

WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE

Office of the President
P.O. Box 399
Institute, West Virginia 25112
(304) 766-3111



August 30, 1993

Mr. Van Long, Plant Manager
Rhone-Poulenc
Post Office Box 2831
Charleston, WV 25330

Dear Mr. Long:

I am writing regarding the leak at Rhone-Poulenc's Institute Plant on August 18, 1993. Considering that 30 people were injured and three people were severely burned, this fire in the methomylarvin unit seems to have been much more serious than the leak that occurred on May 18, 1993.

As president of West Virginia State College, I am quite concerned about the safety of the more than 5,000 students, faculty, staff, and community residents due to recent accidents and frequent spills at the Institute Rhone-Poulenc plant. I was especially concerned to read that a tank holding 30,000 pounds of methyl isocyanate gas was within 250 feet of the explosion and fire. The severity of this situation makes it imperative that every precaution be taken to prevent accidents from happening and that immediate notification be given us if such accidents should occur in the future. I am confident that you agree.

I understand that an investigation will be made to determine the reasons for the explosion. As president of West Virginia State College and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute for Chemical Studies, I would appreciate receiving periodic updates and reports related to the committee's findings.

If my staff and I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Haz W. Carter, Jr.
Haz W. Carter, Jr.
President

cc Mrs. Sandra Henderson-WVSC Faculty Senate
Mrs. Bertlela Montgomery-WVSC Staff Council
Mr. Jason Crutchfield-WVSC SGA Association
Mrs. Pamela Nixon-People Concerned About MIC
Dr. Paul L. Hill-NICS
Mr. H. Bernard Wehrle III-NICS