Monsanto

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DATE : September 15, 1983 CC:

SUBJECT : Weekly Highlights - PCBs

REFERENCE :

TO : W. B. Papageorge

- The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences sponsored a meeting this week in Raleigh/Durham to review the latest research into health effects of PCBs and related compounds (chlorinated-dioxins and dibenzofurans). None of the results presented to date at this and other conferences indicate a chronic human health problem except dermatitis and skin disorders resulting from PCB exposure. However, the consensus of the meeting was that additional health research studies are needed to determine if possible future health problems might arise. The Deputy Director of NIEHS in his closing remarks suggested that research proposals in this area seemed plentiful and should be submitted to NIEHS for funding.

  Indications from the conference are that many health studies of both humans and animals at a much higher level of technical sophistication are in progress or are being proposed. Studies of populations accidently exposed which receive wide media coverage are in vogue (one apparent reason is funding is easier to obtain).

- The Carondelet Plant had a PCB enforcement/compliance inspection. The EPA inspector had no serious concerns or complaints about this facility.

- A significant increase in PCB litigation has occurred in Northern California fueled by the recent San Francisco transformer fire incident. Cases range from worker exposure, electrical utility pole incidents, to jail prisoner exposure to leaking transformers.

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