



DOW CHEMICAL U.S.A.

9001 BUILDING
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P. O. BOX: 1706

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

Mr. Gerad Sala
Sabine River Authority
P.O. Box 579
Orange, TX 77630

Dear Mr. Sala:

We sent copies of a few general documents on the phenoxy herbicides and Herbicide Orange for you to use as reference material. These were sent to you earlier under separate cover.

Answers to the questions you raised will be given below.

1. The difference between Agent Orange and Esteron 2,4,5-T.

Herbicide Orange (Agent Orange) was a product developed by the military for use in Vietnam. It was designed to penetrate the dense jungle vegetation. It consisted of a 50:50 mixture of the normal butyl esters of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. This mixture of the technical esters was applied undiluted at the rate of 3 gallons per acre from large airplanes. It was never sold for agricultural herbicide use.

Analyses of samples of Herbicide Orange showed an average concentration of about 3 ppm 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD). In contrast the TCDD content of Esteron 2,4,5-T since 1971 has been less than 0.1 ppm TCDD.

The EPA registered use rate for 2,4,5-T on rangeland and forestry range from 1/10 to 1/2 the amount used in Vietnam.

ESTERON 245 is a low volatile ester of 2,4,5-T and has been used for agricultural application around the world for the past 25 years. The TCDD content is less than 0.1 ppm. This level has been maintained since 1971. Prior to 1971 the level was less than 0.5 ppm TCDD. Earlier the level was 1 ppm.

ESTERON 99 is a low volatile ester of 2,4-D. This too, is a product that has been used in agriculture worldwide for the past 30 years. It does not contain TCDD. To refer to drums of ESTERON 99 and ESTERON 245 as Agent Orange is irresponsible reporting. I hope you will be successful in correcting this error made by the reporter.

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