R. Nickols (919) 821-1234
Observer → Chaulet 16 Aug 1978 2:30 pm

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (Operating or Parent): Parent

SUBJECT: PCBs/North Carolina

REPORTER & MEDIA: Bill Welsh
AP, Raleigh, N.C. (919) 833-8687

TIME & DATE: Aug. 15, 1978, 2 P.M.

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

X Corporate PR Bulletin Board
X J.T. NOLAN
___ W.R. MULHALL
X S. PICKARD-Washington, D.C.
X J. HUSSEY-Washington, D.C.
X New York Public Relations
X Brussels Public Relations
X MAP PR
X MCI PR
X MCP PR
X MIC PR
X MPR PR
X MTC PR
X INT'L PR
W. B. Papageorge - G4WA

Q: Reporter doing a follow-up story on the PCB road spraying incident. He asked several general, background type questions about PCBs and wanted to know which, if any, Federal or State agencies had contacted Monsanto for information and/or assistance?

A: Told him we had been in contact with the North Carolina Attorney General's office, the North Carolina Department of Health Services and the Atlanta EPA Regional Office.

Q: What is Aroclor 1260?

A: It was a PCB product for transformer dielectric fluid applications and other minor uses. Monsanto discontinued making this product in 1970-71.

Q: Who are your North Carolina customers for Aroclor 1260 and 1232?

A: Told him we were in the process of checking this at the request of the State Attorney General's office, but that it would take time to locate this information, if indeed it's still on file.

Q: Is there any practical way to neutralize PCBs? There's a proposal being discussed here that would involve spreading activated charcoal over the contaminated road ways.

A: We know of no way to neutralize PCBs. The only way they can be destroyed is by incineration at very high temperatures above 2000 degrees F. The important thing is to keep the PCBs away from water.

MONS 008624

-more-

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Q: What happens when they get in the water?

A: They settle to the bottom and become lodged in the sediment where they are then consumed by lower forms of acquatic life and begin moving up through the food chain.

Q: Aren't PCBs a cancer agent?

A: According to the most recent government test, released by the National Institute of Health on April 21, 1978, Aroclor 1254, one of the most common PCB fluids, was not carcinogenic to rats fed the material in feed for 104 to 105 weeks.

MONS 008625

SOURCE OF ANSWER

W. B. Papageorge
R. C. Isham; G. F. Barton; files

HANDLED BY:

Dan R. Bishop