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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

EARL WARREN HALL
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

August 12, 1981

Christine Chaisson
Hazard Evaluation Div.
Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W. (TS 769-C)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Chris:

Did you know that the WHO specification for carbaryl is "1-naphthyl methylcarbamate with provisional specifications for a content of 2-naphthyl methylcarbamate (β -carbaryl) of less than 0.05% (500 ppm) and for a content of 2-naphthol of less than 0.05% (500 ppm)"?

According to a tech sheet from Union Carbide's Woodbine Plant, the average content of 2-naphthyl N-methylcarbamate of Sevin carbaryl insecticide is an average of 0.01%, or 100 ppm (letter from T.H. Newman, attached).

As you know, many 2-substituted naphthyl compounds have been found to be potent carcinogens, the most notorious being 2-naphthylamine. I do not know if Union Carbide has ever tested their 2-isomer of Sevin (carbaryl) for possible carcinogenicity, but at least they should be asked to submit some data or information on the toxicity of their impurity.

I hope you will be able to convey this information to the Product Manager.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'GZweig' or similar.
Gunter Zweig

Sent to CAG
CJC