JUL 9 1974

M.I.C.C. EUROPE

FUNCTIONAL PRODUCT GROUPS

PROCESS & PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY DEPT

LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

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SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

ENVIRONMENTAL

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

JUNE 1974

Summary

1. Analyses of samples of liver and other tissue from cattle which died at Brofiskin indicate that the PCB levels are below 1 ppm.

2. Shortage of support fuel (waste oil) has delayed the PCB incineration trial at the Re-Chem incinerator at Pontypool.

3. Model ecosystem studies at Ruabon and Invercsk are continuing.

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MONS 057052

ENVIRONMENTAL

1. Analyses at Newport and at L.L.N. of liver and other tissues from two of the cows which died at Brofiskin recently have indicated PCB levels below 1 ppm (wet weight basis). Similar levels were found in the livers of dead cows from other parts of South Wales. These results suggest that PCBs are unlikely to have been a significant factor in the deaths of these animals at Brofiskin.

We have not been able to identify any other chemical in the samples, but some high boiling (non-PCB) components appeared to be present at a significant level in the fat and liver of one of the Brofiskin cows. The small sample size available at Louvain-La-Neuve has limited follow-up to obtain a positive identification of these components.

2. A trial incineration of liquid PCB was carried out at the Redland-Purle Incinerator at Ellesmere Port. Samples of stack-gas extracts are being analysed at Newport.

We are still awaiting the trial at the Re-Chem Incinerator at Pontypool. Apparently they are stock-piling supplies of support fuel (waste oils).

3. A further visit to Ruabon has confirmed that the fish-ponds are still in good condition and are well-stocked with fish. Attempts to catch a number of fish for capillary column analysis, however, failed owing to the poor performance of the electrical stunning equipment. The reasons for this are being studied.

Analytical results from the fish samples taken at the end of April indicate that Aroclor 1242 has levelled off at about 2 ppm (whole fish wet weight), but that Aroclor 1254 is still increasing at about 3 ppm. The concentration of Aroclor 1242 in the pond water is about 1 ppb, but the level of Aroclor 1254 is considerably less. We are repeating the analyses of the pond waters at Louvain-La-Neuve to provide more accurate data.

4. The acquaria experiments at Invereak should be completed during the week of July 15 and plans have been made to initiate and supervise a total PCB extraction from the system so that analyses can be made at Louvain-La-Neuve.

H.A. Vodden

MONS 057054