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Monsanto Study Finds No PCB-Related Cancer

Monsanto Company reported last week that it found no cases of either malignant melanoma or pancreatic cancer among current or former employees engaged in the production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) at its William Krummrich plant in Sauget, Ill.

Preliminary information, announced by Dr. George Roush, director of the company's Medical & Environmental Health Department, was released in response to questions prompted by a recent Mobil Oil Corporation study which reported finding three cases of melanoma and two cases of pancreatic cancer among seventy-two employees who had been exposed to a PCB product while working at a Mobil plant in New Jersey.

The Monsanto statement was based on a review of the records of more than 300 current and former employees who have been identified as having worked in the PCB production unit, dating back to 1936 when that unit first went into operation.

Dr. Roush said that if either melanoma or pancreatic cancer were related to PCB exposure as the Mobil report suggested, then it would follow that these malignancies would have been noticed in a worker population over four times as large.