Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) D. Wood - B2SD

DATE November 8, 1977

SUBJECT

REFERENCE

cc: J. A. Alley
J. P. Mieure
J. C. Weber

TO : R. C. Isham
G. J. Levinskas
E. T. Mollica
A. M. Navarro
R. A. Stohr

I attach notes on our PCB discussion on November 2nd.

I suggest we meet again early in December. Before our next meeting I would ask that we complete action on the following items.

G. J. Levinskas - Items 1 (b) (d) (e)

J. C. Weber - Items 2 (a)

J. C. Weber/J. P. Mieure - Item 2 (b)

D. Wood - Item 2 (c)

R. A. Stohr - Expand thinking on 2 (d)

J. C. Weber/W. Easley - up date 3 (b)

D. Wood - Complete review 3 (d)

Following our next discussion I want us to be able to frame recommendations for review with Dr. Miller and Mr. Fitzgerald and if necessary for subsequent review with the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

Thank you for your assistance.

D. Wood

tmc
enclosure

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PCB-ARCH0744794

REPORT OF PCB DISCUSSION ON 11/2/77

PRESENT
R. C. Isham
G. J. Levinskas
E. T. Mollica
A. M. Navarro
R. A. Stohr
D. Wood

The group met to discuss on going issues following Monsanto's phase out of sales of PCB's. Our objective was to identify major issues and assess if further Monsanto direct or indirect support was required to resolve them.

1. Confirmation of potential health hazard.

a) The primate feeding study at Litton Bionetics should be continued and concluded in 1979-80 to establish a comparative data base with the work of Dr. Allen at Wisconsin. Dr. Allen's work has been a major factor in PCB hazard assessment.

b) The W.G. Krummrich epidemiological study should be completed in 1978 and a prospective study established for employees associated with PCB production at WGK. (Newport records should be initiated).

c) Maintain contact with Mount Sinai New York epidemiological study and review results as published.

d) Check status of Mobil epidemiological study and if subsequent results have modified preliminary conclusions request that record is put right with agencies such as EPA/FDA.

e) G.J. Levinskas reported claims by EDF that Industrial Biotest PCB studies are not valid and that therefore FDA PCB tolerances should be changed. Dr. Levinskas will prepare a rebuttal because IBT data was not the sole basis for FDA tolerance levels. Additionally, G.J. Levinskas will check through Washington office current status of EPA review of IBT test which we have heard informally cleared the IBT methodology and practice for the PCB studies.

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2. Environmental fate of PCB

a) PCB levels in water, fish, foods are already checked annually by a number of agencies. We need to develop continued access to results of these surveys and review.

b) Methods for accelerating elimination of PCB from biosphere.

The main effort has focused on development of specific bacteria to breakdown PCB's with work at Ontario Foundation in Canada and Institute of Fermentation in Japan.

We should review their latest work and ask if EPA are aware of any other major studies in this area.

If any of the existing programs have merit, but insufficient funds, we should consider support.

We should also ask EPA if any other methods are known at this time which have potential practical application to reduction of PCB levels in large water bodies such as Great Lakes and Hudson River.

c) PCB in Installed Electrical Equipment

Monsanto should not become involved in any form of "bounty" scheme to recover used industrial capacitors.

We have received a significant number of requests for advice on additives which might be incorporated with transformer coolant which would easily indicate if there had been minor leakage from transformers. Dyes and tracers have been mentioned. We should discuss this area with G.E. and Westinghouse.

Preliminary work has been carried out by Rollins on shredding devices to permit incineration of capacitors rather than landfill. We should update ourselves on status of this program. We should also review this topic with EPA solid waste disposal group.

d) PCB in Silo Surface Coatings We have been involved in a number of cases where PCB originally formulated in silo paints has leached into fodder and resulted in milk contamination. We anticipate that further cases will arise and should consider our future posture.

3. Disposal of PCB's

a) Incineration. Having shut down our WGK incinerator we should maintain up to date lists of commercial

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incinerators capable of handling PCB's.

b) Interstate transport of PCB wastes will become more difficult. We will need to work with EPA to maintain listings of suitable approved landfill areas.

c) We should expect in the future to receive requests for advice on PCB disposal from overseas. We should prepare a package on current U.S. methodology and up date each year. Cement kiln incineration could be helpful in international PCB disposal.

d) Cement kiln incineration. This technology has been tested at Peerless Cement who are now seeking licenses to routinely burn chlorinated organics. We should monitor this technology as it develops since most countries that have used PCB's probably have suitable kilns already installed whereas very few countries have suitable hazardous chemical incinerators. (I have now received EPA reports on test burns at Peerless Cement and will review them).

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