UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

APR 1 1976

REGION VII
1735 BALTIMORE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - 64108

February 27, 1976

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ralston-Purina
835 S. 8th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63188

Gentlemen:

Recent governmental sampling data indicate the presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's) and comparable chemical substances in the air, in water bodies, and in fish in several areas of the country. In order to determine the nature and extent of the possible adverse effects resulting from the presence of the PCB compounds in the environment, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with other federal and State agencies, is attempting to determine the sources and amounts of PCB's entering the environment. It is important that this effort be carried out without delay.

It is our understanding that your company is handling or has handled in the past five years PCB compounds or mixtures or comparable chemical substances in the operations of its facilities located at Ottumwa and Davenport, Iowa, and Lincoln, Nebraska. I am therefore requesting pursuant to the authority provided by Section 308 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1318, and Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1857c-9, that your company furnish EPA with information pertaining to your use and handling of PCB's and comparable chemical substances relative to your Ottumwa, Davenport, and Lincoln facility and any other facilities where these materials are being handled or have been handled in the past five years.

In addition to a general description, which should include information as to sources, quantities, uses, and ultimate disposition, you are requested to respond in detail to the enclosed questions. If any question is not applicable to your company or operations, please so indicate by responding "not applicable."

The information requested herein must be provided notwithstanding its possible characterization as confidential information or trade secrets. Should you so request, however, any information (other than effluent or emission data) which the Administrator of this Agency determines to constitute methods or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets such information will be maintained as confidential, pursuant to procedures specified in 40 CFR Part 2.

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Within 14 days of receipt of this letter, your company must provide all information concerning your current status and activities covering the twelve-month period immediately preceding receipt of this letter.

Within 30 days following receipt of this letter, your company must provide all information for all of the prior years indicated.

The information required herein should be sent to the following address:

Mr. Earl J. Stephenson
Director, Enforcement Division
Environmental Protection Agency
1735 Baltimore
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Michael J. Sanderson, at 816/374-2576, or Mr. W. L. Banks, at 816/374-3171.

We appreciate your prompt cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Earl J. Stephenson
Director
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Larry E. Crane, Executive Director, Iowa Department of Environmental Quality, Des Moines, Iowa 50316
Mr. James L. Wilson, Director, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Mr. Dan T. Drain, Director, Department of Environmental Control Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

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