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PCB Press Release

Monsanto Company announced today that it has notified its customers for Therminol FR (fire-resistant) heat-transfer fluids, which contain polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), that sales of these fluids are being discontinued. These fluids are used in closed, recirculating systems in important industries, such as chemical and petroleum processing, where fire prevention is of primary importance. In addition, a plan to terminate by mid-1972 all sales of polychlorinated terphenyls ~~for use as plasticizers and in other open system applications~~ was announced.

C. P. Cunningham, Managing Director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., an operating unit of Monsanto Company, reported that this action had been taken as a part of Monsanto's voluntary program to protect ~~possible contamination of~~ the environment. Some studies have shown that PCB is a persistent chemical which builds up in the environment.

Monsanto has organized a team of experienced engineers to offer free technical advice to customers who convert to other heat-transfer products. Many Therminol FR customers have already converted their heat-transfer systems to other Monsanto products which do not contain PCB.

As part of the close-out of Therminol FR product line, Monsanto will credit customers for the full purchase price of any unused fluids, in unopened drums, returned before March 1, 1972. Freight costs will be paid on any used material drained from the customers' equipment and returned to Monsanto for safe disposal in its recently completed high temperature incineration facility. Monsanto had previously discontinued

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PCB sales for paints, plasticizers, sealants, adhesives and all other open-system uses, and for heat-transfer fluids to customers whose businesses or operations might involve food or animal feed.

Monsanto also announced that sales of PCB for sealed electrical components, such as transformers and capacitators, would be continued, but under strict control arrangements. For safety reasons, many state and local laws require the use of non-flammable fluids in certain electrical equipment. Because there are no substitutes presently available which equal the safety performance of PCB, it is important that sales of PCB should be continued for this purpose.

"With the bulk of the remaining sales of PCB being limited to electrical components, those monitoring this issue will see further reductions in the possibilities of PCB entering into the environment, and consequently public concern about its presence there should be diminished," Cunningham said. He added, "Although Monsanto's voluntary actions to curb the uses and escape of PCB are important, these actions alone will not solve the worldwide problem of PCB in the environment unless other producers follow our leadership."

Monsanto believes that it has been a leader among companies in the chemical industry in its efforts to minimize environmental pollution. During 1971, Monsanto expended about $_____ for pollution control projects and estimates that during the next three years approximately $60 million will be further expended for these projects, excluding operating costs.

Monsanto also ~~confirmed that~~ stated that it is vigorously defending a suit was recently instituted by Holly Farms Poultry Industries, Inc., in Wilkes County, North Carolina, against Monsanto and four other defendants alleging damages resulting from



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the contamination of chicken feed caused by leakage of PCB which was used by other defendants in heat-transfer system. In addition to seeking damages from the other defendants involved in the chicken feed, Holly Farms also seeks compensatory damages from Monsanto aggregating $12 million as well as punitive damages for $50 million. Various other lawsuits and claims have been filed against Monsanto and other parties for milk and animal feed contamination allegedly resulting from PCB. None of these suits have been adjudicated, and Monsanto continues to defend them vigorously.

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