Monsanto

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October 24, 1975

Dr. Robert A. Stenger
General Electric Co.
John Street
Hudson Falls, N.Y. 12839

Dear Bob:

I just received your 10-17-75 letter posing two questions about our recent analyses of water for PCBs. Regarding the first question about the two values we obtained on the Ft. Edward bridge sample, we feel confident that the lower value is more accurate. In my 10-16-75 letter to you, I did not include the higher value. As I indicated during our phone conversation, we feel the higher value was in error because of cross contamination from water sample "B" sent to Dr. Crow. We were unaware of the very high (3200 ppb) concentration of PCB in "B" and did not take special precautions to prevent PCB migration through lab air, which probably contaminated nearby samples concurrently being extracted. This emphasizes the care which must be exercised when sampling and analyzing for ppb levels of PCBs in the presence of potential sources of contamination.

As a matter of principle when analyzing for PCBs, we always use multiple (3) extractions on unfiltered water. We also extract (rinse) the container thoroughly. These precautions help insure accurate sampling and analysis. Woodson-Tenent Laboratories assure us that they also follow these procedures, as outlined in ASTM Method D 3304.

I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. James P. Mieure
Research Group Leader

ss

bcc: W. C. Hammann
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