

WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE

Office of the President
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Institute, West Virginia 25112
(304) 766-3111

February 16, 1994



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

Dear Mr. Long:

Again, I want to express the concerns of the West Virginia State College community over the recent leaks and disturbing reports related to operations at the Rhone-Poulenc plant. I believe that the primary barrier to feeling safe in this area is the lack of information concerning your day-to-day operations to those who live, work, study and teach in this area. These concerns could be minimized through discussions and the sharing of pertinent information regarding your operations. Most people know very little about the chemical products that Rhone-Poulenc produces. I believe that even fewer know anything about your safety procedures, equipment, and the training received by your employees.

I endorse the proposal submitted by our Faculty Senate which recommends "the creation of a Community Advisory Committee ..." and Rhone-Poulenc's financing of "an independent environmental and safety audit of all plant facilities." I see these two recommendations as having a two-fold objective. One --to acquaint all levels of the college community with the present and potential threats posed by the plant. The other, and perhaps more important objective, is to ease the anxiety among many students, faculty and staff of a possible future accident that could affect their physical and psychological well-being.

In the near future, I sincerely hope that we can discuss the actions that your agency should take to address some of our concerns. From our previous conversations, I know that your goal, as well as mine, is to develop a quality of interaction between us, which will allow us to maximize the benefits of our activities to the constituents we serve.

Sincerely,
Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
President

cc Mrs. Sandra Henderson