Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) D. R. Bishop - B1ND

DATE August 24, 1976

SUBJECT

REFERENCE

CC: G. F. Barton
W. R. Corey
J. E. McKee

TO : E. H. Harbison, Jr. - B3SA
F. R. Johannsen - A2SC
G. Roush - A2SA
W. W. Withers - B2SA

Following up on our meeting of yesterday, I've attached a draft of "an aggressive" news release regarding our findings vis-a-vis the Mobil report for your comments and/or approval.

In an earlier draft I tried to write our position without attributing the information to Dr. Roush and I could rewrite this, attributing the comments to "a Monsanto spokesman" if absolutely necessary; but it will lose quite a bit of impact and credibility in the process.

I'm confident that we can attribute to Dr. Roush in the news release and still shield him from radio/TV interviews if this is the only concern.

Both Mr. Withers and I are anxious to issue this statement or a reasonable facsimile as soon as possible to hopefully defuse potential litigation. With this in mind, I would appreciate your prompt attention and an early reply.

Thank you.

D. R. Bishop

DRB:smt

Att.

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DRAFT

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 00 -- Monsanto Company today reported that it has found no ~~incidences~~ cases of either malignant melonoma or pancreatic cancer among employes involved in the production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at its U.S. manufacturing site.

Monsanto's findings, announced by George Roush, M.D., director of the company's medical and environmental health department, ~~are in sharp contrast to~~ do not confirm those reported last week by a Mobil Oil Corporation plant study. ~~in an article published in the August 20th edition of The Wall Street Journal, Mobil reported three cases of malignant melonoma and two cases of pancreatic cancer developed among 72 employes at Mobil's Paulsboro, N.J., petrochemical plant where a PCB product had been used in the plant's operations.~~

According to Dr. Roush, Monsanto's findings are based on a review of the health records of some 308 employes and former employes who worked in the PCB production unit at Monsanto's William G. Krummrich plant at Sauget, Ill., from 1936 to 1975. The Krummrich plant is the sole U.S. manufacturing site for Monsanto-produced PCB products. ~~The Monsanto official said that in addition to health records, death certificates of 50 former PCB production workers were also reviewed.~~

~~Dr. Roush said these findings were extracted from data being tabulated in connection with a detailed epidemiological~~

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These findings have been given to Dr. John D. Dingell, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Mobil officials.

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study currently underway at the Krummrich plant. "This study which is expected to be completed in 12 to 18 months, will be published upon completion," he said.

Dr. Roush pointed out that Monsanto would not normally release data from a still ongoing study but since no cases of either type of cancer are involved in the medical histories of the PCB workers, it was easy to extract the data. "Furthermore," he continued, "in view of the obvious concern generated by Mobil's 'very preliminary' study with a small employe population, we felt it would be irresponsible to withhold these positive findings which are based on 47 years and _____ million pounds of PCB production experience with an employe population of more than four times that involved in the Mobil report."

Because of increasing environmental concerns, Monsanto announced last January its intentions to shut down its PCB manufacturing operations and exit the business as soon as its customers in the electrical power supply industry can convert to alternate dielectric fluids. Dr. Roush said Monsanto hopes that this conversion can take place in time to permit the company to shut down production by year-end, 1977. "In the interim," he concluded, "Monsanto will continue to work with industry and government to ensure that the restrictive measures and controls we voluntarily implemented in the early 1970's remain in force and are diligently pursued."

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if asked

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