NEWS

Monsanto

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MONSANTO INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS COMPANY

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MONSANTO RELEASES PCB PRODUCTION FIGURES TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 30 -- Monsanto Company announced today it has released figures to the United States Department of Commerce showing the company's U.S. production and sales of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) from 1960 through estimated 1971.

Closed-system electrical uses ranged from 11,000 tons per year to 20,000 tons per year during the period.

The report also shows Monsanto voluntarily reduced its nonelectrical sales of PCB from the high of 16,000 tons in 1970 to 4,400 tons in 1971. Substantial further reduction will be accomplished in 1972, the company said.

C. P. Cunningham, managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., an operating unit of Monsanto, said, "As part of our control program, the data were originally prepared for the Federal PCB Joint Task Force and other concerned scientists for use on a confidential basis so scientists can properly evaluate the figures and relate them as to impact on the environment."

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Monsanto has now chosen to release the figures publicly "because scientists have continued to express a need for the data to make a proper estimate of how much PCB might be in the environment. We also believe the figures will inform the public about Monsanto's positive actions to limit the sale of PCB to confined applications," the company executive said.

"Now that the figures are public information," Cunningham added, "we are confident both the scientific community and the public press will interpret the data properly. These are production and sales figures only. It should be clearly understood that all this material is not in the environment.

"For example," Cunningham said, "over 60 per cent of all sales in the past 12 years have been for closed-system electrical uses. It would be a completely false and irresponsible conclusion to say all PCB produced is in the environment. Much of the material is still contained in sealed electrical equipment where it acts as a fire-resistant safety fluid, protecting human lives and property from the danger of fire and explosion."

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Cunningham concluded, "Monsanto continues its program to control the uses and prevent the release of PCB into the environment. To date, we have cut off all sales to paints, plasticizers, sealants, adhesives and all other open-system uses. We are receiving used PCB from customers for regeneration or safe disposal. And we are engaged in an all-out research effort to develop less persistent forms of PCB or suitable products which retain the fire safety features of PCB. We call on other producers, worldwide, to join in this effort."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: PCB production and sales figures attached.

PRODUCTION AND SALES
POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB)
MONSANTO INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS COMPANY
(SHORT TONS)

YEAR	U.S. PRODUCTION	DOMESTIC SALES		U.S. EXPORT SALES
		Electrical* Insulating Liquids Uses	All** Other Uses	All Uses
1971 (Est)	20236	14417	4401	4938
1970	42527	20268	16263	6826
1969	38194	18564	15034	5312
1968	41427	20568	11990	5616
1967	37655	20387	10846	4062
1966	32925	18897	10642	3426
1965	30240	16203	9695	2117
1964	25417	13769	8666	2048
1963	22367	11448	7618	1824
1962	20986	11683	7339	1809
1961	20333	11108	7661	2076
1960	20786	12444	5163	1827

* Closed Systems - Transformers and Capacitors

** Including Heat-transfer Systems, Hydraulics/Lubricants, Plasticizers

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