State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Southern District
Route #4
Madison 53711

L. P. Voigt
Secretary

September 9, 1969

Monsanto
Organic Chemicals Division
800 N. Lindberg Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Gentlemen:

We have observed what appears to be polychlorinated bi- and triphynel compounds in fish taken from Lake Michigan and the rivers draining into this body of water. Many of these, as compared with commercial grade products, give the same gas liquid chromatograms as your Aroclor plasticizers.

We do not at present imply that these are the compounds present, nor do we have data which implicates these as detrimental to fish stocks. However, we believe this problem may be serious in combination with other organic contamination and therefore have begun limited studies in an attempt to define the conditions surrounding all chlorinated hydrocarbons. We have contracted with the University of Wisconsin (G. Fred Lee, Water Chemistry Group) for development of analytical procedures, and are at the same time attempting to obtain data on the distribution of these compounds into the aquatic environment. We plan also to do some short and long term studies on the toxicity of chlorinated biphenyls to fish.

We would appreciate obtaining reference samples of each of the major types of Aroclor plasticizers your company manufactures, along with one pound samples of #1221, 1254, 1268 and 5460 to be used in fish exposure studies. We will be pleased to receive your comments in reference to how we can obtain these samples, and further appreciate any information you may be able to give us regarding these compounds in the environment (Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish, Game & Enforcement).

Very truly yours,
Bureau of Fish Management

Paul E. Degurse

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Pathologist

PED:jg

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