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April 25, 1969

Mr. Howard Mattson
Director, Corporate Public Relations
Monsanto Company
800 North Lindberg Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63166

Dear Mr. Mattson:

I am working on an article on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and would like to get answers to as many of the following questions as possible.

Some of the questions verge on areas of competitive data, but I think can be dealt with in an unobjectionable tangential way. Thus while production or sales figures for last year might be confidential, an aggregate approximation covering a number of years would hardly divulge anything that well informed industry sources couldn't approximate just as readily.

Here are the questions:

1. How long has your company been making polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)?

2. How many forms of the compound does it offer for sale, and for what uses?

3. Among these forms, what are your relative production quantities, in terms of volume (e.g. "90 per cent of our production is type A," etc.)?

4. What approximately is the aggregate amount of PCB your company has marketed?

5. What information do you have regarding toxicity of PCB in product form?

6. What precautions (ventilation, etc.) are taken in connection with personnel engaged in manufacturing processes?

7. What information do you have about the possible release of PCB, after incorporation into products, into the environment, through vaporization, abrasion, decomposition, etc?

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8. Do you have any studies or other activities under way regarding the possible "reclaiming" of PCB after product use?

9. Do you have any studies under way regarding the identification of PCB in the environment? If so, what are the particular lines of inquiry, what specific information is sought, what is the form of the investigative activity, and approximately how many individuals are engaged full time in this work?

I would appreciate your answers as soon as possible.

Partial answers provided quickly, with notations about any lacunae, would be preferable to delaying the entire reply because of a question involving a time-consuming answer.

The same questions are being put to all known producers of PCB.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gladwin Hill

Gladwin A. Hill
National Correspondent
Environment and Conservation

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