Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) J. T. Bell - Anniston, Alabama

DATE March 1, 1971

SUBJECT

REFERENCE

cc J. L. Corder
P. B. Hodges - G.O.
E. G. Wright
W. B. Papageorge - G.O.

TO : J. C. Landwehr

This memo is to serve as a summation of notes taken at the Federal-State Enforcement Conference on Pollution on Escambia River and Bay. These notes were taken as prepared texts were read and as such are not complete. In addition, the spelling of individual names may be inaccurate as no agenda was published. A complete narrative of the conference will be available in approximately six months.

The conferees were Mssrs. Beck and Crockett of the Alabama Water Improvement Commission, Reed and Patton of the Florida Air and Water Pollution Control Agency and Traina and White of EPA. Mr. White served as chairman.

The conclusions and recommendations of the conference were prepared in an executive closed session. These are attached.

Speaker	Position
John A. Little	EPA, Athens, Ga.

Mr. Little reviewed work by the Athens Laboratory on sedimentation in the bay area. The sediments are highly organic in nature and are accompanied by severe oxygen depletion in the waters. His report to the committee included a summation of the progress made by the Container Corporation of America, Brewton, Alabama in reducing losses of carbon containing materials.

R. W. Davis	Corps of Engineers

Mr. Davis' presentation was centered on dredging in the bay area and the difficulties presented in the required use of dikes and approval for such dredging even for maintenance dredging.

Dr. Tom Duke — Director, Gulf Breeze Labs

Dr. Duke started his comments by informing the Conference that his group had been monitoring sediments for pollutant chemicals. PCB, and more specifically Aroclor 1254, had been found in the sediments and that this material had been identified in oysters in the summer of 1969. The source of this material was traced to the Pensacola, Monsanto Plant. A leak had developed in a heating system and the Aroclor reached the Escambia River and subsequently moved into the bay. He stated that the leak was stopped as the company was notified.

Dr. Duke continued with a discription of the Gulf Breeze Labs sampling program on the Escambia River. No Aroclor 1254 was found above the plant but below the plant 0.4 and 0.2 ppb were determined as Aroclor 1254 on top and bottom water respectively. Sediments were analyzed for PCB and below the plant, concentrations in the PPM range were reported.

The Gulf Breeze Labs are currently collecting and analyzing oysters for PCB on a monthly basis.

Dr. Duke reported that shrimp concentrate PCB in the liver and pancreas and upon questioning on the accumlative effects replied in an affirmative manner. He reported that little degradation or metabolism of PCB has been observed. He also stated that 5 ppm of Aroclor 1254 in water will kill shrimp in 5 days and that in his opinion the PCB are not causing fish kills but that the material is toxic and is present.

W. L. Linn — Engineering Dept. of the Navy

Mr. Linn's comments were directed at efforts at the Pensacola Air Base to install a secondary waste treatment plant and the difficulties involved in treatment of losses from Aircraft maintenance.

Tom Webb — Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Webb spoke of the dredging of Mulatto Bayou for the construction of Interstate 10 and the resulting detrimental effects on ecology of this area.

K. Huggstatler — Florida Bureau of Surveillance

The prepared statement was primarily concerned with heat discharges from industries including Monsanto. A rise in temperature has been observed rather that abatement as ordered by the previous conferenece. The Gulf Power Company has a particular problem in this area.

Mr. DeCastro — Florida Bureau of Enforcement

Mr. DeCastro presented a status report on American Cyanimid, Escambia Chemicals and Monsanto with regard to actions taken since the previous conference. Included in his comments on Monsanto was the statement that the company had been ordered in January, 1971 to submit plans with completion target dates for actions to prevent the loss of PCB. The Monsanto Emergency PCB actions are essentially completed, These emergency actions were to reduce flow velocity in the effluent stream by construction of a dam and to build a new channel and earth-fill the channel now being used.

Wayne Tisdale — Florida Division of Health

Mr. Tisdale reviewed domestic waste treatment in the Pensacola area and reported that Oysters are concentrating heavy metals. He commented that Escambia Bay does have a Mercury problem.

John Kramer — Escambia Chemicals

Mr. Kramer presented actions by Escambia Chemicals to enlarge the settling pond system, closure of a fertilizer plant to reduce Phosphorus and Nitrogen losses, reduction in flow leaving the Escambia Plant, etc.

K. Kangott — American Cyanimid

The presentation was a detailed listing of reductions in BOD, Solids, Carbon, Nitrogen, total oxygen demand, etc. that had been accomplished in the past year. The American Cyanimid plant has applied for a discharge permit from the Corps of Engineers.

James Lippe — Monsanto, Pensacola

The initial comments were that significant reductions in plant losses has been made and that state regulations were met in advance of schedule. A review of Nitrogen, Carbon, BOD, and Phosphorus loss improvements were presented. He stated that the PCB pollution resulted from an accidental leak and that the plant has ceased using this material.

E. L. Addison — Gulf Power Company

Mr. Addison denied that any damage to the river and bay area had been realized from heat discharges from Gulf Power. He reported that his company is spending at the one plant $3,000,000 on cooling units.

L. F. Currier — L&N Railroad

Mr. Currier briefly stated that the unused piles from the railroad bridge had been removed as ordered by the preceding conference.

Dr. R. E. Smith — State System of Universities

Dr. Smith reported that the Florida University System was greatly involved with state agencies and industries in environmental problems. He warned that the entire Gulf is affected.

A. R. Richards — Florida Wildlife Federation

Concerns in the areas of sewage from settlements being drained into river systems, deep well disposal, reduced quantities of fishes, and colored effluents were voiced.

C. E. Locke — Private Citizen

Mr. Locke introduced his comments by reporting that he appreciated the claims that industries were making. He additionally noted that two local "polluters" had developed excellent systems and are selling them elsewhere. His final comments were to note that no elected officials were present.

Dr. Joe Edmundson — U. of West Florida

A math model of the bay area is being developed which in part has been supported by Monsanto.

J. L. Crockett — AWIC

Mr. Crockett presented a statement on behalf of the AWIC concerning the status of progress by the Container Corporation of Brewton, Alabama. No mention of PCB was made.

G. L. Whiteside — Container Corp. of America

A presentation of progress was made including reduced BOD levels, foam breakers, recycle of plant water, and a new aeration system.

VTB
J. T. Bell

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