April 29, 1970

Dr. Albey M. Reiner
University of California
Department of Bacteriology
and Immunology
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Dr. Reiner:

Your letter concerning microbial degradation of PCB's addressed to Mr. E. V. John was forwarded to me since I am involved in the overall PCB situation for Monsanto.

We are, of course, interested in microbial degradation of PCB's and have studies underway. Preliminary data indicates that the lower chlorinated biphenyls will respond to degradation, particularly to micro-organisms acclimated to biphenyl. The higher chlorinated biphenyls are highly resistant to degradation.

We do not have any PCB derivatives which can be considered water soluble. The products we sell have solubilities in the range of 50 to 200 parts per billion. The lower chlorinated are in the upper range; the higher chlorinated are less soluble and are in the lower range.

Under separate cover, I am sending samples of Biphenyl and Aroclors 1221, 1242 and 1260. The Aroclors are commercial mixtures of PCB's. The last two digits represent the per cent by weight of chlorine; e.g. Aroclor 1221 is a mixture of chlorinated biphenyls (1 chlorine, 2 chlorine, 3 chlorine, etc.) with a total chlorine content of 21% by weight.

I hope these samples are useful in your studies. I would appreciate very much any information regarding the progress of your studies.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Control

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