

Monsanto Finds No Cancer Among PCB Employees

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ST. LOUIS — Monsanto Co. reports that it has found no cases of either malignant melanoma or pancreatic cancer among current or former employees engaged in the production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at its U. S. manufacturing site.

This information, announced by George Roush, M.D., director of the company's Medical and Environmental Health Department, was released in response to questions from the news media, prompted by a recent Mobil Oil Corp. study which reported finding three cases of melanoma and two cases of pancreatic cancer among 72 employees who had been exposed to a PCB product while working at a Mobil plant in New Jersey.

Dr. Roush said that if either melanoma or pancreatic cancer were related to PCB exposure as the Mobil report suggested, then it would follow that these malignancies would have also been seen in a worker population over four times as large. "In my opinion," he said, "the fact that we have found no cases of either of these cancers casts strong doubt that the findings of the Mobil study were in fact related to PCB."

The Monsanto information was based on a review of the records of more than 300 current and former employees who have been identified as having worked in the PCB production unit of the company's William G. Krummrich plant, dating back to 1936 when that unit first became operational. Within this population, Monsanto has been able to identify 50 former employees who have died. A review of death certificates has been included in the work done to date. The Krummrich plant, located just south of East St. Louis at Sauget, Ill., is the sole U. S. manufacturing site for Monsanto-produced PCB products.