PCB - FWQA

Monsanto

ORGANIC CHEMICALS DIVISION

Monsanto Company
1700 South Second Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63177
Phone: (314) 621-4000

October 20, 1970

Dr. Ronald Webb
Federal Water Pollution
Control Agency
Southeast Water Laboratories
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dear Dr. Webb:

This note will confirm our phone conversation on October 15 relative to the synthesis of polychlorinated biphenyl isomers in Aroclor products. We have no synthesis program underway due to limited resources for work of this type. We will send you 10 milligram quantities, under separate cover, of the available isomers in our possession from earlier synthesis work. These materials will be the same as those we agreed to send to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland which you asked about during our conversation.

Unfortunately, we have no infrared spectra available for these isomers as you requested. We will be very interested in progress that you make toward the synthesis of these materials. We, of course, would like to obtain any reference isomers that you could make available to us for analytical studies.

We hope that this information will prove useful in your synthesis program. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Keller
Manager, Applied Sciences

db
bcc: W. B. Papageorge
E. P. Wheeler
W. R. Richard
E. S. Tucker

See attached note.

Attachment

To: Messrs. Papageorge, Wheeler, Richard and Tucker

Dr. Webb seems to be a very rational individual who recognizes the difficult synthesis project ahead of him. He has synthesized 12 or 13 compounds of unknown identity and purity. He is unraveling these structurewise one by one. He was very complimentary about Monsanto's action relative to Senator Ryan on the PCB environmental problem and said that if all companies acted this way, there would be no pollution problems. In reply to my question about how many are involved in governmental or other laboratories on synthesis programs - he replied that as far as he can find out, he is the only one in the world. At this point, he is naturally gun shy about his odds of success.

REK