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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48926

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September 23, 1969

Mr. Gabriel N. Tiberio
Industrial Engineer
Plant Engineering Section
General Motors Corporation
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Tiberio:

Last week representatives of a large chemical manufacturing firm visited our office to discuss possible problems related to products involving chlorinated biphenyls which are manufactured by this company. It was learned that these materials are finding increased use in industry as hydraulic fluids and coolents. Their concern, and now our concern, lies in the fact that chlorinated biphenyls, commonly referred to as PCB's, are highly toxic to aquatic life and are chemically similar to DDT and other persistant pesticides.

We are not yet in a position to evaluate the significance of the use of chlorinated biphenyls by industry nor to make any judgment as to what pollutional hazard, if any, may exist. At this point we are trying to find out whether these materials are actually being used. It is our understanding that Monsanto is presently marketing a hydraulic fluid comprised largely of PCB's under the trade name of Aroclor. We would greatly appreciate knowing if your company is presently using this or similar products, and if so, what the extent of this usage might be.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

J. B. Frost
Chief Engineer

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