SEP 24 19[illegible]

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): E. H. Harbison, Jr. - B3SA

DATE: September 23, 1976

CC: Mr. R. G. Potter

SUBJECT: BIPHENYL PLANT - ANNISTON

REFERENCE:

TO: Mr. F. J. Fitzgerald

File

Referencing your memo of September 8, subject as above, I understand your commitment to Mr. Mahoney. Let me bring you up to date as to where we stand.

The so-called "biphenyl task force" has been meeting over the past several months and has reached a set of conclusions. I have reviewed these with Mr. Potter, given him my comments and expect to be able to discuss them with you within the next 10 days.

We have a complex issue tying together European and US demand for the various biphenyl derivative products and trying to measure the viability of both production sources, namely, Newport and Anniston. It certainly appears that Anniston will remain a viable production facility, at least for the next few years, irrespective of what we decide the solution to the European situation is.

Therefore, I believe that once we have reviewed the situation we can proceed to give Mr. Mahoney specifics on our continued operation. Incidentally, we are on the precise timetable we set forth with MAP, and their people from Anniston have been involved throughout the planning process. Further, I have talked to Jim Senger on several occasions making clear to him (at least I thought so) that we were proceeding on schedule.

Earle H. Harbison, Jr.

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