Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) J. J. Vick - Industrial Engineering - Pensacola

DATE November 25, 1970

SUBJECT PCB

REFERENCE

cc: W. T. Cline
B. T. Dean
W. B. Hogeman
R. M. Warner

RECEIVED
NOV 25 1970
ADMINISTRATION DEPT.

TO : J. E. Lipe - Pensacola

I had a telephone conversation with W. B. Papageorge concerning PCB this morning. He brings out the following points as perhaps useful in discussions concerning PCB with local groups.

1. Once we became aware of PCB leaving this plant, we took immediate action to stop it and discontinued its use.

2. There is no evidence to connect PCB to massive fish kills.

3. There is no evidence that people are adversely affected by PCB.

4. FDA maximum permissible is 5 parts per million in the edible portion of shrimp and 0.2 parts per million in milk.

5. The company is participating in extensive long-term toxicity studies with rats, dogs and chickens. The results of these studies are being shared with the Department of Agriculture, the FDA and other governmental agencies. At the end of the first year, rats and dogs with PCB in their diet demonstrated lower weight gain rate than did the control group and the livers of the PCB group were enlarged but healthy. The study with chickens indicates that with 10 parts per million PCB in their diet, egg-shells are softened and thus reproduction affected. These studies will continue for another twelve months.

6. As of August 30, 1970, Monsanto discontinued sales of PCB for use in plasticizers. By April 1, 1971, the company's hydraulic fluids will have been reconstituted and will contain no PCB. The only uses for which Monsanto will sell PCB will be heat transfer applications and electrical equipment applications. These will be completely closed systems. The continued use of PCB in these applications is justified on the basis of the fire resistance of the fluids.

7. It was emphasized that the company has taken the above steps voluntarily and has been concerned about PCB and the environment since well before it became a popular political issue.

8. The company is cooperating with many government agencies but has not agreed to provide production data to private groups or individuals. This data has however, been offered to certain government officials but so far all have declined the invitation.

J. J. Vick

J. J. Vick/gj

JJV:gj

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