Monsanto

PCB file

FROM (NAME - LOCATION - PHONE) D. Wood - B2SD - 2623

DATE : October 4, 1979 CC:

SUBJECT : PCB COLORADO

REFERENCE :

TO : J. Ortiz
F. Wohlschlaeger
R. C. Isham
J. C. Weber
E. T. Mollica

I received a call on the evening of October 3rd from Kathleen Wicks of the Colorado Daily in Boulder, Colorado, telephone (303) 492-6272. She reported that there were 17 x 55 gallon drums marked Therminol FR1 standing in a field in Lafayette, Colorado. She asked what percentage PCBs were contained in Therminol FR1. I reported that it was 100% Aroclor 1242.

From the labels it appeared that this material had been delivered to a food processing plant in the area in the late 60's. The consignee was Shurtenda Steaks. Of the 17 drums, 1 had intact seals, 15 had had the seals removed but did not appear to be leaking. One drum was leaking. All drums were heavily corroded.

I asked whether the local EPA in Denver had been advised. The answer was no. Wicks asked if Therminol FR1 was a cooking oil. I said no, it had never been used as a cooking oil. It had been used in a number of indirect applications in the food processing industry but that we had warned users to discontinue this practice as soon as the persistance of PCBs had been recognized.

From preliminary information it seemed likely that these drums had been given to an employee of the customer who had used part of the fluid as a paint to paint his fences to aid as an insecticide against deterioration from bugs. There were cows and chickens in the field in which the drums were stored.

I told Miss Wicks that the first priority was to get the drums removed from the location and get the EPA to carry out an inspection for PCB release. I undertook to contact Denver EPA and have the appropriate toxic substance personnel contact her since she knew the precise location of the drums.

I called Dan Bench, Region 8 EPA Denver, telephone (303) 837-3926 and passed on the information given to me by Ms. Wicks. He promised to contact Ms. Wicks immediately and arrange for the removal of the 17 drums. Our report to Denver EPA was in before the Colorado Daily had managed to contact Denver EPA.

D. Wood

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DW/pb