

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Vetron letter of 6/17/76 re captan  
mutagenicity.

DATE: NOV 18 1976

FROM: David L. Ritter  
TOX Br./RD WH-567

*David L. Ritter 11/12/76*  
*E. Wilson 11/11/76*

TO: E. Wilson, PM #21  
HFB/RD WH-567

THRU: PSO/RD WH-567

Company inquires as to EPA toxicologists' attitude toward the Ames analysis for estimating potential mutagenicity of Captan, which has been placed in Cat. I for reregistration.

Our reply:

The Ames test may have value for determining adverse effects of chemicals in bacterial DNA-RNA. What implication this has for estimating a mutagenic potential in higher animals and in man is not at all clear at the present. Toxicologists are of the general opinion that available mutagenicity tests are virtually worthless in assessing risk to man and animals.

The requirement for mutagenicity testing in the "Guidelines" was not put there by trained toxicologists. In fact, we in TB tried very hard to get this requirement removed, but to no avail.

Therefore, there are two answers to the question concerning adverse effect on registration of a positive Ames finding for captan:

1. TOX would be unable to make a hazard analysis of captan based on such a positive finding; we would give it the weight it deserved but there would be no adverse effect on registration for TOX purposes.
2. However, since a positive Ames finding may trigger rebuttable presumption, the compound could be referred to OSPR, and we cannot now predict what effect this would have on the ultimate fate of their product.