

DATE:

February 12, 1981

SUBJECT:

PCBs

REFERENCE:

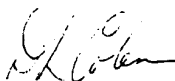
TO:

John Craddock
Piles

Catherine Hartnett, the Office of Environmental Affairs, Coordination for Peabody Claims Service, called February 6 referred by John Craddock. She is inquiring about testing to be done on individuals who have exposure or potential exposures to PCB's in the handling of spills.

I gave her a short background of PCB accumulation in the body, stressing the fact that both blood and fat samples will show in unexposed people a background level and gave her those levels. I also referred her to Metpath Laboratories, if she wished to have standards as they have done extensive PCB blood and tissue testing and have developed some ranges of normal. The information was relayed to her that chloracne is one of the first things to indicate exposure and accumulation to an effect level and that this is not something that can be done in a laboratory test. I also pointed out that liver function changes have been associated with PCB accumulation in the past and therefore liver profiles of people prior to exposure, if they are working regularly, are somewhat regularly, in the clean-up of PCB cells should be done and followed as an annual routine with little likelihood that they will have any changes from PCB based on the fact that they are working with protective equipment and clothing to avoid contamination.

She was thankful for the information and stated that it was difficult to reach anyone who could give nonhysterical answers to these types of questions.



Donald L. Coleman, M.D.

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