Monsanto

FROM (NAME LOCATION PHONE) Dept. of Medicine & Environmental Health - G.J. Levinskas, A2SA

DATE: September 5, 1979

SUBJECT: Primate Study [redacted]

REFERENCE: FAP to JCW, 7/20/79

TO

J.C. Weber
B2SK

cc: P.E. Berteau - A2SC
C.F. Callis - B2SA
E.T. Mollica - B3SA
J.R.G. Ortiz - E2ND
P.L. Wright - A2SA
D. Wood - B2SD
F.A. Provorny - B3NJ

Point 3 of the referenced memo indicated that "An outside consultant from a University will be selected to critique the draft and to advise how best to prepare the final report to get the most from the study."

Peter Berteau and I have discussed this somewhat. The difficulty arises in choosing a consultant. Do we desire someone who is an expert on PCBs, or an expert on monkeys, or an expert on reproduction? It is impossible to find one individual who qualifies on all three counts. It may be difficult to find an individual qualified in one of those categories. It should also be recognized that our desire to "get the most from the study" may or may not be realized since the consultant may reach a conclusion that differs from ours. This could result from the fact that the consultant may have a different perception of the signfiicance of the observed facts. His perception will be influenced by his state of mind regarding the PCBs. That is something we cannot determine beforehand.

I have three suggestions regarding a consultant. One is Dr. James Allen at the University of Wisconsin. As you know, Dr. Allen initiated monkey studies with PCBs. He could reassess his prior position based on our data, or he might look upon our data as confirming conclusions he has already reached. A second choice would be Dr. Ray Harbison at Vanderbilt. Dr. Harbison is familiar with reproduction, and he has been a consultant to Earthline in their controversy regarding disposal of PCB wastes in Illinois. A third choice would be Dr. Henry Smyth, who formerly headed Carbide's Toxicology Fellowship at Carnegie-Mellon University. Dr. Smyth is retired, but he has had considerable experience in the field of toxicology.

I do not know if any of these individuals would be willing to serve as a consultant to Monsanto on this subject. However, if you can indicate your preferences among these gentlemen, I will be pleased to contact them to explore the situation further.

George J. Levinskas

/bks

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