Monsanto Curbs Its PCB

Monsanto Chemical Company doesn't like the way one of its chemicals has been acting, and has decided to put some restrictions on it. The company, only American producer of polychlorinated biphenyl, has just put sales curbs on the chemical because of increasing evidence that it can cause birth defects in animals.

Under Monsanto's new control plan, the product, known around as PCB, will no longer be sold for use as a water-resistant plasticizer or as an hydraulic brake fluid.

The latest move adds to previous restrictions on PCB use. Last Spring, becoming wary of the product, the St. Louis, Mo., producer had asked the Department of Agriculture to bar its use in pesticides.

Monsanto says it will continue to produce PCB for use as a coolant in electrical transformers because of its "unique properties" and because its emission into the environment can be controlled in a closed system, such as a transformer.

Monsanto has been making PCB for forty years under the brand name "Aroclor." The chemical is similar to DDT in that it resists biological breakdown.

But, despite the product's use for four decades, there have recently been increasing reports that PCB was being found in fish, birds, fruit, and even, in very tiny quantities, in human milk.

Large doses of PCB, the scientific fraternity thinks, affect the enzymes and sex hormones in certain animals.

The principal use of PCB has always been as a lubricant in transformers, the use for which Monsanto will still

Continued on Page 26

BASF Reports It Will Do Nothing About Port Victoria in 1970-1971

TARTAR
CHEMICAL
METIC
WDER
RTARS
Corporation
N. Y. 10017

...ger construction at Pfizer plants in ... and Wallingford, Conn., Terre Haute, Ind., Brooklyn, N.Y., Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and India.

Monsanto Curbs Its PCB

Continued from Page 3

make it. The chemical also finds its way into a number of paints and adhesives which require a high degree of corrosive resistance.

Several years ago, Monsanto gave the product a hard push and began to sell it for use in such materials as floor waxes, outdoor paints and caulking compounds.

Last week, Monsanto refused to make public a list of all products now containing PCB, arguing that such a report could "serve no useful, non-political purpose."

Hadn't Known of Pesticide Use

A company spokesman said last week that the company had not known until a short time ago that the chemical was being used as a pesticide.

Department of Agriculture says PCB has been used in at least eight different pesticides. It is now under "exhaustive review" by the department, but there has been no official action against it.

Congressman William F. Ryan of New York, who has been pressing a campaign against PCB, said last week that he is not entirely satisfied with Monsanto's action, and hopes that even further restrictions will be placed on the material.

Mr. Ryan is also urging USDA to reject any insecticide containing PCB, and is also asking that any product containing the material be so labeled.

...Hearing Off

...abu...
Bu...
subjec...
tive agr...
and shar...

Intra-U...

A. H. ...
the "Dalk...
contracepti...
rights to ...
Greenwich...
amount of...

OIL, PAINT
THE Chemic...
Vol. 198 No. 3

eth...
T...

F...
bu...
allo...
will...
year...
misti...
lion...

MONS 028943