

WASHINGTON WORKS  
PROPOSED COMMUNICATION TO FEMALES  
WHO HAD WORKED IN FLUOROPOLYMERS AREA

As follow-up to our original communication on C-8 (FC-143) we have some additional information pertaining to questions that have been asked. This is in accord with our practice of keeping you informed in such matters as new information is obtained.

There have been rumors that two women who worked in Fluoropolymers have had children with birth defects. We are not aware of any human birth defects attributable to FC-143. We do know of two women who worked in this area before or during pregnancy whose children reportedly had defects detected at birth. We became aware of this information after 3M notified us of the animal study. We do not know whether there is a relationship. We are investigating this matter further, and we are considering additional studies.

Some employees have asked what advice we have for female employees of childbearing potential who have been exposed to FC-143 about becoming pregnant. Until we have additional information about the potential effects of FC-143 on the human fetus, we think this is a matter of sufficient concern that, as a precaution, a female who has an organic fluorine blood level above background level should consult with her personal physician prior to contemplating pregnancy. We will provide all information we have on FC-143 to employees' personal physicians.

Another question is what we have told female employees who have mentioned they are considering voluntary sterilization. The plant physician and area supervision have told them that we strongly recommend against sterilization for job-related reasons. Each woman who raised this subject has been told that her employment, her seniority, her pay, and her benefits are fully protected and that there was no need to even consider a surgical procedure. The women were told that whether or not they elected such surgery was a personal matter that would have to be decided by them in consultation with their husbands and their personal physicians.

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