Monsanto

Monsanto Company
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Letters to the Editor
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
900 North Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101

Dear Editor:

In Sunday's Post-Dispatch (Feb. 1), a story appeared concerning PCBs being found in candy boxes, apparently due to recycling of carbonless copy paper. The statement was made in the article that "Production of the chemicals at Monsanto Co. of St. Louis, the single U.S. manufacturer, was banned when health hazards of the chemical became known."

In fact, production of PCB transformer fluids had been voluntarily stopped by Monsanto two years before the EPA ban on the substance. Further, manufacture of PCBs by Monsanto for such uses as carbonless copying paper had been voluntarily stopped in 1971. Both actions originated out of concern over PCBs being found widely in the environment. Finally, from the early 70s to product cancellation in 1977, Monsanto worked with government agencies (including EPA) and the electrical power industry to ensure an orderly phasing out of Monsanto PCB liquids in transformers. The EPA ban on PCBs above certain concentrations came in 1979.

We would appreciate your correcting the record in this regard.

Sincerely,

William J. McCarville, Ph.D.
Director, Environmental Affairs

/hmv

cc: Mr. Bill Lambrecht