

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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**AUG 24 1979** as analysis show no residues in the water. Union Carbide will probably take another course of study. It is highly doubtful that the second study will confirm findings.

**MEMORANDUM**  
**SUBJECT:** Aldicarb Contamination of Drinking Water in Long Island, New York  
**FROM:** Product Manager (12), IRB, Registration Division (TS-767)  
**THRU:** Acting Branch Chief, IRB, Registration Division (TS-767)  
**TO:** Acting Director, Registration Division (TS-767)

Sales information. Call 703-557-3262, OPP/FOIA office to seek release of this information

Dick Back of Union Carbide visited RD on August 23, 1979, to discuss a very serious problem involving the use of Aldicarb on potatoes in Long Island, New York. Residues of Aldicarb metabolites, sulfone and sulfoxide, were found in well (drinking) water at levels of 1 ppb to 0.04 ppm. This water contamination must be taken seriously because of the acute toxic nature of Aldicarb Sulfoxide and the potential long term effects of this material on humans.

Brockman

During the 1979 potato growing season in Long Island, Union Carbide treated [redacted] of 15G Aldicarb at recommended label rates. On August 2 and 3 of this year, Union Carbide's scientists analyzed well water at the shallow depth of 20 ft. on 5 farms in different areas on Long Island. Their preliminary findings showed residues of Aldicarb Sulfone and Sulfoxide.

Union Carbide has not yet assessed the hazard of these residues in drinking water but believe as I do that they pose a potential serious problem to the Long Island community. According to Dick Back there does not appear to be any unusual increase in sickness among Long Island's population that can be attributed to Aldicarb Sulfoxide. However, the company has not at this time aggressively sought information to substantiate its contention.

SME, 402535: 8/24/79

Dick Back indicated that Union Carbide has not yet informed the Long Island's residents of this water contamination problem. The company intend to do so in about a week. This week delay is based on their scientists belief that a second analysis is needed to confirm their preliminary findings. Should the second analysis show no residues in the water then Union Carbide will probably take another course of action. It is highly doubtful that the second study will refute their earlier findings.

Preparation for extensive testing to determine the scope of the problem is underway. The company, based on their initial findings, believe that the problem is wide spread in the Long Island area. Currently, they have not tested well water outside of the New York area but plan to do so in the next few months.

Since the treatment of potatoes with Aldicarb is over for this season, the company does not intend to recall or stop the sale of Aldicarb at this time. Union Carbide would like the opportunity to thoroughly investigate this situation before taking any recall or stop sale action.

Dick Back asserted that before this information is released to the news media, they would like to discuss this matter with our technical people within the next two weeks. Dick believes that discussions in the absence of perhaps grossly exaggerate news reports would give both EPA and themselves the opportunity to resolve this problem in a rational manner. Union Carbide will also at that time formally submit to the Agency their adverse findings in compliance with the 6(a)(2) provision of FIFRA.

In these discussions Union Carbide intend to outline the contamination problem in detail including possible consequences. They will also discuss what this problem means in terms of hazard to Long Island's population. Additionally, the company plan to provide ways to resolve this problem.

This Aldicarb problem may become highly controversial within a week or so, the time the news media is expected to learn of this water contamination incident.

Accy/S/ ... in sickness among Long Island's population ...  
Frank T. Sanders ...