Monsanto

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October 10, 1969

Dr. Harold S. Olcott
Professor, Marine Food Science
College of Agriculture
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Dr. Olcott:

I was pleased to receive your letter of October 6, and to learn of your return from Europe. I hope your visit was a very pleasant and profitable one.

You will recall that just before your departure I had indicated that I would try to contact Dr. Risebrough during the August Symposium at Oregon State University. Unfortunately, it became apparent the first day of the Symposium that the atmosphere there would not be conducive to a meaningful exchange of information.

To bring you up-do-date as to the status of our toxicity research projects, I have enclosed copies of interim reports which we recently received from our consulting laboratory. The reports include the 90 day data from our ongoing two year chronic oral toxicity studies on Aroclors 1242, 1254 and 1260.

Attached to this letter is a single page (interim report) showing the status of our three generation rat reproduction studies with the same Aroclors.

You will recall that I informed you earlier that in the two year chronic oral studies with rats we had added 300 additional animals to permit sacrifice at intervals during the study. We have a verbal report that the 90 day sacrifice showed no untoward effects in animals at dietary levels of 1, 10 and 100 parts per million. We should have a written report shortly when the micropathology has been completed. You may be sure I will send you a copy of this report.

I am sorry I can not make any comments concerning Dr. Risebrough's chapter in "Chemical Fall Out" since I have not seen this book. I have asked our library to provide me with a copy.

In the meantime, of course, our chronic studies are providing interim data relative to the possible long term effects of these materials. Further, the company is exerting considerable effort to see that precautions are taken to prevent loss of PCB's to the environment.

In connection with the White House Committee on Food, Nutrition and Health, our toxicity research data do indicate, we believe, that the question of PCB's in food does not pose a serious threat to the public health. We would be interested in learning if your review of the available toxicity data supports this position.

Very truly yours,

Elmer P. Wheeler
Manager, Environmental Health

EPW:ju

Enclosures

c.c. Mr. E. Bock
Dr. J. Coon
Dr. R. S. Gordon
Dr. K. H. Maddy
Dr. R. P. Upchurch