Monsanto

FROM (NAME-LOCATION-PHONE) D. Wood - B2SD

DATE : November 27, 1978

SUBJECT : PCB FRONTENAC

REFERENCE :

cc: R. C. Isham
F. G. Wohlschlaeger
J. G. Ortiz
R. A. Pohl

TO : E. T. Mollica

Issue

On Nov. 21st Channels 2 & 4 carried an item on a 10,000 gallon tank containing oil contaminated with PCB located in Frontenac beside a creek which runs through Frontenac and Ladue. The tank is corroding and PCB could leak into the creek this winter. Kansas City EPA have warned the Mayor of Frontenac of the potential hazard but point out that incineration facilities are not available for the product's destruction at this time. If the tank leaks we could suffer adverse PCB publicity even though the product is not owned by Monsanto. However, beyond that point there is a problem in our local community which we are equipped to resolve and from a sense of community service we should take positive steps to assist the Frontenac community.

Recommendation

1. We approach the Mayor of Frontenac to offer our assistance in reviewing the options open to him and to gather further information on the stored waste oil, e.g. ownership of tank, product, land, etc. I suggest that initial contact be made by myself and Fred Wohlschlaeger.

2. If the waste can be readily drummed and the tank prepared for uplift and landfill we should offer assistance in terms of manpower from WGK, drums and supervision to stabilize the situation before bad weather sets in. We should be prepared to allocate $10-$15,000 to this operation.

3. I propose that we would store the drummed waste at WGK pending availability of permitted incineration capability. We should not take title to the waste oil. And the owner should agree to pay for and arrange incineration as soon as possible. The cost of storage tank disposal should be covered by the owner of the tank.

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4. We should touch base with Kansas City EPA to clear drumming procedure.

5. We will film drumming operation.

Action Requested

1. Permission to contact Frontenac authorities to gather more data.

2. Authority to reserve $15,000 in November against possible costs of exercise.

3. Authority to commit Monsanto resources to assist Frontenac, if preliminary investigation shows no hidden major liability issues.

4. Support of qualified manufacturing/engineering personnel to inspect storage tank and recommend clean up procedure.

Alternatives Considered

1. Ignore the issue. Rejected because of possibility of PCB spill pollution incident which we are in a position to prevent.

2. Offer advice to Frontenac without further offer to physically help resolve problem. Rejected, because if we wish to effectively resolve the issue we must ensure that our advice will be followed promptly before the winter weather causes further deterioration in the condition of the tank.

D. Wood

D. Wood

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