

DATE: January 5, 1979

SUBJECT: Telephone inquiry on Glyphosate, Caswell No. 661A

FROM: Chan S-L, TOX/HED

*Chan S-L - Bedd/1/79*

TO: Deputy Acting Chief, TOX/HED

Dr. H. Posner, NIEHS, (919)-541-3471 inquired as to the justification on dropping the term "a suspect carcinogen" from N-nitrosoglyphosate, a glyphosate contaminant, in the F.R. 43, #234, P56935. After checking through the TOX. file, Mr. Taylor R. (RD/OPP) and I returned Dr. Posner's call. Mr. Taylor explained that the wordings on glyphosate in the F.R. were provided by the non-scientific staff and might not be very precise. Dr. Posner was welcome to propose any change in this notice for an improvement. I informed Dr. Posner that TOX. Branch did not see a hazard in this nitroso derivative as a residue in food crops. In general, it was present in the ppb range and in this case sugar cane it was estimated to be in the area of 0.2 PPb. I asked Dr. Posner for his opinion on our conclusion. He said he would put his thoughts in writing to be addressed to the agency through Mr. Taylor, who had earlier informed Dr. Posner that an oncogenicity study on N-nitroso glyphosate had been initiated by the registrant. Both Mr. Taylor and I assured Dr. Posner that he was welcome to all the data available on glyphosate in the agency.

We look forward to hearing from Dr. Posner.

cc: Mr. R. Taylor, PM/RD/OPP