PCB FILE

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Monsanto

CORPORATE LAW DEPARTMENT

Monsanto Company
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July 2, 1976

Public Notice Clerk
Region V, Permit Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: NPDES No. IL0021407

Dear Sir:

These comments are submitted in connection with the above referenced proposed NPDES permit in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Public Notice recently issued concerning said permit.

The applicant for the above referenced permit is the Village of Sauget, Illinois ("Village"). Monsanto Company ("Monsanto") owns and operates a chemical plant located in the Village which, along with various other dischargers, discharges waste materials to the Village waste treatment facility. Monsanto, therefore, has a very significant interest in the provisions of said permit.

Monsanto concurs in and fully endorses the comments concerning said permit which are being submitted by the Village. In addition, the following comments are expressly submitted for your consideration.

1. The Expiration Date of the proposed permit is June 30, 1977. If this date were to remain in the permit, the permit would have less than one year of effective life. The expenditure of many man-days of effort by the U.S. EPA, the Village and others, in an effort to develop an acceptable permit with an effective life of less than one year, is difficult to justify. The practice in other EPA regions across the country is to issue permits with an effective life of five years

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after date of issuance. We strongly recommend that this practice by followed in Region V. The Expiration Date in the permit should be changed to read "five years after date of issuance".

2. Item 2.B.(6) contains a limitation on the mercury concentration in the Village's effluent of 0.0005 mg/l. This limitation is too low. To the best of our current knowledge, Monsanto is the only discharger to the Village with effluent containing mercury in amounts higher than that allowed by the Illinois mercury effluent standard. In a recent legal proceeding, the Illinois appelate court recognized that Monsanto had applied the best available technology in its treatment of effluent to reduce the mercury content. The U.S. EPA is, therefore, authorized to include in the permit a limitation which is higher than that contained in the state standard. In addition, the Illinois Pollution Control Board has several times granted Monsanto's requests for a variance from the Illinois mercury effluent standard. Another request for such a variance is presently pending.

   In view of the above, the maximum concentration for mercury should be deleted and replaced with a limitation expressed in quantity rather than concentration, to read as follows:

   > "The total quantity of mercury discharged shall not exceed an average of 0.28 lbs/day during any calendar month, nor a maximum of 0.53 lbs. during any single day."

   The above quantities are determined by allowing Monsanto a mercury discharge of 0.25 lbs/day average and 0.5 lbs/day maximum, and adding to these figures an amount (0.03 lbs/day) equal to the quantity which the other dischargers to the Village are allowed under the state regulation: that is, 0.0005 mg/l times the total waste flow from such other dischargers.

3. Items 2.B.(7), 7.A. and 10.C. contain references to, and limitations on, dischargers of polychlorinated biphenyl ("PCB"). These references and limitations should be deleted. There is neither a federal nor state regulation dealing with discharges of PCB on which such limitations can be based. We are aware that the U.S. EPA in Washington is considering the issuance of a proposed PCB regulation of section 307(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but such regulations have not yet even been published in proposed form. Until

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such time as a regulation applicable to the Village, which limits the amount of PCB in the Village's effluent, has been adopted and put into effect, no such references or limitations on PCB should appear on the Village's permit.

Your consideration of the above comments is very much appreciated. We would be pleased to discuss them with you in greater detail should you desire.

Yours very truly,

Phocion S. Park
Environmental Counsel

PSP:ct

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