

WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE

Institute, West Virginia  
25112

February 9, 1990



Office of the President

Mr. Ronald C. Bearer  
Plant Manager - Rhone Poulenc  
Post Office Box 2831  
Charleston, WV 25330

Dear Mr. Bearer:

I understand that there was a leak of an undetermined amount of methyl isocyanate (MIC) at the Institute Plant of Rhone Poulenc on February 2, 1990 at 11:01 AM. Our Physical Facilities Work Control logs indicate that West Virginia State College was not notified of the aforesaid leakage, although the news media had picked up the fact that a leak occurred.

Rhone Poulenc has been very cooperative in the past in communicating such incidents as part of a "good neighbor" policy and possibly as a result of the communications which originated between the College and former Union Carbide officials at the current Rhone Poulenc plant. (See the attached letter from Mr. Clifford R. Kees, Emergency Response Specialist - Union Carbide to Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr., former President of West Virginia State College, dated June 5, 1986 which states that WVSC will be notified of all alarms at the plant.)

To ensure the safety of our faculty, staff and students and to ensure that we may take actions we deem necessary (such as shelter-in-place) for their safety, we need to be and would appreciate being informed of any chemical, gas, or other potentially dangerous leak.

I look forward to our meeting on February 14, 1990.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hazo W. Carter, Jr.".

Hazo W. Carter, Jr.  
President

HWC/f

Enclosure

c Dr. M. Douglas Call  
Dr. James Brimhall  
Mr. Mark Wolford  
Dr. Kerry Kilburn  
Mrs. Bertlela Montgomery  
Mr. Tracey Kinder