Mr. John Nelson - DCR

APR 13 1970

WILLIAM F. RYAN
20th District, New York

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1842 St. Theresa Avenue
(At 183rd Street)
New York, New York 10453
ADams-4-6700

April 9, 1970

Mr. Edward J. Bock
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Bock:

Scientific research has indicated that Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are an environmental hazard. PCBs and their residues are toxic to fish and wildlife and have been found in human fat. I understand that the Monsanto Company is the sole manufacturer of PCBs in the United States under the trade name of AROCLOR.

In view of the threat of PCBs to the global ecosystem, I have called for an immediate investigation of the nature and extent of the threat by appropriate Federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, the National Commission on Product Safety.

I urge the Monsanto Company to cooperate fully with all scientists and governmental agencies investigating PCBs.

I request that Monsanto inform me immediately of its annual production and sales figures for each year since 1940 for each of its two plants in the United States and its plant in England. These figures are necessary so that scientists can determine the extent to which PCBs are getting into the environment.

I believe it is also necessary for Monsanto to state clearly whether during the manufacturing process AROCLOR is released to the environment, and in what form and quantities, and what control measures are in effect or being developed.

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I believe that Monsanto should also release to the public a complete list of the uses of AROCLOR, as well as the names of the products and their manufacturers, so that consumers can be aware of the presence of PCBs. I also ask for a list of all Monsanto products containing AROCLOR. And Monsanto should make sure that all companies which use AROCLOR label their products accordingly.

In its Technical Bulletin, O/PL-306, Monsanto offered five separate bulletins to give additional information for uses in resins, chlorinated rubber, emulsion adhesives, protective coatings, modifers for polysulfides, fire-retarding plasticizers and wax compounds. I would appreciate receiving copies of each of those five bulletins as well as all other written material used to promote the sale and use of AROCLOR.

As the sole manufacturer of PCBs in the United States, Monsanto has grave responsibilities to the world population. I hope Monsanto will meet its responsibilities and without delay provide me with responsive replies to the questions which I have raised.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

William F. Ryan
Member of Congress

WFR/sp