DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20204

December 23, 1974

Dr. James Mieure
Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear Dr. Mieure:

In response to your recent request made to John Roach, I am enclosing a copy of the presentation made at the October 1974 AOAC Meeting, entitled "Finding of Chlorinated Dibenzofurans in Aroclor PCB's of Recent Manufacture." Additional work to determine the levels of chlorinated dibenzofurans in the Aroclors is now underway in our laboratory.

You are probably aware that evidence for chlorinated dibenzofuran contaminants has been reported for PCB's made in France and Germany, by Vos, and in Japan, by Roach and Pomerantz, prior to our recent findings in the 1200 Series Aroclors. You may have considered, as we have, possible means by which the chlorinated dibenzofurans are formed. Can you please tell us whether the parent dibenzofuran has been looked for or found in the starting biphenyl? Are hydroxylated, chlorinated biphenyls, conceivable precursors to the dibenzofurans, present in the Aroclors? Are they formed in a base treatment step (lime or alkali) after chlorination? Perhaps there are alternative explanations for which you have some experimental support.

Your discussion of these points would be welcome and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

CF Jelinek

C. F. Jelinek, Ph.D.
Director
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Enclosure

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