

Monsanto

*File
PCBs*

DWEN CENTRAL
FILES

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE &
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167
Phone: (314) 894-1000

June 30, 1982

Howard Maibach, M.D.
2745 Larkin Street
San Francisco, California 94109

Dear Dr. Maibach:

I spoke with you recently concerning the penetration of the skin by PCBs in various commercial formulations. We also discussed the question of whether solvents, and in this case particularly solvents in a hand cleaner, would enhance or inhibit this type of penetration of the skin by the PCB molecules.

I am enclosing a list of ingredients of a waterless hand cleaner, of course there is no quantification of the amounts by the manufacturer. The question is raised as to whether any of these materials would enhance or inhibit the penetration of PCBs on the skin, when the reason for using the hand cleaner is to remove the PCB-containing materials.

Tests done by an eastern electric company showed that this material on rubber gloves would remove PCBs, at least in order of magnitude, better than washing with soap and water. Many electric utilities have a need for a waterless hand cleaner to give to their employees that have to deal with PCBs at sites remote from locations where running water and soap are available to wash up after handling PCB-contaminated material. We are seeking to see that this material does not have any enhancing effect in skin penetration so that we can recommend it or similarly formulated materials with confidence that it would not adversely effect the rate of absorption in the direction of increasing it.

Sincerely,


Donald L. Coleman, M.D.
Director, Occupational Medicine
and Epidemiology

/ab

cc: J. Craddock

MONS 003073