MONSANTO CHEMICALS LIMITED
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
RUABON

JOB INITIATIONS

Job No: 650 10 122 47 Date: January, 1970

Title: AROCLOR - BIODEGRADATION STUDIES

Objective:

To investigate and define the extent to which biodegradation of polychlorinated biphenyls is likely.

Significance:

Environmental contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls is now recognised as a serious problem in many parts of the world. This poses a serious threat to Monsanto's Aroclor business. Better knowledge of the extent to which biodegradation of polychlorinated biphenyls can be expected, or can be induced, will enable actions to be formulated as a counter to this threat.

Scope:

Work so far has shown that biodegradation of certain low chlorine isomers of polychlorinated biphenyls is possible. The scope of this project includes studies of the effects of micro-organisms on specific isomers and on commercial mixtures. It is anticipated that the work will show which isomers can be degraded under conditions prevailing in the experimental environment, and may indicate where degradation may be expected under natural conditions.

Analytical work in support of this study is expected to be very substantial and will involve some development of analytical technique.

Estimated Costs:

Graduate	4 months	(1 m.m. Phys. Methods)	
Technician	12 months	(6 m.m. Analytical)	
			$
		Direct:	8,700
		Shared:	5,000
		Total:	13,700

Target Date: 31 December 1970.

Report monthly to review programme.

Initiated by W. F. Clarke

Approved by _____

MONS 037395