Monsanto
CHEMICALS LTD.

FROM (LOCATION) H.A. Vodden, Ruabon

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SUBJECT : MONTHLY REPORT - October 1972

REFERENCE : HAV/meh

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Specialty Products - R & D. - Europe

1. Dielectrics

The programme of work to investigate the effects of process parameters on the composition of Arocior 1242 nas been delayed due to a plant shut-down. The analytical equipment for studying the product composition is working well and it is planned to restart on 30 October.

Samples of Pyroclor from transformers at Proctor & Gamble have been checked following a report from their analytical consultants that the fluid was unsuitable for use. Our results showed that the Pyroclor was satisfactory and P & G have been advised accordingly.

2. Carbonless Paper Solvents

J. Dickinson of Markinch, Scotland, would be interested in new solvents giving 5 - 10% w/w solubilities for CVL and BLMB. They are reluctant to supply samples of their 8-component dye, but will evaluate if we have interesting solvents.

3. Hydraulic Fluids

We have confirmed that Bayer's Elaol V1 mining fluid is substantially a 42% chlorinated biphenyl.

We have also found that the Houghton Fire Resistant Hydraulic Fluid used by Volkswagen, Germany, contains a 42% chlorinated biphenyl.

4. Penta/Santobrite

Emphasis this month has been on environmental issues. We are co-operating with the British Wood Preservatives Associations and the Department of the Environment in a survey of non-agricultural uses of pesticides; many of the applications of Penta, Santobrite and other derivatives fall into this category. We have presented some information on biological degradation to the U.K. Department of the Environment.

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5. Environmental Studies (PCB)

We have suffered further set-backs in our ~~panel~~ pond experiment through losses of fish due to natural causes (fungal disease and king-fishers). Remedial measures have been adopted to reduce these losses, but it is too early to say whether these have been successful. Meanwhile, shortage of effort has caused a delay in analysing fish samples, but extracts of most are now ready for analysis.

We have received further information from the Department of the Environment on the proposals being considered by the OECD Sector Group on 'Unintended Chemicals in the Environment'. These proposals are to be discussed at the next meeting, on 22-24 November. It is suggested that the use of PCBs should be allowed to continue in

Transformers
Large Power Capacitors
Heat Transfer - except food, drug and animal feed
Mining Hydraulic Applications.

All other applications, except perhaps small capacitors, should discontinue the use of PCB products. There seems to be no direct reference to the fact that different types of PCB, having different environmental compatibilities, may be used for different applications. We hope to meet with the U.K. delegates, probably on 14 November, to discuss these proposals.

H.A. VODDEN

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