Monsanto

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167
Phone: (314) 694-1000

April 12, 1983

Mr. James F. Lee
WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER
15 N. Main St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Dear Mr. Lee:

I just read your February 22 editorial entitled "EPA dispute merits a thorough airing." I'm writing not to comment on the main point of your piece (which may be accomplished by the recent appointment of William Ruckelshaus) but to comment on a lesser point, namely the reference to PCB chemicals as "suspected of causing cancer."

PCBs often are described this way, but Monsanto Company, formerly the major producer of PCBs, feels the weight of scientific evidence does not support the cancer label. I've enclosed an op-ed piece by our environmental head that summarizes recent studies on PCB health effects, which have received little press attention.

Your readers may be interested in hearing this "other side" of the PCB story. Feel free to reprint this piece if you like. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Laurence J. O'Neill
Environmental Communications Manager

/mo
Encs.