives from either of these laboratories were present. Several members of the analytical group have been subpoenaed and/or asked to prepare statements for 2,4,5-T/dioxin litigation in the state of Oregon.

This meeting was called in order that the data from phase I be interpreted, and the statements made at these proceedings accurately represent the data from the dioxin monitoring program. Another meeting will be held as soon as the other two laboratories mentioned above submit their data.

The conclusions given by the analytical collaborators were:

1. Of the beef fat samples (85) analyzed, one shows a positive TCDD level at 90 ppt; two samples appear to have TCDD levels at 20 ppt; five may have TCDD levels which range from 5-10 ppt. While several laboratories detected levels (5-10 ppt) in this range, the values reported were very near the sample limits of detection. There exists a great deal of uncertainty of the analytical procedure below 10 ppt.
2. The analytical method is not valid below 10 ppt.

*error
to be corrected*

3. An introduction of a neutral extraction technique shows promise of the capability of detecting levels below 10 ppt. This was demonstrated by comparative data at the lower parts per trillion range (5-10 ppt). However, this method has been demonstrated by only one laboratory at this time and has not been validated below 10 ppt by another competent analytical facility.
4. The fat samples analyzed were peritoneal fat and kidney fat taken from cattle which had grazed on rangelands of known treatment with 2,4,5-T. Controls were the same sample type taken from cattle from non-treated areas within the same state.
5. Of the liver samples (43) analyzed, only one sample suggests any TCDD residue, but the residue observed was too close to the sensitivity of the sample detection limits for quantitation. The fat sample analyzed from the same animal showed no TCDD residue. Three liver samples (for which fat samples were analyzed and showed positive data) showed no TCDD residues.
6. None of the collaborators reported TCDD in samples of beef fat taken from cattle in non-treated areas (at the sensitivity of the analytical method). Three of the laboratories receiving liver samples from cattle in non-treated areas observed no TCDD in the samples.

In his remarks to the meeting, Mr. Edwin Johnson, DAA for Pesticides, indicated the Agency will prepare an inhouse statement on what it considers the significance to be, if any, of the levels of TCDD found in the beef fat monitoring program. This statement will be distributed to the collaborators and to the Science Advisory Board for comment and suggestions prior to its release. The statement will report the status of all aspects of the Agency's dioxin program to date.

Mr. Johnson stated that in future dioxin meetings, all relevant data would be distributed to the collaborators in advance of the meeting to permit their independent evaluation prior to the discussions at the meeting. He explained that the procedures for setting up this particular meeting were different because of the urgency to discuss the data prior to the beginning of the Oregon 2,4,5-T litigation action.

All data for which the Agency pays will be made available to the public. Dgw has been asked to notify the Agency if they wish to exert any claims of trade secret or confidentiality for their data. If so, he indicated EPA would evaluate these claims before a decision to release.

All collaborators' meetings will be open to observation by the public and press, but it is to be understood the purposes of the meetings are not changed.

Ralph T. Ross for

Ralph T. Ross

Attachment

Distribution

Ronald Dreer
Attendees