Monsanto
COMPANY

ORGANIC CHEMICALS DIVISION

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December 15, 1969

Mr. Kevin P. Shea
Environment Magazine
438 N. Skinker Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Dear Mr. Shea:

We appreciate the opportunity you have extended to provide information in conjunction with a paper Environment is planning to publish in January, 1970, on "environmental contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)."

As you suggested, we have attempted to keep our statement up-to-date as new scientific data comes to light, and I am sending the most recent copy to you in the event you wish to use it in connection with the article.

In lieu of arranging an interview in the short time remaining to your deadline, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on as many of your questions as possible. Please feel free to use any of the information as you see fit, of course, attributing it to a Monsanto spokesman rather than myself -- which is standard practice.

Aroclor polychlorinated biphenyls were first produced in this country in 1929 by the Swann Corporation which later became part of the Monsanto Company. We believe this preceded the manufacture of PCBs in Europe and Japan by about ten years, although I was not able to specifically tie down this historical data.

Supplies of the bulletin you requested have been exhausted for several months, and it is in the process of being revised and reprinted. I will send you the new bulletin as soon as we receive copies. Please understand that the old bulletin,

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as well as the new edition, covers only the plasticizer applications, many of which are only suggested applications. To our knowledge, Aroclor plasticizers are not used in all the applications suggested in the bulletin. Primary markets are chlorinated rubber, styrene-butadiene copolymers and polysulfide sealants.

Aside from plasticizers, the principal market for polychlorinated biphenyls is in electrical applications where the insulating fluids used in transformers and capacitors are completely sealed. In another major market, heat-transfer applications, the fluid is used in closed systems.

In the United States, Monsanto presently manufactures its Aroclor products at plants located in Sauget, Ill., and Anniston, Ala. Extensive efforts are in practice at these plants to prevent PCB losses to the environment. These practices have been in use for many years and controls are continually being improved. Controlling practices are also in effect to prevent loss in those manufacturing operations where Aroclor is incorporated into other Monsanto products.

In the more than 40 years of manufacturing Aroclor products by Monsanto, we have had no instances of injury or adverse effects which could be associated with either the manufacturing or handling of these products.

Your letter requested additional information such as scientific reports. Our research department summarized some of their work and rather than try to incorporate their observations into this letter, I am making it an enclosure.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in your article. We will look forward to reviewing a draft copy you offered to send. If the paper suggests other areas where we could provide beneficial comment, we will try to do so before your deadline.

Sincerely,

E. V. John

Edward V. John
Public Relations Manager
Organic Chemicals Division

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Enclosures

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