PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (Operating or Parent): MIC

SUBJECT: PCBs

In response to Monsanto's news release announcing its intention to shut down its polychlorinated biphenyl manufacturing unit, the following press queries were handled on Oct. 5.

9:45 a.m. Associated Press - St. Louis
Ed Schaefer (241-2496)

10:10 a.m. United Press International - New York
Jim White (212/682-0400)

10:20 a.m. Metro-East Journal
Bob Wright

10:30 a.m. St. Louis Globe-Democrat
Jim Morice (342-1330)

10:45 a.m. KMOX-TV Assignment Desk
Mr. Tripp (621-2345) -- Requested television taped interview of Earle H. Harbison, Jr. Interview tentatively scheduled for 3:00 Oct. 5.

11:32 a.m. St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Pam L.

11:50 a.m. Health News Daily
Kathy Burns (202/452-1600)

12:10 p.m. CBS
Radio Network News - New York
Taped responses to questions relating to Monsanto's announcement.

1:10 p.m. WXRT-FM Radio
Linda Brill - Chicago
Taped responses to questions relating to Monsanto's announcement

2:10 p.m. Electronic News - Chicago
Andrew Czernak (312/726-3170)

3:10 p.m. CBS
TV Network News - New York
Bill Moran

X Corporate PR Bulletin Board
X J. T. Nolan
X W. R. Mulhall
X S. Pickard-Washington, D. C.
X J. F. Hussey-Washington, D. C.
X New York Public Relations
X Brussels Public Relations
X MAP PR
X MCP PR
X MIC PR (DRB)
X MP&P PR
X MTC PR
X INT'L PR (E. V. John)
X W. R. Corey
X E. H. Harbison
X T. H. Lafferre
X R. G. Potter
X G. Roush
X W. W. Withers
X D. Wood
X J. K. Clark

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Questions raised by reporters included:

Q. How many employes are involved and will there be layoffs?

A. There are some 20 employes involved in PCB production. While these jobs will be lost, no layoffs are anticipated because of the size and variety of other manufacturing activities at the plant.

Q. Why did Monsanto decide to get out of the PCB business? Did the government make you get out?

A. Monsanto's decision is based on its own desire to produce safe products. The higher chlorinated biphenyls do not readily biodegrade and, to varying degrees, they do tend to accumulate in tissue. This in itself suggests that they should be replaced if possible with products that are more biodegradable and less bioaccumulative.

Q. I wish to confirm Monsanto's action with regards to PCBs. Hasn't the government already banned the manufacture of PCBs?

A. A toxic substances bill recently sent to the White House by Congress included a reference to PCBs. The bill would require PCB production to end in two years and distribution in 2-1/2 years.

Q. Isn't it true that PCBs are thought to be carcinogenic?

A. We have seen nothing in our preliminary health studies with our PCB workers or, indeed, in our extensive long-term feeding studies with animals that would indicate that PCBs are carcinogenic.

Q. Does Monsanto also plan to close up overseas production facilities for PCBs?

A. We anticipate that we will be shutting down production in our Monsanto Ltd. Newport facility as well. The timetable will not necessarily be the same as the Oct. 31, 1977 U.S. date. We are currently involved in discussions with the UK government and our UK customers and we expect to make a further announcement regarding our plans by the end of October.

Source: Files

Handled By: G. F. Barton