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PCBS - GREAT LAKES STATES

Memo WHS to CP, 6/24/75

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The articles attached to the reference memo are typical of the hundreds that are being generated by the local press in the Great Lakes area. You will note that there are many inaccuracies in the statements attributed to the state and federal officials.

The PCB concern is centered primarily in the fish from Lake Michigan but further interest has been stimulated as a by-product of the polybromo biphenyl incident.

As you know, we do not sell PCBs to any application other than approved capacitor and transformer manufacturers. The reference to other uses, including household products, is based on the findings by the state laboratories that PCBs are present in such things as hand soaps, zinc alloys, automobile windshield sealant, cutting oils, xerox toner, hydrated lime and automobile primer paint. PCBs appear to be present in the low ppm range; therefore are present as a contaminant and not as a deliberately added ingredient.

There is also some evidence that Dow Chemical and Dow Corning are taking advantage of the situation in Michigan to promote fluids which they manufacture as viable alternatives to PCBs.

Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan agencies are all recommending to their state legislatures that PCBs be banned. There appears to be a strong desire in each of these states to be the first in this type of legislation. It appears to me that when they speak of "ban" they are referring to restricted use and currently it seems that they would support Monsanto's sale to dielectric applications.

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