DRAFT IV -- News Release
E. V. John
Nov. 22, 1971

MONSANTO RELEASES PCB
PRODUCTION FIGURES TO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 00 -- Monsanto Company today released figures to the United States Department of Commerce showing the company's U.S. sales of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) from 1960 through estimated 1971.

Closed-system electrical uses fluctuated from _____ tons per year to _____ tons per year.

The report also shows Monsanto voluntarily reduced its nonelectrical sales of PCB from a high of 16,000 tons in 1970 to 4,400 tons in 1971. Further reductions are planned for 1972.

C. P. Cunningham, managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., an operating unit of Monsanto, said, "As part of our control program, the data were originally prepared for the Federal PCB Joint Task Force and other concerned scientists for use on a confidential basis. Such scientists are qualified to interpret the figures properly and relate them as to environmental impact."

Monsanto chose to release the figures publicly "because scientists have expressed a need for the data to make a proper estimate of how much PCB might be in the environment. We also hope the figures will inform the public about Monsanto's sincere efforts to limit the sale of PCB to confined applications," the company executive said.

"Now that the figures are public information," Cunningham added, "we strongly urge both the scientific community and the public press to interpret the data properly. These are production and sales figures only. It should be clearly understood that all this material is not in the environment.

"For example," Cunningham said, "over 60 per cent of all sales in the past 12 years have been for closed-system electrical uses. It would be a completely false and irresponsible conclusion to say all PCB produced is in the environment. Much of the material is still contained in electrical equipment where it acts as a fire-resistant safety fluid, protecting human lives and property from the danger of fire and explosion."

-more-

Cunningham concluded, "Monsanto will continue its program to control the uses and escape of PCB. To date, we have cut off all sales to paints, plasticizers, sealants, adhesives and all other open-system uses. We are receiving used PCB from customers for regeneration or safe disposal. And we are engaged in an all-out research effort to develop less persistent forms of PCB or suitable substitute products which retain the fire safety features of PCB. We call on other producers, worldwide, to join in this effort."

-oOo-