Monsanto

PCB-U.K. JUN 6 1973

FROM (LOCATION): Ruabon

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DATE: May 29th, 1973

SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT - MAY 1973

REFERENCE: HAV/HH

TO: R.A. BAXTER.

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS, EUROPE

Dielectrics

A second trial run to produce Aroclor 1242 E1 by the new process failed to produce the product within specification (tan δ <2%). This may be due to residual contamination in the equipment and further trials are planned.

At a meeting with a senior representative of the Israel Electric Corporation we were able to allay some fears that Pyroclor posed a major toxicological hazard.

Dye Carriers

A meeting was held with Giba-Geigy (Manchester) to discuss technical requirements for dye carriers. They are interested in carriers for special applications and rate self-emulsification or partial water solubility as highly desirable characteristics.

PCB Environmental

Inveresk Research have reported their results of accumulation of PCBs in crustacea, fish and plants in fresh-water aquaria. They compare Aroclor 1242 with Aroclor 1254 at levels (calculated input) of 40 and 400 ppb respectively. There is considerable background interference with their results and insufficient results for statistical interpretation; but trends seem to indicate accumulation of 1254 with significant change in chromatogram patterns for 1242.

At a meeting with the U.K. Department of the Environment we discussed the effects of the recent OECD PCB recommendation. The most controversial item appears to be that all PCB containing products, presumably including small capacitors should be labelled. At the next OECD meeting the U.K. delegates will ask for clarification of this point since at previous meetings this had been regarded as impracticable.

Hydraulic Fluids

We met Professor Benthe, consultant toxicologist to the German Mines, to discuss his work. He has continued to look at effect on rats of breathing PCB aerosols. He maintains that aerosols of low chlorine PCBs do not pose serious chronic toxicological problems and that they are metabolised or excreted fairly rapidly from the animals. He therefore continues to recommend mining fluids based on trichloro-biphenyls (similar to Aroclor 1016) and reported that Bayer have submitted Elaol fluids which appear to be equivalent to the Monsanto product. Even if phosphate ester fluids were acceptable on fire resistance, which would require a modified fire-test, he would still be required to test them for neurotoxicity effects. The protocol for such tests will be established at meetings of the E.E.C. mining authorities in June.

H.A. VODDEN