15-31C PETROCHEMICAL NEWS
WKLY.

SEP 6 1976

CLIPPED BY BACONS

1200

MONSANTO DOUBTS PCB ROLE IN DEATHS FROM 2 CANCER FORMS

St. Louis—Monsanto Co. said Friday that, in a preliminary check of current or former employes who have worked in manufacturing polychlorinated biphenyls for Monsanto since 1936, it turned up no cases of either malignant melanoma or pancreatic cancer.

The information, according to Monsanto's medical director, Dr. George Roush, was being disclosed in response to media questions prompted by a Mobil study at its Paulsboro, New Jersey, refinery (PCN, 23 Aug 76, p 4).

If either of the forms of cancer were related to PCB exposure, as the Mobil report suggests, Dr. Roush said, "then it would follow that these malignancies would also have been seen in a worker population over four times as large" and "the fact that we have found no cases of either of these cancers casts strong doubt that the findings of the Mobil study were in fact related to PCB."

Dr. Roush said, however, that the incidence of lung cancer among deceased former employes of Monsanto's PCB facilities was seven cases out of 50 deaths, compared with the 2.7 cases that would have been expected under the National Cancer Institute's compilation for 1969.

He emphasized, however, that the lung-cancer data had not been corrected for age differences with the national survey, and that this correction could make a significant change in the conclusion. =