

BACKGROUND

We have used C-8 at Washington Works for more than 25 years and in earlier years it was handled less carefully than in recent years. Limited data indicates that C-8 is persistent in the human body and we have established a program to monitor selected employees regularly. We have established engineering controls to reduce potential exposure to C-8 and required the use of protective equipment for some jobs.

Significant additional control effort began in 1979 after 3M Company(our supplier of C-8 APFC dispersing agent) advised us of accumulation of organic fluorine in the blood of some of their workers. In March, 1981, 3M Company advised us that tests indicated that oral doses of C-8 caused birth defects in rats. As a result, we transferred all females of child bearing potential from jobs with significant potential for C-8 exposure and increased our efforts to prevent exposure.

Du Pont's Haskell Laboratory is making tests to determine if exposure by inhalation of C-8 causes birth defects and also is making tests with oral doses similar to the 3M tests. We expect results of these tests in about a month. 3M Company is repeating their original study and we expect to receive some information in October, 1981.