

5/8/95

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of law suits/800 number calls on Benomyl.

TO: Carl Grable
Registration Division (7505C)

FROM: Jerome Blondell, Ph.D., Health Statistician
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THRU: Steve Knott, Section Head
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Please find below, the OREB review of:

DP Barcode: D203188
Pesticide Chemical Code: 099101
EPA Reg. No.: various
EPA MRID No.: 432028-00

I. INTRODUCTION

Dupont notified Kathryn Bouve on April 6, 1994 of seven medical "800 number" calls they received and eight personal injury law suits related to the exposure to benomyl.

II. CONCLUSION

No additional evidence of adverse health effects due to benomyl was provided by the law suits or by the telephone calls to the Dupont 800 number. Law suits lacked any detail or medical documentation and 800 telephone number calls fit no recognizable pattern consistent with benomyl toxicity.

III. DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

Eight law suits were reported regarding the following

plaintiffs: Rabadan et al., Colson et al., Prillwitz et al., Rogers et al., Clark et al., Sibley et al., Elliott et al., and Garrison et al. All of these suits were filed in 1993 or 1994. Vague terminology and lack of any medical documentation prevents use of the law suits to assess health effects of benomyl exposure. Seven of the eight lawsuits reported no more than "sever physical and neurological injuries and illnesses" with no further specification of symptoms, signs, or diagnosis. Only one law suit from Hawaii listed specific symptoms which included dizziness, headache, nausea, muscle tics, burning sensation, blisters/rash, chest pains, irregular heartbeat, stomach cramps, diarrhea, fatigue, and extreme sweating. However, no information on the exposure, timing of symptoms, medical diagnosis, or laboratory tests was reported.

Seven telephone calls expressing concerns about symptoms possibly related to benomyl were reported. A brief summary of reported symptoms is provided below:

1. Nosebleeds and altered sense of taste.
2. Blood in sputum.
3. Diagnosed case of fibromyalgia, other workers report headache, tight chest, fatigue, eyes burning, anxiety, and irritability. Miscarriage reported. Two dog litters occurred where every pup died within 9 days with symptoms of pneumonia and tongue biting.
4. Myalgia, flushing, and low grade fever, doctor thinks it's viral.
5. Laryngitis, doctor noted possible reaction to tetracycline.
6. Husband died from 3 kinds of pneumonia at age 50, heavy smoker.
7. Got product in eye while spraying, called for treatment info.

Little medical documentation and lack of consistency among cases or with earlier reported effects of benomyl suggest these reports represent coincidentally reported health effects rather than effects directly due to benomyl.

cc: correspondance
circulation
benomyl file
Kate Bouve (7502C)