DRAFT - DRB - 1/8/76 Dielectric PR.

Opening Remarks - F. J. Fitzgerald Meeting with Russell Train, Administrator of the EPA - Washington, D.C. - Jan. 14, 1976.

Good afternoon, my name is Jack Fitzgerald. I am a vice president of Monsanto Company, a member of its Corporate Administrative Committee and managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., an operating unit of Monsanto Company.

Since I am responsible for the operating unit which manufactures polychlorinated biphenyl dielectric fluids, John Hanley, our president, has asked me to represent him today and reaffirm to you Monsanto's commitment to continue working with the EPA and the electrical industry in finding solutions to the PCB issue.

Let me state at the outset that Monsanto agrees wholeheartedly with EPA's desire to work toward the goal of eventually eliminating all uses of PCBs.

Monsanto has already taken several steps designed to restrict the entry of PCBs into the environment.

First, Monsanto began restricting the use of PCBs solely to closed electrical systems, for which no viable alternates existed, back in 1970. It should be noted that this voluntary program was fully implemented prior to the completion of the study done on PCBs by a Federal Interagency Task Force in 1972.

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Secondly, Monsanto has been working for a number of years on non-PCB replacement products. These materials, designed to replace PCB fluids in capacitors and transformers, are currently being evaluated by the major electrical manufacturers in the United States.

While the PCB issue is a tough one to handle, the difficulty does not nor will not in the future stem from any lack of cooperation on the part of Monsanto. The problems that we face, collectively, are rather rooted in the unique characteristics of PCBs and the irreplaceable role they have served in our electrical-industrial environment for the past 45 years. The challenge: Replacing them in an orderly manner without creating another hazard of equal or potentially greater consequence, while at the same time avoiding serious power and transportation disruptions.

Let me emphasize that we have no desire to remain in the PCB manufacturing business any longer than is necessary. By this I mean as soon as we are satisfied that the electrical power supply industry's needs for usable, acceptable alternate dielectric fluids have been met by whomever, Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB manufacturing unit. In the interim, we will continue to work with industry and government to ensure that the restrictive measures and controls we implemented in the early 1970s remain in force and are diligently pursued.

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