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IMMEDIATELY 1975

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MONSANTO TO PHASE OUT
PRODUCTION OF PCBS,
DEVELOPING ALTERNATES

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22 -- Monsanto Company today announced that it has informed its U.S. capacitor and transformer customers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its intentions to eventually phase out the production of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) dielectric insulating fluids.

In making the announcement, F. J. Fitzgerald a Monsanto ~~Earle H. Harbison Jr., general manager of Monsanto's Specialty Chemicals Division,~~ Vice President and managing director of the firm's Industrial Chemicals Division said, while it is too early to put an exact timetable on the phase out, it will be in a planned and orderly manner as soon as Monsanto is satisfied that the electrical industry's needs for safe, usable, alternate dielectric fluids have been met. Dielectric fluids are non-conductors of direct electric current and are necessary ingredients in most power generating equipment.

Primarily because of their unique fire resistance and reliability qualities, PCBs have been the standard and, in many cases, the only acceptable materials for capacitor and transformer applications since they were first commercialized in 1929. Monsanto has been voluntarily selling them only for these sealed-system

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dielectric uses since the early 1970s, when scientific investigations first confirmed their presence in the environment.

Mr. Harbison said the company has had major research programs on-going for several years in its search for acceptable replacement products for both, capacitor and transformer applications and that progress to date has been very encouraging. "For example," he went on, "Subject to final acceptance of a Monsanto candidate that the capacitor industry has been evaluating for some time, we could begin supplying a new, non-PCB, capacitor dielectric in quantities sufficient to meet the entire U.S. industry's needs by late 1976."

"Our development work on new, non-PCB, transformer dielectric fluids is also being aggressively pursued. Several promising candidates have been identified and are presently being readied for further evaluation by the transformer industry.

"In the interim, we will continue to work with industry and government to ensure that the restrictive measures and controls Monsanto voluntarily implemented in the early 1970s remain in force and are diligently enforced."

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