The presence of materials identified as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in marine environments was first noted by Professors O. Widmark and S. Jensen of the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Stockholm, Sweden, and reported in November, 1966. Since then and with increasing frequency other investigators have identified PCB in marine and animal life. Mounting evidence has been noted that indicates PCB is ubiquitously present in the environment and is harmful to a few specific species of wildlife. In July, 1970, the Food & Drug Administration issued guidelines to its field offices establishing upper limits of PCB content of 0.2 ppm in milk and 5.0 ppm in food. Milk or food exceeding these limits is subject to confiscation.

Lacking an acceptable substitute and recognizing that the benefits of askarels which contain PCB far outweigh the potential threat to the environment, the manufacturer (Monsanto Company) and the users of askarels are committed to a self-imposed program of tightly controlling the use of PCB to dramatically reduce the amount escaping to the environment. Failing to achieve this objective will be interpreted as evidence that these members of industry are not responsive to the welfare of the environment and provide the incentive for regulatory agencies, both state and federal, to take precipitous drastic actions.