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Monsanto

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE &
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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July 1, 1976

Ms. Deborah Smith
Office of Administration
Personnel Division
General Services Administration
Room 1904
Washington, D. C. 20405

Dear Ms. Smith:

Mr. Warren Easley of our Washington office has asked us to provide you with some information on the toxicity and safe handling of PCB's. I have attached a toxicity summary of Aroclor 1016 used extensively as a capacitor dielectric fluid. This material has the lowest chlorine content of the currently available Aroclors. It does, however, demonstrate the toxicity and handling hazards associated with all such PCB materials.

As you know, we have been manufacturing these materials since 1929, and at no time have we ever had any problems with our own workers or any customers' workers handling PCB materials in the capacitor or transformer uses. We have never seen any cases of chloracne in our workers or customers' workers. This is a common statement one hears in connection with PCB handling that we have found not to be true in practice. In fact, other than its ecological effect and its resistance to biodegradation, PCB materials have never posed any demonstrable problem.

I would suggest that you acquire from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York 10018, a copy of the ANSI C 107.1-1974 entitled "Guidelines for Handling and Disposal of Capacitor and Transformer Grade Askarels Containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls".

This document covers the only current use for which PCB's are sold by Monsanto. If you need any further information, we would be more than happy to supply it.

DSW 552886

Sincerely,


Jack T. Garrett
Manager Industrial Hygiene

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