Blcc: Dr. D.V.N. Hardy

MR. H.K. NASON, St.Louis (2) 8th September, 1955.

JWB:VEH AROCLOR TOXICOLOGY

cc: Dr. H.R. Newman.

Dear Howard,

You will readily appreciate that we are very much concerned with the toxicology of Aroclors, particularly as our development sales efforts in this field of Monsanto products have, in the last six months or so, really begun to pay off.

Recently we received through Dr. Kelly the findings of the Kettering Laboratory which as far as we were concerned included entirely new data. In particular, the toxicity of Aroclor 1254 was demonstrated with a range of animals at a level of 1.5 mgrm./cu.m. At the same time there was no toxicity found for 1242 at concentration of 1.9 mgrm./cu.m. This in itself might be said to be surprising and perhaps indicate some specific differences between the toxicities of various grades of Aroclor. We would be most anxious to learn from you whether you accept the Kettering results as fully significant in a broad way, and whether this data is going to be made available to all.

Fortunately, our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. H.R. Newman, is visiting St.Louis and will be discussing the significance of this Kettering work with Dr. Kelly. Here there is a convention that a factor of 10 is used in translating animal toxicities to human toxicities. In other words there would be an interpretation that Aroclor 1254 should not be used where atmospheres containing a quantity something less than 0.15 mgrm./cu.m. results.

Both Sales and Development here are very anxious to handle this awkward problem in the right way and to remain in complete liaison with you on actions which might be necessary. Perhaps it is particularly important to us as a very large proportion of our present sales do go to surface coating uses.

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We had been giving consideration to getting some toxicological data established for us on the Aroclors by Battelle in Germany who have good facilities for this type of work. However, we would certainly not do this without full discussion with you. To us there seems the necessity of establishing quite a lot more data and we would be willing to arrange for some of this to be obtained if you think that this is a reasonable suggestion. Dr.Newman's visit is particularly appropriate at this stage and of course it would be possible for me to discuss the matter broadly during my visit in late October. However, meanwhile we would be most grateful to gain as much of the M.C.C. point of view as possible.

J.W. BARRETT.

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