

toxicology
occupational medicine
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Monsanto Chemical Company
800 North Lindberg Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Attention: Dr. R. Emmet Kelly, Medical Director

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your statement on PCB's published in Dr. Riscbrough's article "More Letters in the Wind" in Environment, January-February, 1970. I have collected much of the literature on PCB's but I do not have any of your bulletins or publications. These would be appreciated.

While I was a consultant to the Finch Commission on Pesticides in 1969, I tried to incorporate more material on PCB's in the report of that Commission, but only limited and incomplete review of the literature was included.

It is likely that I will be investigating PCB's and other polychlorinated hydrocarbons for some years to come. Your cooperation in providing all facts that are not trade secrets would be greatly appreciated.

Personnel in your company that are familiar with my background of toxicological investigations of pesticides during my 26 years with the U.S. Public Health Service will attest to the fact that we in the Public Health Service have done everything humanly possible to protect the financial interests and reputation of Monsanto as well as all other manufacturers and formulators, short of compromising our scientific integrity. In my practice of medico-legal toxicology, I have consulted more often in the defense of industry than on the side of claimants. On the other hand, when companies burned down warehouses and polluted streams (drinking water supplies) with spontaneously combustible formulations, there was virtually no defensibility for such hazard-producing actions, and I served for the claimants.

since '63

(before I retired '66)

Enclosed is a copy of my curriculum vitae and list of publications. With this background, I have questions to put to your company if you will reply:

- (1) Who was responsible for the statement in Riscbrough's article and what is his professional background? Surely he has not read the medical literature on PCB's going back to the early 1940's.
- (2) USDA has evidence that PCB's were broadcast as extenders of pesticides. Was Monsanto not aware?
- (3) Common uses of PCB's such as in carbon paper, inks, varnishes, paints, rubbers, wiring insulators, adhesives, fiberglass, etc. (cited from your Tech Bull O/PL-306) would "normally lead to its (PCB's) release into the environment" as would lubricants, cutting oils, and carburetor fluids. Why did your statement maintain otherwise?

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- (4) Have you had any occupational illnesses from PCB's and are they published or available to publish? There are many epidemics reported in the 1930's and '40's that make your statement "cases of toxic effect have been rare" -- totally unrealistic. While the PCB's as manufactured may not be highly toxic, when overheated these products must have much greater toxicity to account for the liver, kidney and dermal damage reported.

In the interest of your own self-protection, I would urge your company to take a realistic attitude toward the PCB's based on facts. Any further efforts to conceal the truths about PCB's as alleged by some reporters will most likely lead to much greater opposition from the public as well as increased liability.

Very truly yours,

Griffith E. Quinby M.D.

Griffith E. Quinby, M.D.
Consulting Toxicologist

and

President, American Academy
of Clinical Toxicologists

Enc.

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