United Press International

GENERAL OFFICES
NEWS BUILDING, 220 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

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Dec. 14, 1979

Mr. Dan R. Bishop
Director, Environmental Communications
Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63166

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Your Dec. 6 letter to Mr. H. L. Stevenson, vice-president and editor-in-chief, was directed to me.

The author of the PCB article in question, Charles S. Taylor, called the National Center for Disease Control regarding the story. He spoke with Dr. Peter Drotman of the chronic diseases division, special studies.

Dr. Drotman said when PCB's enter the human body, one or two atoms are changed by metabolism to a class of chemicals called arene oxides. Arene oxides cause cancer in rats and mice, he said, and there are other chemicals in that same class that cause cancer in humans.

His branch has carried out all of the CDC epidemiological studies of PCBs.

I think it would have been more accurate in our story to have said "suspected cancer-causing" instead of "cancer-causing." Don Reed, our managing editor, is writing a section in our weekly log to UPI reporters based on Dr. Drotman's findings. We appreciate you contacting us on this matter.

Sincerely,

Glen R. Carpenter

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