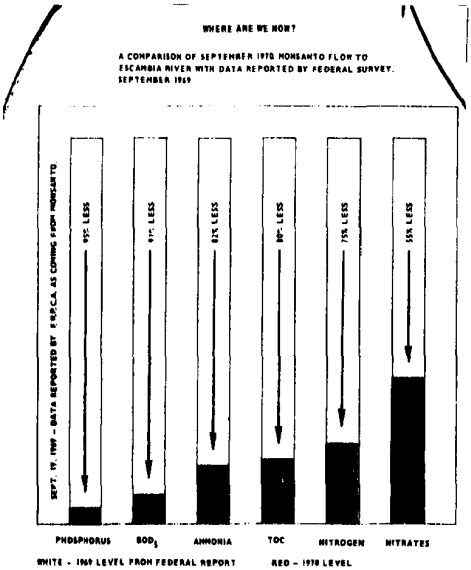
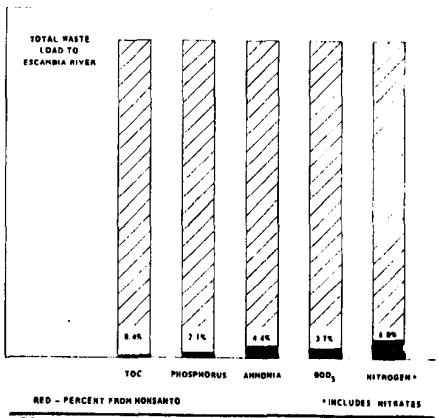
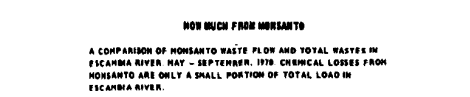
PENSACOLA FILAMENTS (Monsanto)

December 3, 1970







'PCB,' Discovered - Stopped

In April 1969 researchers at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Pesticide Field Station first detected the presence of small quantities of PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyl) in organisms taken from Escambia Bay. In August 1969 these researchers notified our plant that they had found PCB in our effluent and that our plant was one source of PCB into the Bay. One formation of PCB is trade named Arochlor 1250.

We were using at that time an industrial fluid manufactured by Monsanto which contained PCB. Subsequent investigation led to the discovery that some of the fluid was leaking into our effluent. This condition was promptly corrected and the fluid was replaced with one containing no PCB. We have not used any material containing PCB for more than a year.

Ecologists have recently indicated that PCB may be detrimental to fish and wildlife and so we are all concerned about its appearance in the environment. Studies are under way at many places throughout the world to better define the effect of PCB on animal life. Information available today as reported by "Bio Science" is not comprehensive but indicates PCB to be from 2 to 300 times less toxic than DDT.

According to published data, the concentration of PCB in the water of Escambia Bay was less than 1 part per billion. This level of PCB is several times lower than the amount reported to be toxic to shrimp or other estuarine organisms.