Monsanto

SEP 22 1976

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): David Wood-St. Louis-B2SD

DATE: September 20, 1976

SUBJECT: PCB PLANT DECONTAMINATION
CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE:

cc: C. Paton
R. A. Pohl
A. Leisy-1740
J. C. Weber
W. W. Withers-B2SA

TO:

T. H. Lafferre
B2SB

This week we received a request from Westinghouse, S. Boston, for advice on eliminating PCB contamination from their transformer oil treatment facility which has been cross-contaminated from the PCB filling line.

Previously, Aerovox have asked if we will be able to help them with equipment decontamination when they phase out of PCBs.

I expect more requests of this nature as our customers phase out. I would like to establish a Monsanto position to guide our handling of such requests.

Recommendation

1. We should be prepared to tell our customers what procedures we will use to decontaminate our plant for disposal and ensure that they recognize that these may differ from those required to prepare equipment to process their chosen non-PCB impregnant.

2. We should review PCB detection methods in various solvents which may be used and help alert the laboratories carrying out sample analysis for our customers to any modifications required versus detection in water. ASTM (D3304)

3. We should limit assistance to Items 1 and 2.

4. We will avoid assuming liability for both non-PCB capacitor performance/residual PCB levels at customers plants.

DSW 283359

IN - 19 REV. 1 72

Alternative Approaches

1. Refuse to involve ourselves in any way.

   Rejected:

   -This would hinder orderly phase out and create considerable ill will.
   -It could reflect badly on our corporate image, if publicized.

2. Establish a program to volunteer assistance with all customers in handling their specific decontamination problems.

   Rejected:

   -Would require additional temporary man power.
   -Could result in liability for results.
   -We are not sufficiently knowledgeable of customer plant details to offer meaningful help.

David Wood

/deb

DSW 283360