Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): W. S. Clark - General Offices

DATE: December 22, 1970

SUBJECT: POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS/
POLYCHLORINATED TERPHENYLS

REFERENCE:

TO : Regional Managers
Field Sales Representatives

H. S. Bergen - HBERG
R. N. Brell
T. L. Gossage - TGOSS
W. B. Papageorge - WPAPA
W. E. Schalk - WSCHA
J. E. Springgate - JSPRI
E. P. Wheeler - EWHEE
J. D. Wright - JWRIG

On October 29, 1970, The U. S. Department of Agriculture published a public relations notice, PR Notice 70-25, which commented on both polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs). This notice has caused considerable stir and deserves some clarification. So that you will be able to answer inquiries from your customers on this matter, here is the position Monsanto has taken. A copy of the notice is attached.

Monsanto has been one of the leaders in the world community as far as studying the problems and potential problems of PCBs and PCTs in the environment. As a result of these studies, we have established that PCBs do exist in the environment and that they probably do cause problems in some species of marine life and birds. As a result of these findings, Monsanto has taken several actions to prevent the spread of these products in the environment, among these being our request on April 13, 1970 to the U. S. Department of Agriculture that they not approve the use of PCBs in insecticides. On the other hand, to our knowledge, there is no data which has established PCTs as a problem in the environment. Hence, Monsanto does not believe that there is any present substantiation for the statements in PR Notice 70-25 as they relate to polychlorinated terphenyls.

Monsanto is continuing to study both PCBs and PCTs in the environment. We are scheduling continued discussions with the U.S.D.A. on this matter. As additional information is developed, we will pass this along to all concerned.

Willis S. Clark

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/dbw
Attachment

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