BCC: H. S. BERGEN
E. J. BOCK
H. L. HINCKLER
T. K. SMITH
J. E. SPRINGGATE

March 23, 1970

Miss Christine Duncan
418 West 39th Avenue
San Mateo, California 94403

Dear Miss Duncan:

Your letter addressed to Monsanto Company President, Mr. Edward J. Bock, expressing your concern of environmental contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls was forwarded to me for reply since I have been assigned the responsibility for studying the problem.

I assure you that we also are concerned with recent developments in what appears to be a worldwide problem. As you probably know, Monsanto has been producing Aroclors, some of which have been linked with PCB's, for over forty years and in our total experience we had no adverse effects on our employees and are not aware of any effects on our customers' employees.

We are extremely puzzled by what appears to be a worldwide distribution in our environment, even in some remote areas. We cannot explain this distribution when we consider where and how PCB's are used.

To better understand the problem, we are conducting many different studies. Hopefully, these studies will provide information regarding the identity of the material, how it gets into the environment and how it effects the environment. We are also working with, and are very interested in, what is determined at the University and Governmental laboratories, many of which are studying the PCB problem.

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While awaiting additional information, we have taken measures in our plants and with our customers to reduce the material escaping into the environment.

In summary, we are concerned, we need more information and we are actively seeking it, we have reduced the chances for further contamination, and we plan to take action as indicated by new information.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Control

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