1. When did Aroclor first go on the market? Did this precede or follow the manufacture of PCB in Europe and Japan?

2. May we have a copy of your Bulletin O/PL-306, which we understand lists the products for which PCB is used?

ANSWER:

Supplies of the Monsanto Bulletin O/PL-306 were exhausted a few months ago and the bulletin is being reprinted. It should be understood that most of our bulletins suggest many possible applications of the product. To our knowledge, however, the products are not used in all of these applications. As we have already stated, the principal market for polychlorinated biphenyls is in electrical applications where the insulating fluids used in transformers and capacitors are completely sealed. In another major market, heat-transfer applications, the fluid is used in completely closed systems. PCBs may also be incorporated into a polymer, these polymers being used in highly specialized applications.

3. At which Monsanto plants is Aroclor manufactured?

ANSWER:

Monsanto presently manufactures its Aroclor products at plants located in Sauget, Ill., and Anniston, Ala. The manufacturing operations are strictly monitored and every effort is made at these locations to prevent any loss of these materials to the environment.

4. Have you monitored emissions at those plants for the presence of PCB? If so, what were the results?

5. Does Monsanto itself incorporate PCB into some of its other products? If so, at which plants? And have emissions from these plants been monitored for the presence of PCB? With what results?

ANSWER:

Monsanto does incorporate some of its Aroclor products into other Monsanto products at ~~in~~ the locations mentioned above. Again, these manufacturing facilities are monitored for any possible loss of these materials.

6. We would be pleased to receive any additional information, such as scientific reports, advertising copy, or any other material you may have on PCB.

7. Could you tell us what control measures you use to keep the PCB concentrations below the TLV in the plant atmosphere?

MONS 093936

8. Is PCB an environmental contaminant?

ANSWER:

Since PCBs are chlorinated hydrocarbons, there is the possibility that they could be environmental contaminants. This, of course, would depend on their biodegradibility. Monsanto is concerned with this possible environmental situation and is fully cooperating with scientific laboratories in developing ~~former~~ information about its contamination capability. In addition, we have begun preliminary biodegradibility studies which we are hopeful will clearly demonstrate this phenomenon relative to PCBs.

9. How does it reach the open environment?

ANSWER:

Early scientific theories indicate that the source of PCBs must be industrial wastes. Most scientists, however, have not yet accumulated enough data to indict commercially produced PCB as a pollutant. As we mentioned above, Monsanto's manufacturing operations were immediately investigated following the first indications that PCBs were reaching the environment. These investigations showed that certain manufacturing processes should be tightened in order to eliminate any possible escape of this material.

10. Is PCB hazardous to wildlife?

ANSWER:

All scientific data to date indicates that PCBs are not hazardous to wildlife. There is some evidence that residues of pesticides DDT and DDE and polychlorinated biphenyls were xxx threatening reproductive cycles of certain birds in the San Francisco Bay area. PCBs became involved in this study while scientists were analyzing pesticide residues. We believe that some qualified scientists have correctly identified PCB in the environment but to date, we have no evidence as to its harmful effect on wildlife.

MONS 093939

11. Does PCB present any risk to humans?

ANSWER:

It is our belief that PCBs are not highly toxic substances and do not present risk to humans. This belief is based only on very preliminary laboratory studies and should not be considered our final judgment. It will require much more scientific investigation and laboratory experiments to reach this kind of conclusion.