MITSUBISHI MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY

FROM LOCATION Tokyo

DATE June 19, 1970

SUBJECT PCB AND MERCURY TOXICITY

REFERENCE

cc: Messrs.
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TO Mr. K. Murakami
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Disposal studies are incomplete at Monsanto. The best recommendation now is disposal in drums in land fill, but this method is hardly practical in Japan.

Tests of incineration are incomplete. Apparently, PCB's are not completely broken down by incineration temperatures as high as 1800°F. Biodegradable Arocloes are limited to products up to 1242, but even the standard 1242 has higher boiling fractions which do not degrade, so a new 1242B is under study (all higher ends stripped out by fractional distillation). Above Arocler 1262 and in the terphenyl series 5435 and 5460, the products apparently are too insoluble and do not migrate. However, research and engineering studies are still continuing to finally define the limits of use.

We have an analytical method for PCB's in plant effluent. What are the current readings for Yokkaichi?

Mercury is under increasing public pressure in the U.S.A. For comparison with Monsanto, please let me have figures showing the discharge of Mercury from the Yokkaichi MMK plant in kilograms per month. What reduction will be achieved when we are treating wastes more fully by reduction and sulfide separation?

J. R. Darland

JRD:fh