

bcc: Mr. John Mason
Mr. William B. Papageorge

February 11, 1971

Mr. Bob Koebbe
St. Louis Globe-Democrat
12th & Delmar Streets
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Dear Bob:

As you suggested, I am sending you what I know about our new incinerator via this letter. Feel free to come back at us with any questions you might have. Since your story may appear in Chemical Week or Electrical World, we appreciate your interest and hope the article will be an additional service to our customers in alerting them to the availability of recycling and disposal equipment for polychlorinated biphenyls.

Let me lead off by correcting a few glaring errors in the telex you received from Lepkowski.

First, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) is not a highly poisonous material. When discussing toxicity, you have to ask yourself the question: Toxic to whom or what? By comparison to PCB, the following are highly toxic materials -- iodine, lye, gasoline, insecticides, paint thinner, lighter fluid, and various household cleaning compounds.

More important, PCB is not a household product. It is an industrial product used in heavy-duty electrical equipment. PCB has never required a danger or poison or toxic label when shipped in interstate commerce. The label does caution against getting the material in the eyes or on the skin. It also goes one step further and says: "This product contains polychlorinated biphenyls, which some studies have shown may be an environmental contaminant. Extreme care should be taken to prevent any entry into the environment through spills, leakage, use, disposal, vaporization or otherwise."

DSW 281953

STLCOPCB4063281

Shipping labels historically have been used to protect people. I think it is significant that Monsanto has voluntarily added a message of caution to shippers and customers, which also protects the environment.

The reference in Lepkowski's telex to "concentrating PCBs to bulk" probably refers to our new method of return via tank truck. Previously, the material had been returned only in sealed, heavy-duty drums. Now customers may accumulate the spent fluid and return it in larger quantities, thus reducing shipping costs. The product is not literally reduced in size, but simply may be returned in larger quantities.

Enough for the prologue -- now to the incinerator story.

Yes, we are building an incinerator located at our William G. Krummrich Plant in Sauget, Ill. It is presently under construction and should be finished about mid-year.

The physical equipment was designed and built by an outside contractor. I understand it was built with "off-the-shelf" hardware and the technology is well-known. The burner is of a special design but this has nothing to do with disposal of PCB. The builder apparently thought it was the best available.

As you may know, the major use of PCB has been as a coolant in electrical transformers. In most cases, the fluid is put into the transformer and it stays there for up to 20 years, or longer. These "closed-system" uses are such that we can work closely with our customers in the proper handling and disposal of the fluids. For example, if some fluid spills on the floor accidentally, it should be wiped up with rags and the rags returned to us for disposal along with any spent fluids which might have been drained out of older equipment.

When the spent PCB arrives, we have two choices: 1) Recycle it (clean it up) and put it back into service, or 2) dispose of it. The incinerator is a special, high-temperature design which breaks down chlorinated biphenyls into harmless materials, mainly hydrochloric acid, which is scrubbed out of the waste gas stream, neutralized and passed through our waste treating facilities.

DSW 281954

Mr. Koebbe

3

February 11, 1971

Cost to the customer is 3 cents per pound plus the cost of the container and freight charges. After the incinerator is operating, and we can accumulate cost data, we may be able to reduce the 3-cent figure even further. This is a break-even (service to customers) operation for us.

Cost of the incinerator is approximately \$500,000. It has a rated capacity of 10 million pounds per year. We are currently stockpiling PCB at the Krummrich plant and now have about one million pounds on hand. As I said earlier, our customers are also accumulating spent fluids for return in bulk shipments.

Since you indicated you had no knowledge of the incinerator or PCB issue, I am sending along our news release of July 16 which outlines Monsanto's program. You'll note that construction of the incinerator is one of the final steps in our "PCB environmental protection program."

Thanks again, Bob, for your interest. If you have any further questions, please give me a call at 694-2891.

Sincerely,

Edward V. John
Public Relations Manager
Organic Chemicals Division

/tw

Enclosure

DSW 281955

STLCOPCB4063283