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E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY

INCORPORATED

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

CENTRAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

HASKELL LABORATORY

FOR

TOXICOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

Blind copy to:

EEWoodacre, Admin., D-9054

JFDickey/TWHanavan, Legal, D-7083

SNBoyd, Jr., Orchem, N-8508

TL Cairns/MSSadler, CR&D, D-6032

CFReinhardt, CR&D, Haskell Lab

January 12, 1977



Dr. John F. Finklea, Director
National Institute of Occupational
Safety and Health
Room 3-30 Park Building
5600 Fisher's Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Dr. Finklea:

I should like you to know of our recent action with respect to o-toluidine.

While o-toluidine has been manufactured and processed at Du Pont's Chambers Works for over fifty years, we have seen no evidence that it ever caused cancer in any of our employees. However, in a preliminary study* sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, tumors were observed in some rats and mice fed o-toluidine hydrochloride for their lifetime. National Cancer Institute is repeating this study on a larger scale to establish whether or not o-toluidine is a carcinogen. Pending the results of this study, anticipated in 1977, we consider it prudent to handle o-toluidine as a suspected carcinogen.

We have notified our employees of the results of the NCI study. Although there is no evidence that the compound causes cancer in humans, Du Pont is taking steps to reduce employee exposure by changes in equipment and operating practices. We are also advising our customers of these results.

Sincerely,

Blaine C. McKusick
Assistant Director

BCM/bjd

*Homburger, F., et al. Paper presented at Society of Toxicology, 11th Annual Meeting (1972). Abstract from Tox. Appl. Pharm., 22, 280 (1970).

Copies of this letter forwarded to:

Dr. Morton Corn, Department of Labor

Dr. Myron A. Mehlman, National Institute of Health

DO 0060067