Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): D. Wood - B2SD

DATE: April 13, 1978

CC:

SUBJECT:

REFERENCE:

TO: L. A. Miller
E. T. Mollica
R. A. Stohr

Puerto Rico

RALSTON PURINA PCB POULTRY FEED CONTAMINATION

NEWS RELEASE APRIL 12-13TH

The following summarizes the Ralston Purina situation and is based on review of Wall Street Journal and Globe Democrat releases on April 13 and Sam Pickards discussion with Wayne Pine of FDA.

A Ralston Purina subsidiary, National Packing Company, stored fish meal in a warehouse in Puerto Rico. In April, 1977, a fire caused damage to the warehouse. Damage included rupture of two transformers containing PCB coolant. Two thousand pounds of coolant were sprayed over eight hundred thousand pounds of fish meal.

On January 6th, 1978, a Texas poultry company reported to FDA that they observed excessive PCB levels in fat tissues of its chickens. FDA investigators traced the PCB contamination to the fish meal in the Puerto Rico warehouse.

Wayne Pine reports that as a result of the feed contamination four hundred thousand chickens have been destroyed. Fifteen thousand dozen eggs per day have been destroyed since March 16th.

Levels of PCB of up to 62 ppm have been analyzed in contaminated chicken feed. A finished animal food may not contain more than 0.2 ppm PCB.

Ralston Purina state that;

a) all contaminated fish meal has been destroyed or withdrawn from the market,

b) all affected customers have been informed,

c) none of the contaminated fish meal was used in its Purina Chow animal feeds,

d) Texas, Arkansas and Iowa received most of the fish meal.

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FDA claim that Ralston Purina told them that it knew of the fire in April 1977, but had not tested for possible PCB contamination in the fish meal.

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FDA spokesman Nancy Glick said the levels of contamination found in poultry and eggs so far should not cause symptoms associated with large doses of PCB's in humans.

Ralston Purina are sensitive to PCB contamination because of four previous situations which are reported separately by R.A. Stohr.

1977 Specialty Chemical Division sales to Ralston Purina were $2.2M of which Santoquin and MHA feed additives comprised $2.0M. We have programs active on Sorbates, Fumaric Acid and Aflaban in commercial development involving Ralston Purina.

D. Wood

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