March 2, 1972

Ms. Teri Holberg
106½ Cherry Street
Apartment 206
Mankato, Minn. 56001

Dear Ms. Holberg:

Thank you for your letter dated February 22 in which you expressed concern relating to the effects of PCB's on the environment.

I can appreciate the confusion you are noting and I believe it is due to the varying definitions of what is considered a high exposure level. For example, our animal studies involved dosages up to 100 ppm in the normal diet. The Japanese incident involved rice bran oil with up to 2,000 ppm PCB's. Incidentally, you will note from the enclosed FDA summary that the number of people exposed was 1,000 instead of the 10,000 initially reported. To my knowledge the miscarriages and stillbirths were not attributed to PCB's.

The use of PCB's in insecticides was extremely small and never was intended for large scale field applications.

Today Monsanto's program for curtailing the use of PCB's has reached the point where the only remaining uses are in the electric applications for which there is no known alternative fire-resistant, explosion-resistant fluid. Until a new fluid is developed it is believed that the safety advantages in these closed system applications far outweigh the potential harm which may occur through accidental loss to the environment.

MONS 091628

I have enclosed copies of articles relating to the PCB subject which I hope you find informative and useful. If I can be of further service please let me know.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Protection

WBP/bt

Enclosures

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