Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Jack T. Garrett, Medical Department

DATE August 26, 1969 CC:

SUBJECT

REFERENCE

TO : Elmer P. Wheeler

On Wednesday, August 20, B. T. Dean of Pensacola called and told me that the following morning at 9:00 a.m. Wayne Tisedale and Don Brown of the two pollution control agencies of Florida wanted to talk to him about the Aroclor 1254 problem with shrimp being investigated by Drs. Hopkins and Dukes. Dr. Hopkins is the head of the Biology Department of Western Florida University and Dr. Dukes is a Research Biologist with the U. S. Department of Interiors, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Dean wanted to know what to reveal to these two officials. At the same time Dean told me that the in-bay shrimp season had recently opened in the Escambia Bay. Newspapers had noted that there was virtually no shrimp being caught and the largest catch caught to date was five pounds. Dean had apparently talked to you briefly just before he talked to me.

I tried to contact Phocian Park of the Law Department to advise Dean on the legal problems that might be encountered. Mr. Park was on vacation as well as many other legal department people. I finally called the Textiles Division Law Department director in New York, Mr. R. E. O'Leary. Mr. O'Leary immediately exhibited interest because of the possible damage implications of the Pensacola Plant being accused of damaging the shrimp and fish. O'Leary said that one of his staff lawyers, Dwight Miller, was in the Southeast on another problem and he would send him to Pensacola immediately to consult with Dean and Sterling Turner, Public Relations man for the Pensacola Plant, who will also meet with the two officials.

I contacted John Spano of Public Relations and filled him in and he told me to inform Tom Ford who was handling the problem. Mr. Ford would consult with Sterling Turner and this was subsequently done.

I tried to contact Bill Richards of the Organic Division and found he was in Howard Bergen's office. I tried to contact Mr. Bergen and his phone was constantly busy

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so I went to his office and discussed the problem with him and Bill Richards. We subsequently came to my office along with Mr. Ford and the Public Relations St. Louis representative from the Textiles Division. There was eventually in the meeting Mr. Bergen, Mr. Richards, Mr. Springate, and Mr. Hodges, all of the Organic Division, Mr. Ford, and the Textiles representative from the Public Relations Department, and for awhile Mr. Spano. We called Mr. Dean and Mr. O'Leary several times to settle on what general approach Dean and Turner should make to the state agencies and what answers they would give to specific questions. We composed the following questions and answers:

1. The general approach should be our continuous cooperation with these agencies and to answer their questions but not offer a great deal of information or comment.

2. Ask the two gentlemen what specifically they want.

3. If they ask the question, "what is the material?", our answer should be that "we are told it is Aroclor 1254. We have not confirmed this. We have at present samples and we will inform you when we get results".

4. If they ask the question, "do you use this material in your plant?", the answer should be "yes, in very minor quantities as a lubricant."

5. If they ask the question, "how much do you use?", the answer should be "one to four gallons a day at most".

6. If they ask the question, "have you stopped using it?", answer "yes".

7. If they ask the question, "are you putting it in your deep well?", answer "no".

8. If they ask the question, "does this material biodegrade?", answer that "we have studies underway to determine this".

9. If they ask the question, "how long have you been using this material?", answer "since 1966".

10. If they ask the question, "do you know any other sources in the Escampia River or Pensacola Bay?", answer that "we do not know".

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On Thursday morning the 21st, Mr. Turner and Mr. Dean met with the two state authorities and answered their questions with no difficulty. The meeting was amiable and the state authorities thanked Monsanto for its cooperation. They, in fact, asked no particularly embarrassing questions. Mr. Brown did bring up an interesting point, however. He stated that Dr. Duke told him that on August 16 he took a bottom mud sample one-fourth mile below our plant outfall and analyzed it for PCB. The analysis showed 436 ppm of Aroclor 1254.

Jack T. Garrett

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