Monsanto

FROM (NAME—LOCATION—PHONE) J. H. Craddock - General Offices A2SA (4-4764)

DATE : September 1, 1982 CC:

SUBJECT : PCB Incident - Contra Costa County, California

REFERENCE : Response to Chem-Trec Inquiry to Monsanto Security Department 12:30 a.m. 9/1/82

TO : File

Received phone call from Monsanto Security at 12:30 a.m. regarding a possible PCB spill in California. Chem-Trec requested we contact Sheriff Young at the Sheriff's Department in Contra Costa County, California (415)778-2441. Message was somewhat confusing and garbled. According to Chem-Trec, a person purchased four drums of oil labeled "Monsanto Askeral" from a transformer repair facility 7 years ago. The intent was to use the oil to coat roads for dust control. The material was not used and was stored outside during this period of time. Sunday some of the drums began leaking, apparently from age and rust. California Sheriff's Department was notified and declared it, essentially, a possible major PCB emergency.

I phoned the Sheriff's Department and found out there was no Sheriff Young but did talk to a Ms. Ingrim, Supervisor of Radio Dispatch. She confirmed many of the elements of the Chem-Trec report. Her question was, "Did the drums contain PCB's?" I informed her that the drums may or may not contain PCB's, and the only way to actually find out was by analysis. Since the drums were used to transport waste material, and the waste material could have been any electrical oil, including mineral oil, I suggested that they contain the flow since it was very slow, by simple earthen dikes, and they should contact a waste disposal company capable of pumping the material out of the remaining drums.

I did suggest a quick and direct test to determine if the material may have a high concentration of PCB's or other chlorinated organic compounds. This would give them some feel as to the seriousness of the problem based on the quantity of PCB's. I suggested they check to see if the material floated or sunk in water. PCB's (and other chlorinated organics) should rapidly sink to bottom intact.

I left my office phone number should they have other questions.

J. H. Craddock 12kr

J. H. Craddock

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