WILLIAM F. RYAN
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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March 4, 1971

Received 10th March

Mr. John Mason
Assistant General Manager
Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindburgh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing again regarding PCBs and would like to know whether or not the measures, which you described in your letter to me of June 30, 1970, and your press release of July 16, 1970, were put into effect by December 31, 1970. I refer specifically to the reformulation of hydraulic fluid uses; the plans to make PCBs which would break down more easily; and the completion of a high-temperature incinerator to dispose of spent PCBs. (If this incinerator is in operation, where is it located and have you performed emission tests? If so, what were the results?)

You will remember that I urged you to take two major steps which you felt you could not do: (1) releasing figures on production and distribution of PCBs so that scientists will be able to determine what quanities have been or may be escaping to the environment; and (2) providing for labelling of all end products that contain PCBs. While further study is made of methods of control and prevention of harmful effects, it is only fair that consumers at least have the advantage of choosing whether or not to take a chance on exposing themselves to possible contamination, no matter how slight the chance may be.

With regard to disposal of waste products, am I to understand that the incinerator will mean wastes will no longer be placed in landfill sites, either in Sauget or Anniston? Also, do you have anyway of knowing whether any PCBs that may previously have been disposed of could produce any toxic effect or escape to the ground water system? Thisis a point that was not sufficiently covered previously, and it has been of concern to me.

DSW 334097

Mr. Mason March 4, 1971

I look forward to hearing from you. Although the measures you have already taken are useful, I still believe that more could be done to protect the public from this environmental hazard. I will be interested in your further comments.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

William F. Ryan
Member of Congress

WFR/sp

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