Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) A. W. M. Coaker - St. Louis Organic Research

DATE : October 27, 1970

cc: J. R. Darby Res. 1
M. W. Farrar Res. 1
R. V. Johnson RJOHN

SUBJECT : FULVIC ACID--DIALKYL PHTHALATE COMPLEXES AND THEIR ROLE IN POLLUTION

REFERENCE : G. Ogner and M. Schnitzer, Humic Substances, etc., Science Magazine, 10/16/70

TO :

E. Muschick
EMUSC

Mike, this article is very puzzling. What the authors have shown is that four phthalate esters constituted a minuscule amount, up to 0.03 per cent by weight, of some fulvic acid extracted from a podzol soil (usually formed under a coniferous forest in a cold, moist climate).

Any relationship between this fact and pollution is pure speculation and they brought forth no correlating data.

The authors cite references which they say show that DOP and/or DBP are toxic to rats, rabbits and unhatched chicks. However, it does not distress me to learn that a little DOP or DBP or DCHP or BBP is associated with a podzol soil since all of these phthalate esters are regulated by FDA for use in food packaging applications. I really don't feel directly threatened by their data.

However, the development of this subject should be watched closely because the word pollution nowadays evokes mass hysteria and some wrong conclusions may be drawn and widely accepted before industry has a chance to present a factual discussion of the situation. We cannot afford to ignore the implications of this type of article.

Bill

A. W. M. Coaker

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DSW 588281

IN-10 REV. 11-65

STLCOPCB4093617