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FATE OF TCDD IN FIELD ECOSYSTEMS -
ASSESSMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE *

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Long-term studies on the fate of TCDD have been conducted in five geographically different field locations throughout the United States. These studies have confirmed that although TCDD is very persistent in the soil environment, its movement is associated with wind and water movement of contaminated particles. Organisms, including man, that come in direct and intimate contact with contaminant particles become contaminated. A relationship exists between body burden levels of TCDD and the bioavailability of the environmental contamination. The significance of these observations to man is illustrated through the environmental toxicologic studies of the beachmouse, Peromyscus polionotus, a dominant inhabitant of an ecosystem that has been contaminated with TCDD for more than 15 years.

* Abstract of a presentation to the Symposium "DIOXINS IN THE ENVIRONMENT", December 6, 1983, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.