July 15, 1969

Mr. Harold S. Olcott
Professor, Marine Food Science
Department of Nutritional Sciences
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Prof. Olcott:

I tried to telephone you today concerning your recent correspondence with Ken Maddy and others in Monsanto concerning the polychlorinated biphenyls. I learned that you will be out of town the rest of this week so I am writing to express our extreme regret that there has been such a delay in replying to your previous letters. Unfortunately, there have been a number of us involved in the PCB situation and each of us who received copies failed to recognize that others had not responded.

I hasten to assure you that Monsanto has not decided on a "non cooperation" policy. On the contrary, we have replied to all other inquiries (I hope) from all university laboratories and state and federal governmental agencies which have contacted us. As you can imagine, the number of inquiries have been many including several of the regional water quality control boards in California, the California Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration Laboratories in Alameda to mention a few in California.

In every instance we have provided samples of our polychlorinated biphenyls when requested and recently have been able to provide a copy of the analytical procedure as developed at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, University of Stockholm. It was only in May that Professor Widmark provided us with the method which is now used by the laboratories of the twelve OECD countries and which, to our knowledge, has not yet appeared in its entirety in any technical publication.

We have not been able to provide samples of specific isomers and at the moment have not included in our program the separation of the isomers in any considerable quantities.

Perhaps you will be interested in the biological studies which we have underway in the laboratories of one of our consultants. These include two year chronic oral feeding studies in rats and dogs; three generation rat reproduction studies; studies with chickens which include effects on the birds themselves, egg production, hatchability of the eggs, viability of the chicks, egg shell thickness determination, and effects on calcium and phosphorus content.

In these studies we are using three feeding levels and controls for three of our products, namely Aroclor 1242, 1254 and 1260. These are biphenyl chlorinated to 42, 54 and 60% respectively. We have included in the chronic rat studies a sufficient number of animals to permit sacrifice of a meaningful number at the end of 90 days, six months and one year.

We have considered studies concerning the induction of hepatic microsomal enzymes but have deferred these temporarily pending further data from the toxicity studies now underway.

Currently Dr. Robert E. Keller, Manager of Applied Sciences for our Organic Chemistry Division, and I are trying to develop an itinerary which will allow us to call on most of the individuals who have contacted us from the various universities and laboratories. With this in mind I hope we can be on the West Coast some time in August and that it will be possible for you to give us an appointment.

Again, my sincere apologies from all of us at Monsanto for any inaction which gave you the impression that we were ignoring your correspondence.

Very truly yours,

Elmer P. Wheeler
Manager, Environmental Health

EPW:ju

c.c. K. H. Maddy

b.c. E. J. Bock
H. L. Minckler
R. E. Keller
W. R. Richard