

## NewsRoom

1/14/89 Hous. Chron. A25  
1989 WLNR 3033593

Houston Chronicle  
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January 14, 1989

Section: A

3 banned pesticides to be sent to area facilities for storage and disposal

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Large shipments of three banned pesticides - including two chemical relatives of Agent Orange, the defoliant used by U.S. forces in Indochina - will be sent to two Houston-area facilities for storage and disposal, the **Environmental** Protection Agency announced Friday.

Technical **Environmental** Systems (TES) received an EPA contract to store more than 500,000 pounds of products containing the banned herbicides 2,4,5-T and silvex, similar chemicals contaminated with small amounts of dioxin, at its **La** Porte facility.

Agent Orange contained 2,4,5-T. Dioxin's effects are controversial among scientists, but the EPA says exposure to low levels has caused birth defects and other problems in laboratory animals. It classifies dioxin as a probable human carcinogen.

The TES contract, which provides only for interim storage of the herbicides until they are transferred elsewhere for disposal, covers 23,000 gallons of liquid and 570,000 pounds in granular form.

In addition, the EPA awarded **Rollins Environmental Services** a contract to incinerate quantities of the chemical dinoseb - expected by company officials to total about 1.7 million gallons - at its toxic waste incinerators in Deer Park, Baton Rouge, **La.**, and Bridgeport, N.J.

**Rollins** also is seeking the nation's first permit to operate a commercial incinerator for dioxin-contaminated wastes, such as 2,4,5-T and silvex. The application is still under review by the Texas Water Commission and a public hearing is not expected until at least late summer or fall.

Last month, when the EPA announced it would send 55 cubic yards of silvex and related storage materials to TES, company president C. W. Boring said EPA officials had told him they eventually planned to move the waste to **Rollins** Deer Park facility for incineration.

Boring's office referred questions Friday to a public relations firm, where a spokesman said he did not know if TES had received a similar message from the EPA about the new, larger shipment.

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EPA spokesman Roger Meacham said if **Rollins** receives its dioxin-incineration permit, the 2,4,5-T and silvex going to TES could ultimately go to **Rollins**, but a formal bid process would be required in which another company might get the contract.

Jerry Neel, **Rollins** senior vice president, said he believed it is the only company applying for such a dioxin permit.

The EPA has not contacted **Rollins** about possibly burning the 2,4,5-T and silvex, Neel said, and **Rollins** earlier told the EPA it was not interested in storing the chemicals because warehouse space would be tied up for an unpredictable time.

Bill Colbert, a Water Commission spokesman, said TES's permit contains a federally-mandated provision limiting storage of dioxin wastes to one year.

With that constraint, the EPA will probably have to move the 2,4,5,-T and silvex somewhere else unless an acceptable disposal facility is permitted and operating in the meantime, Colbert said.

The EPA decided to move the 55-cubic-yard shipment of silvex to TES because a similar one-year deadline at a Connecticut storage facility was approaching.

Concerning the dinoseb incineration, the EPA said **Rollins** and another company given a contract to incinerate the chemical would be required to demonstrate their ability to handle and dispose of it safely and in line with all permits.

The EPA banned dinoseb in 1986 after data from laboratory animals showed it could cause birth defects and male reproductive problems. Dinoseb was mainly used to control weeds, but also as a fungicide, insecticide and desiccant.

Neel said he did not know how much of the chemical the Deer Park facility would incinerate. The EPA said disposal of the dinoseb is expected to take about a year.

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News Subject: (Economics & Trade (1EC26))

Industry: (**Environmental** (1EN24); Agriculture, Food & Beverage Regulatory (1AG56); **Environmental** Solutions (1EN90); Hazardous Waste (1HA81); Chemicals (1CH04); Agrochemicals (1AG08); **Environmental Services** (1EN69); **Environmental** Regulatory (1EN91); Agriculture (1AG63); Agriculture, Food & Beverage (1AG53); Pesticides (1PE12))

Region: (USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); North America (1NO39); Texas (1TE14))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (**ENVIRONMENTAL** PROTECTION AGENCY; EPA; **LA** PORTE; **ROLLINS**; **ROLLINS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**; TECHNICAL **ENVIRONMENTAL** SYSTEMS; TES; TEXAS WATER COMMISSION; WATER COMMISSION) (Agent Orange; Baton Rouge, La.; Bill Colbert; Boring; C. W. Boring; Colbert; Jerry Neel; Large; Neel; Roger Meacham)

Edition: 2 STAR

Word Count: 752

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