Monsanto

SPECIALTY CHEMICALS DIVISION

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December 18, 1975

Mr. Charles F. Kireker, III
259 Gardner Road
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

Dear Mr. Kireker:

Your letter of November 30 to Mr. Hanley concerning Monsanto's posture with regard to PCB's contained four very thoughtful questions that cannot be shortly or simply answered. Since the PCB product group falls within my area of management and since Mr. Hanley wished you to have as full and complete an understanding of the situation as possible, he has asked me to respond to your letter.

Complete answers to the questions you have posed require an understanding on your part of the history and background of PCB's and how they came into commercial production; Monsanto's position, adopted in 1970-72, of restricting sales of the products when we first confirmed the presence of PCB's in the environment; the present Monsanto position and our plans for the future. Obviously, I could not cover all of this in a page or two so I have had prepared for your review a relatively short and, I believe, meaningful explanation of the entire "PCB story". It deals with the questions you have raised to Mr. Hanley and may clarify other aspects of the situation as well.

Let me emphasize the fact that the easiest course of action for Monsanto would be to withdraw unilaterally from the PCB business but we do not consider that course of action responsible on our part. The electrical industry today is totally dependent on Monsanto's product for certain applications and we cannot precipitously withdraw that support. We are, however, earnestly pushing the development and introduction to the electrical industry of what we believe to be suitable replacement products and we are doing everything possible to reduce and then stop the production of PCB's for any use whatsoever in as short a time frame as the technology of both Monsanto and our electrical industry customers will permit us.

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Thank you very much for taking the time to express your thoughts. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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