

SEP 15 1976

EX-100
EACONS

SLANTS & TRENDS

1800
AGREEMENT ON POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS reached between General Electric Co. and New York State (see story page 150) by no means brings the battle over PCBs to a close. Monsanto Co., sole U.S. producer of PCBs, has responded to a Mobil Oil Corp. suggestion that occupational exposure to PCBs causes melanoma and pancreatic cancer (TMN, Sept. 1, 1976, p. 141) by reporting no cases of either disease among workers at the Monsanto PCB manufacturing facility.

MP150

1800 MONSANTO DOUBTS CONCLUSIONS OF MOBIL OIL PCB STUDY

Monsanto Co. study of workers employed at the company's PCB manufacturing facility in Sauget, Ill. has turned up no cases of melanoma or pancreatic cancers -- diseases which Mobil Oil Corp. recently said may be caused by PCB exposure (TMN, Sept. 1, 1976, p. 141).

George Roush, director of Monsanto's medical and environmental health department, said that if either disease were related to PCB exposure as Mobil suggested, the malignancies would also be seen in Monsanto's exposed workforce, which is about four times larger than the population studied by Mobil. "In my opinion," Roush said, "the fact that we found no cases of either of these cancers casts strong doubt that the findings of the Mobil study were in fact related to PCB."

The Monsanto information was based on a review of records of more than 300 current and former employees identified as having worked in the Sauget PCB production unit since 1936. An examination of 50 death certificates, however, showed seven cases of lung cancer. That compares with 2.7 cases that would have been expected. Roush said that this finding may be significant and may well not be. What is needed now is a controlled study of the lung cancer cases. Roush said Monsanto would try to determine smoking habits of the seven workers, and also try to characterize the work experience and exposure before and after working for Monsanto. The company also intends to compare the 7 of 50 rate with the lung cancer mortality rate for the area surrounding the Sauget plant. Roush noted that three of the seven worked in Monsanto's PCB for less than three months.

"There are a lot of things we still don't know and the answers could be extremely significant, especially with a sample this small," he said.