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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH
U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

Room 523
October 15, 1974

Emmett Kelly, M.D.
Medical Director
Monsanto Chemical Corp.
800 N. Lindberg
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear Dr. Kelly:

As you are aware, the Occupational Safety and Health Act gives the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) legislated authority and responsibility for the conduct of industry-wide studies of the effect of long-term, low-level exposure to industrial materials, processes, and stresses on the potential for illness, disease or loss of functional capacity in occupationally exposed adults. This epidemiological research is aimed at defining the relationship of disease incidence to possible causative factors in the work environment. The primary responsibility for conducting such research in NIOSH belongs to the Division of Field Studies and Clinical Investigations (DFSCI).

A tremendous quantity of research has demonstrated that environmental exposure to polychlorinated-biphenyls (PCB's) causes serious impairment of the functions of the liver. This impairment subsequently affects a variety of enzyme systems as is indicated in several articles in the literature. A recent article by Nobuyuki, Nagoeki, et al. entitled "Histopathologic Studies on Liver Tumorigenisis Induced in Mice by Technical Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Its Promoting Effect on Liver Tumors Induced by Benzone Hexochloride" suggests PCB's are carcinogenic in animals. However, results that evaluate long-term health effects in humans from either acute or chronic exposure to PCB's are not available.

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For the purpose of assessing the potential for chronic effects, DFSCI is attempting to identify a suitable occupational group for study. To this end, I would like to arrange a meeting with representatives of Monsanto Chemical and NIOSH to discuss the inclusion of PCB-exposed active and inactive workers at Monsanto in a planned retrospective cohort study. The possibility of including other manufacturers and users of PCB's in this study is being considered.

I may be contacted by writing to the address above or calling 513-684-3255. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph K. Wagoner by

Joseph K. Wagoner, S.D. Hyg.
Director, Division of Field Studies
and Clinical Investigations

Encl:
OSH Act of 1970