Monsanto

FROM
(NAME – LOCATION – PHONE) R. C. Isham - B1ND

DATE : March 21, 1978

SUBJECT : Q&A UPDATE ON PCBs IN PYDRAUL

REFERENCE :

cc: G. F. Barton
J. E. McKee

TO : R. E. Bouma
A. A. Johnson
E. T. Mollica
R. A. Stohr
J. C. Weber
D. Wood

Please review our responses if we get any questions from the press relating to Pydraul containing PCB. Call me at extension 4-2621 with any comments or suggestions by March 23.

I recognize there is sensitivity in making any comments that respond to the EPA's action against Outboard Marine. However, our whole socially responsible posture on PCB requires that we continue to openly communicate the same information we have in the past.

I will slip this Q&A in the packet to Jack Fitzgerald for possible use by the Chairman at the annual meeting.

R. C. Isham

RCI:smt

Att.

0503665

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO BE USED IN RESPONDING TO MEDIA INQUIRIES REGARDING PYDRAUL CONTAINING PCB

Q. When did Monsanto warn its customers of fire resistant hydraulic fluids that PCBs were an environmental contaminant?

A. Scientific investigation first confirmed that PCBs were in the U.S. environment in 1970. Monsanto voluntarily began a program to terminate PCB sales in open applications even before the potential impact to the environment was determined. One application, fire resistant hydraulic fluids (trademarked Pydraul) was seen as such an open application. An application where the safety benefits to foundries and other metal working industries might no longer be justified by the potential contamination.

We began to notify our hydraulic fluid customers of the studies and articles about PCBs beginning in February 1970. By February 1971 we announced a reformulated fire resistant hydraulic fluid line with no PCBs in the formulation.

Q. Outboard Marine says that Monsanto never warned them about PCBs and environmental contamination. What do you say?

A. I don't know the specifics about exactly when this company was notified. But,... (second paragraph from previous question).

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Q. Outboard Marine says they are going to sue (or have sued) Monsanto because of the PCB contamination of a Lake Michigan harbor. What do you think?

A. As a policy, we do not speculate into future litigation (or we have not seen the suit and by policy do not comment on ongoing litigation).

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