

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Cumming Paton

DATE November 18, 1969

SUBJECT Brominated Biphenyl

REFERENCE

TO : M. W. Farrar
Queeny Research

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W. J. Gissendanner
W. K. Johnson
F. T. Nemits
W. F. Waychoff
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circulate
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I refer to the attached correspondence from Roger Sellew. This report has serious implications for the plasticizer group. Norm Touchette has been working with Springfield on flame retarding ABS. Because of the heat distortion temperatures involved they have looked at our Aroclors 1268 and 1270/1272. They are not F.R. enough due to their inertness and H & P appear to favor hexabromobenzene at \$1.00-1.20/lb. Should Michigan Chemical decide to enter the brominated biphenyl business the question arises why not Monsanto and why not try to keep Michigan Chemicals out. Brominated biphenyls may have other attractions to Monsanto at this time particularly if the lower ones were bio-degradable. I suggest you may want to look into this situation and have close liaison with General Chemicals so we don't have a strong flame retardant competitor become a lot stronger.

Quest
We could help make this much
WR

Re the U.K. implications of Berk Ltd., I am asking Dick Onians by copy of this memo to find out if MCL is encouraging Berk to supply them with brominated biphenyl for flame retarding MCL's plastics. I would hope that we could take care of H & P's flame retardant needs within Monsanto. Any producer that goes into brominated biphenyls will almost certainly back into other halogenated bi/terphenyls. I think we should do everything we can to prevent this and not be lulled into thinking that the current PCB publicity will insulate us against any more competition.

Cumming Paton

CP:jah

Attachments

① Weiss/Thompson has prepared the chloro-bromo biphenyl equivalent to Aroclor 1242 and the all bromo biphenyl equivalent to Aroclor 1242. We don't have any data on biodegradation. Its acute toxicity is = to Aroclor 1242. We will submit to R Swisher - Inorganic for biodegradability. It should be better than Aroclor 1242. VRE

② We will have a process problem in recycling HBr and converting to Br₂ to recycle full Br₂ solution. VRE

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