July 16, 1969

Joseph C. Street
Professor, Dept. of Animal Science
College of Agriculture
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84321

Dear Professor Street:

Dr. Cummings Paton has asked me to reply to your letter to him of July 3.

We are extremely appreciative of your thoughtfulness in informing us of the paper which you have submitted for the next meeting of the American Chemical Society. As you can imagine, we are very interested in learning of new research efforts that are underway concerning the polychlorinated biphenyls.

I am sorry that we can not provide at this time pure isomers of the various chlorinated biphenyls. We are investigating the possibility of separation techniques since a number of laboratories and agencies have asked us for pure isomers. In our own rather extensive sampling and analytical program, we are using the technical materials for reference.

Perhaps you would be interested in learning that we have a number of toxicity and research projects underway. These include two year chronic feeding studies in rats and dogs; three generation rat reproduction studies; studies with chickens to determine possible toxicity effects on the birds, egg production, hatchability of eggs, viability of chicks, egg shell thickness and calcium and phosphorus content. The above studies include three dietary levels and controls. In the case of the rat work sufficient numbers have been included to allow sacrifice of a significant number at three months, six months and twelve months.

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We have discussed with our toxicological consultants the question of undertaking studies relating to the induction of hepatic microsomal enzymes. For the time being we have decided that more toxicity data based on the usual parameters for establishing a "no effect" level would be helpful.

We learned recently of one study abroad where chickens fed a diet containing 100 ppm of 60% chlorinated biphenyl for a year showed no gross effects. Unfortunately, the study was not as comprehensive as we have undertaken and would not include the parameters mentioned above in connection with our studies with chickens.

I expect that some time this summer Dr. Robert E. Keller, Manager of Applied Sciences for our Organic Chemistry Division, and I will attempt to set up an itinerary to allow visits to those scientists who have contacted us about the PCB situation. We obviously would hope to include a visit with you and will write you further as our plans develop.

Very truly yours,

Elmer P. Wheeler
Manager, Environmental Health

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c.c. Dr. Cummings Paton

b.c. R. E. Keller
W. R. Richard

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