



Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>

'Extra' BZ production facility in the United States (Swannanoa, NC)

2 messages

Innovograph <grant@innovograph.com>

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 2:17 PM

To: msm@wjh.harvard.edu, j.p.p.robinson@sussex.ac.uk

Cc: guillemin@mit.edu, c.a.mcleish@sussex.ac.uk, j.revill@sussex.ac.uk

Hi Dr. Meselson, Hi Dr. Robinson

I live near an EPA Superfund site here in Asheville, NC that once produced BZ (150,000 pounds). I am looking for research assistance as this appears to be an 'extra' BZ production site as of now missing from the current CW research literature.

Attached is a 1986 *Associated Press* article with some light details as well as a recent EPA notice with more site environmental details. But onsite BZ production is confirmed on page one of the EPA fact sheet.

I am trying to help tell the story and relate the implications of this amount of BZ being manufactured and moved through our community during the 1962 - 1966 (stockpiled and transported?) period in question. My local newspapers and TV station are unlikely to cover this kind of 'connecting the dots' research as there are many questions to be answered before a better history on this site concerning BZ forms. For now, it does appear that Celanese Corporation of America started the BZ production in this case.

EPA website: <http://epa.gov/region4/superfund/sites/npl/northcarolina/chemtrmc.html>

Note: This EPA site fails to specify BZ (merely 'incapacitating agents') and its community risks during the site's BZ production, storage and transportation phase, but community activists such as myself are working on correcting this omission.

Starting in 1952 Oerlikon made air-air automatic cannons on this site. CS and apparently other weaponry was produced on the site during the Celanese-Northrop period.

In terms of the total US BZ arsenal, one of the things I'm unclear on is how much BZ was destroyed at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Millmaster Chemical in New Jersey was thought of as the main BZ production facility until now from what I'm finding. I see a total of 100,000 pounds of BZ coming from Millmaster (partly based on *Paradise Lost: The Psycho Agents*, CBW CB No. 71, May 2006). There may have been smaller amounts of BZ produced elsewhere, but conventional wisdom seems to be the total BZ amount of ever produced in the US is 100,000 lbs. I base this on the May 1982 *Mother Jones It's a Mad, Mad War* article as well as the CBW CB article.

The only statement on BZ elimination I can find on the web is that between 1988-1990 BZ there was BZ destruction occurring at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity in Arkansas. But there's no inventory of raw BZ weight destroyed. I tried to call Pine Bluff but have yet to hear back.

Does HSP have documentation as to how much BZ was destroyed in the late 80's? Of course what I'm trying to verify is whether all the BZ was destroyed and to add this Swannanoa, NC plant into the CW literature. It seems fact that Celanese and possibly Northrop (now Northrop Grumman) produced as much as 68 tons here in North Carolina.

I would like to be recognized as a research consultant should this issue be of interest to HSP. I would like to work with HSP, and if possible OPCW researchers, to create as much of a history of the Swannanoa, NC site as possible with focus on the BZ aspect. I am contacting University of North Carolina Asheville for help as well.

Thank you,

Grant Millin, Innovation Strategist and Owner
Innovograph LLC: Strategic Innovation Services & Management Consulting
PO Box 9214
Asheville, NC 28815
Office: 828.298.5706
Cell: 828.423.2266
Email: grant@innovograph.com
URL: www.innovograph.com
AboutMe Page: <http://about.me/grantmillin>

Strategic innovation is everything.

This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copy, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.

3 attachments



IG Favicon v3 (Very Small).jpg
6K



No BZ Found at Chemtronics AP 12.1.86 (via Hendersonville Times-News).pdf
595K



FS-11-2012 - Chemtronics Third 5-Year Review Report - EPA Community Resources.pdf
743K

Matthew Meselson <msmeselson@gmail.com>
To: "Kirby, Reid" <rkirby@eximdyne.com>

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 2:22 PM

Dear Reid,
I thought this might be of interest to you.
Do come by whenever you come within range.
Best regards,
Matthew

[Quoted text hidden]

Strategic innovation is everything.

This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and

purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copy, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.

—
Matthew Meselson
Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
Harvard University
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone 617-495-2264

3 attachments



IG Favicon v3 (Very Small).jpg
6K



No BZ Found at Chemtronics AP 12.1.86 (via Hendersonville Times-News).pdf
595K



FS-11-2012 - Chemtronics Third 5-Year Review Report - EPA Community Resources.pdf
743K