PRESS QUERY

COMPANY: (Operating & Parent) MICC

SUBJECT: PCBs

REPORTER & MEDIA: Mike Rodey
Terrytown, N.Y., Daily News

DATE & TIME: Oct. 8, 1975
2:30 p.m.

QUERY AND RESPONSE:

DISTRIBUTION

- X Corporate PR Bulletin Board
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Q: Who are Monsanto's PCB customers in the New York area? Is General Electric your largest customer? How much does General Electric buy?

A: We have furnished our PCB customer list to the Federal EPA in Washington, D.C. We would suggest that you contact the Agency for any information regarding PCB end users.

Q: How much PCB material is manufactured by Monsanto?

A: Monsanto produces approximately 40 million pounds of PCBs per year at our William G. Krummrich Plant in Sauget, Ill.

Q: What do PCBs look like?

A: They vary in appearance from a clear to yellowish liquid.

Q: What is Monsanto's policy regarding PCB sales?

A: Monsanto has voluntarily restricted the sales of PCBs since the early 1970s to the electrical industry for use as a dielectric (heat transfer) fluid in sealed electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors -- where no acceptable substitutes exist. This program has been reviewed by the Federal Interdepartment Task Force.

Q: Why did Monsanto restrict sales in 1970?

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A: To quote from our news release of July 16, 1970, "Monsanto was not pressured into action by any legislative or organized group. We have taken decisive action based on evidence that PCB is a persistent chemical which builds up in the environment."

Q: I understand there are replacements available for PCBs. Why can't these be used?

A: Explained that replacement products currently available don't offer the fire resistant qualities of PCB fluids and could result in increased fire insurance rates and a compromising of safety standards. Also mentioned the report of the EIA to the EPA of June 1975 outlining the costs involved in a ban of PCBs in electrical applications.

Q: Is Monsanto planning to halt production of PCBs?

A: In our judgement, our restricted sales program provides benefits in the form of safety, reliability and energy conservation that outweigh by far any risk of potential harm to the environment. Consequently, as long as there is no acceptable, safe, proven alternative material available, we will continue to supply the electrical industry's need for this essential material.

Source of Answer: Files and PCB Q&A Sheet

Handled by: G. F. Barton