THE PCB-POLLUTION PROBLEM
SUMMARY OF JANUARY 21 AND 22, 1970
ST. LOUIS MEETING WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

I. Monsanto has highly sophisticated capability, not surpassed by others to detect PCBs in the parts per billion range.

II. Aroclor 1254 and 1260 are being found, especially in aquatic environment. Aroclor 1242 and lower chlorinated PCBs are not being observed.

III. Studies are underway to better define the possible biodegradeability of lower chlorinated PCBs.

IV. Literature citations indicate that tri and tetra chlorobenzene do not biodegrade, however, they are not being identified in the environment.

V. PCBs have been brought into hearings proposing restrictions or elimination of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides. PCBs are incriminated by association subject to rechecking.

VI. Due to combustibility of arc-formed gas, GE will not use Aroclor 1242 nor any blend with less than near a 1 to 1 ratio of chlorine to hydrogen, for transformers. This judgement is based on GE legal people citations of precedent court actions assigning liability against GE for transformer accidents.

VII. As no suitable replacement for GE's transformer Pyranol blends are foreseen, GE seeks that Monsanto take no precipitous reaction to the PCB problem that would result in withdrawing supply of Aroclor 1254 or 1260 to GE.

VIII. In reply to Monsanto's legal question whether with continued use of Aroclor 1254 and 1260, GE would assume sole and complete liability -- their spokesman answered No! He cited legal case examples to substantiate his response.

IX. GE strongly seeks to continue manufacture of askarel type transformers because in many applications this apparatus cannot be replaced with mineral oil types, nor with open or sealed dry types.

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X. GE urges control of the PCB problem through accumulation and proper disposal of "scrap". Incineration, distillation, catalytic and bio breakdown are to be investigated by Monsanto.

XI. At the present time, land-fills continue as our sole disposal for arced or "poor quality" transformer askarels.

P. G. Benignus

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