Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): C. F. Callis - B2SA

DATE: May 16, 1977

CC:

SUBJECT: PCB'S

REFERENCE:

TO: F. J. Fitzgerald

The puzzle as to where Barry Commoner got information about an incident at Anniston regarding chlorinated biphenyls is solved. The public literature has the information.

The key was the article Garrett in Medical ordered from Washington University from "The Archives of Dermatology and Syphilogy", volume 33, p. 1027 (1936). This article states, "Of the twenty-four men working in the manufacture of chlorinated di-phenyl within the period from late summer of 1932 to October, 1933, twenty-three were reported to have had an acneform eruption on the face and body." Excerpts from this article are attached (Attachment I). If you would like to see the entire article, let me know.

Although this article does not mention the name of the manufacturer, another reference (in the Law Department files) on PCB's pinpoints this incident to Swan Chemical Company (and Swan was undoubtedly the only manufacturer). The reference is a report of a symposium at Harvard School of Public Health in 1937. A Dr. Schwartz reports in a discussion period that "I was down at the Swan Chemical Company where they make chlorinated diphenyls and they have acne there just the same as over at Wyandotte where they make the chlorinated naphthalenes..." (see Attachment II). In 1932 the Anniston Plant was the property of Swan and Monsanto acquired Swan in 1935.

At the same symposium in 1937, Dr. Kelley of Monsanto said, "It has been our observation that although on one occasion we did have a more or less extensive series of skin eruptions which we were never able to attribute as to cause..." (Attachment III).

After my go-around with Medical, George Levinskas produced a summary article on PCB's written for publication a few years ago but not released by legal (see Attachment IV). This document makes reference to the same article (Attachment I) and states that "Jones and Alden reported a high incidence of acneform dermatitis among employes engaged in the manufacture of PCB's." Levinskas feels this document should have been published (and legal disagrees) because Levinskas points out that the article documents "responsible actions" taken in trying to study and correct the acne problem.

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EX P-3222
Page 1 of 2

PCB-ARCH0752610

If I understood your reporting of Barry's remarks, he said or implied that because of these chloracne problems, Monsanto should have been astute enough to drop the development of PCB's. The problem with their refractive character in the environment is a different problem not obvious from knowledge of chloracne incidents. (my editorial)

I believe this answers the question you asked me on the subject of Commoner and PCB's.

CFC

Clayton F. Callis

CFC:pk

attachments

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EX P-3222
Page 2 of 2

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