Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) E. V. John - World Headquarters - C2SE

DATE July 20, 1971

SUBJECT

REFERENCE

TO Mr. William B. Papageorge

cc: Mr. John R. Eck
Mr. Charles J. Smith
Mr. Phocion S. Park
Mr. Elmer P. Wheeler
Mr. John J. Spano
Mr. Melvin L. Sutherland
Mr. Richard J. Kotnour

Attached is our Q&A covering the PCB Chicken Incident. If you or the carbonees have comments, please call me at 4-2891.

Ed. John

E. V. John

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QUESTION 1: The FDA today pulled thousands of chickens off the market because they were contaminated with PCB. Since Monsanto is the only U.S. producer of PCB, what is the company's reaction?

ANSWER: We firmly endorse the FDA's action as a precautionary measure.

Monsanto was instrumental in isolating the problem which involved use of PCB in a sterilizing process or unit. We then decided to take responsible action.

As soon as we became aware of the problem we took two steps:

1. We informed the FDA.
2. We contacted the producer to tell him we had alerted the FDA.

QUESTION 2: What happened to Monsanto's program to control PCB that allowed this to happen?

ANSWER: We have continually said that PCB is safe when used in closed systems, is properly handled and disposed of. When we discovered the fluid was being used in an improper application, we immediately took the actions described earlier.

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QUESTION 3: Wasn't East Coast Terminal notified they should not use this fluid in a feed application?

ANSWER: All containers of PCB are plainly marked with a warning label alerting the user to proper handling and disposal of PCB material.

(QUESTIONABLE: In addition, the manufacturer of their oven equipment was sent two letters which outlined our PCB environmental program. One of these letters specifically warned against use of the heating fluid in closed-system heat-transfer applications where food was being processed.) Food

QUESTION 4: Did they ignore your warnings?

ANSWER: Evidently.

QUESTION 5: East Coast Terminal says a Monsanto salesman was at the scene when the fluid was put into the system.

ANSWER: We have confirmed this also. The East Coast Terminal system was filled early in 1970, just as our final PCB environmental protection program was being formulated -- and before contacts were made with our customers.

At that time, East Coast Terminal was not a Monsanto customer.

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QUESTION 6: Why didn't you follow up and check on East Coast Terminal?

ANSWER: At the first indication of improper use, we did follow up by identifying the trouble and by notifying the FDA and the plant location.

QUESTION 7: When did you do this?

ANSWER: Last week -- July 16.

QUESTION 8: Why didn't you follow up when you first noticed East Coast Terminal was ordering a product being used in an improper application -- back in May or June, or earlier?

ANSWER: We are investigating this now. Of course, our first reaction was to alert the proper authorities of the potential problem and to urge the producer to correct the problem.

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