Monsanto

Feb 1970 dielectric letter

ORGANIC CHEMICALS DIVISION

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
Phone: (314) 694-1000

February 18, 1970

Dear Sir:

Recently several newspaper and magazine articles have been published indicating that Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) have been discovered at some points in some marine, aquatic and wildlife environments. The quantities detected are said to be in the parts per million and parts per billion categories.

It is claimed that the PCBs found strongly resemble chlorinated biphenyls containing 54% and 60% chlorine by weight. Products which are sold by Monsanto under the trade names of Aroclor® 1254 and 1260 do contain chlorinated biphenyls. In addition to Aroclor® 1254 and 1260, Monsanto sells certain functional fluids containing Aroclor® 1254. These include Pydraul® 625, Pydraul® AC, Pydraul® AC - Winter Grade, Pydraul® 540, Therminol® FR-3 and certain dielectric formulations. Several other companies around the world also produce products containing chlorinated biphenyls.

As your supplier of Aroclor® 1254 and 1260 and formulated products containing 1254, we wish to alert you to the potential problem of environmental contamination as referred to in the newspaper and magazine articles.

We would like to point out the following additional facts:

1. Products such as Pydraul® 90,135, 230, 312, A-200, F-9, 150, and 60, Turbinol® 153 and Therminol® FR-1 and FR-2 are not formulated with Aroclor® 1254 or 1260.

2. PCBs with a chlorine content of less than 54% have not been found in the environment and appear to present no potential problem to the environment.

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We have developed, and are now testing, new formulations to replace the Aroclor® 1254 and 1260 components in our Pydraul® products. The new products appear to be equal in performance and to have similar physical properties.

We feel that all possible care should be taken in the application, processing and effluent disposal of these products to prevent them becoming environmental contaminants. Of interest to you may be an article in Chemical Week, October 29, 1969, regarding water pollution standards set by each state in the Union. It is attached. This article reflects that good manufacturing practice in the future may require that no product used by any company should find their way into waterways.

We realize that you have marketed or may now market transformers and other electrical equipment containing dielectric fluids which include Aroclor® 1254 and 1260. Although these fluids are sealed into such equipment it is recognized that occasionally the fluid may be lost through leaks resulting from equipment misuse or equipment repair necessitating replacement of the fluid. Since the dielectric fluid contained in this equipment is only an incidental part of the over-all unit manufactured by you, we are not notifying the purchasers of such equipment of the potential environmental contamination problem described in this letter. We do recommend, however, that you notify such equipment users of this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Don Olson

Donald A. Olson
Director of Sales
Functional Fluids Group

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Attachment

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