Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Dept. of Medicine & Environmental Health - P.L. Wright, A2SC

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DATE: December 9, 1977

CC: G.J. Levinskas, A2SG

SUBJECT: PCB CLASS ACTIONS

REFERENCE: memo 12/1/77 J. Gentry to G. Roush

TO

G. Roush, Jr. - A2SA

In Dr. Allen's experiments, rhesus monkeys were administered dietary concentrations of 2.5 or 5.0 parts per million PCB. Based upon reviews of the published reports of these studies and a visit to Dr. Allen's laboratory at the University of Wisconsin, by G.J. Levinskas and P.L. Wright, it was concluded that adverse dermal and adverse reproductive effects were observed in the monkeys administered PCBs.

Following the Yusho incident in Japan, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration estimated that 4 µg/kg might be a "safe" level based on the available doses shown to produce effects in man. FDA proposed a guideline of one µg/kg/day as a permissible intake. By contrast, the calculated dosages to monkeys in Dr. Allen's studies were 100 and 200 µg/kg body weight per day, a dosage FDA calculated to be a toxic level in human subjects from the Yusho incident.

Monsanto is currently conducting studies with rhesus monkeys administering doses of 5, 25 or 100 µg of PCBs/kg/body weight/day. These studies are being conducted to define a no-effect level in this species. No adverse responses have been observed after approximately six months of administration, even at the highest dosage level -- 100 µg/kg/day. These monkeys are currently being mated. Studies on the reproductive efficiency will be conducted.

Paul L. Wright

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/bkp

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