Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): B. M. Davidson

DATE: September 23, 1976

SUBJECT: BIPHENYL SITUATION IN DALTON, GA.

REFERENCE:

TO: J. C. Reno

CC: D. Bowen, Jr.
C. L. Clay
R. M. Conwill
H. B. English
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D&F Tech Service

According to various sources, the biphenyl-carrier-for-polyester uproar owes its origin to W-BLJ AM radio in Dalton. In an open letter to Governor Busbee (editorialized in the "Dalton Citizen" and over Station W-BLJ), a Mr. Warner Watzman indicts the carpet industry for capriciously dumping biphenyl, trichlorobenzene and methyl naphthalene carriers into the atmosphere and rivers in the Dalton area. Apparently, Mr. Watzman has linked the Rome PCB problem to biphenyl use in Dalton. A copy of this latter is being obtained. I have had it read to me over the phone and in the letter, the author makes numerous, untrue, unsupportable statements.

The management of Chemical Processing of Georgia, a maker of biphenyl carriers, intends to meet with Mr. Watzman in an attempt to get the source of his allegations.

In related areas, the following was found:

- Coronet was cited by OSHA for dryer-stack biphenyl emissions; engineering studies (only) to be completed by Jan. 1, 1977. It was rumored that G.E., having been cited for PCB pollution, had, in turn, pointed the finger towards Dalton maintaining that Biphenyls plus chlorine were undergoing photosynthesis to produce chlorinated biphenyls.
- Ster Finishing expects the Coronet citation to have a bearing on their back business, much of which is polyester for J.P. Stevens.
- World Carpet has recently completed questionnaires for EPA and expects a return visit in the near future.
- Crest Finishers has heard rumors that there would be restrictions on use of biphenyl carriers.
- Magee, at Perry, Ga., has heard no rumors at all.
- However, West Point understands that the EPA has no program in the works to control, limit or force elimination of biphenyl carriers, currently.
- There is a second-hand rumor that Eastman expects to produce only Kodel V in carpet deniers by Jan. 1, 1977; preferably D43, a bright luster product, instead of D42, a dull flat-appearing fiber.
- DuPont is really putting a push on Dacron D762, which is being marketed as carrierless dyeable and as possessing better fiber physicals than Kodel V.
- Biphenyl has a biodegradability of 72 hours, according to Sun Chemical (copy of report is in mail to me).
- Diphenyl oxide, a weaker carrier, has a reported biodegradability of 24 hours; several companies have carriers based on diphenyl oxide.

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Dr. Wayne Tincher, who produced a study at Ga. Tech on the biphenyl pollution situation in 1973, has been commissioned to do further investigative studies on biphenyls, and the possibilities of auto-chlorination in the rivers and streams feeding the Coose River Basin.

In an allied area of EPA, the following companies have been cited for excessive boiler-stack emissions, while burning #6 fuel oil:

West Point Pepperell
Shaw Industries
E. T. Barwick

John, when the articles referred to above are received, copies will be forwarded to you.

B. M. Davidson

BMD:am

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