Monsanto

FROM
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DATE : September 1, 1983 cc. J. G. Nassif

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - August 1983
PCB Surveillance

REFERENCE :

TO : W. B. Papageorge

HIGHLIGHTS

New Regulations

- The negotiated rulemakings between EPA and environmentalist (EDF, NRDC)/ industry consensus groups had mixed results in August.

  The proposed rule concerning incidentally manufactured PCBs remains on course. This rule has been used as a basis of settlement between EPA and Dow Chemical over the "monochloro biphenyl definition" issue.

  However, negotiations to develop a consent decree to settle the totally enclosed electrical equipment issues have broken down completely and will probably not resume. EPA announced that no matter what agreement environmentalists and the electrical utility industry reached, EPA on its own would probably initiate a totally new rulemaking for transformers.

Enforcement Activities

- EPA announced this month they would increase inspections of facilities using/storing PCBs in their enforcement program.

  The Soda Springs plant received an EPA - PCB inspection August 25. (PCB records and equipment were in order and received favorable comment from the inspector.)

  EPA has notified Carondelet they plan a PCB inspection in early September.

  The Idaho Grand Jury investigation of the alleged Soda Springs transformer disposal incident appears to be subsiding. Indications are that they are satisfied with Monsanto information and will most probably not pursue any other Monsanto witnesses.

Health And Toxicity Data

- Contract details are being finalized on a research proposal to study effects of PCBs fed at various levels to dairy cattle at Ohio State University.

SUMMARY

1. Objective

Influence more reasonable regulation of PCBs by State and Federal agencies.

Status

New PCB Regulations

- The negotiated rulemakings between EPA and the environmentalist (EDF, NRDC)/chemical industry (CMA) coalition concerning incidentally manufactured PCBs remains on course. However, similar negotiations regarding the EDF challenged "totally enclosed" electrical equipment rule have broken down. EPA announced off-the-cuff at the mid-August final negotiating session for a consent decree to settle the electrical equipment issues that EPA planned to initiate a new rulemaking covering all transformers and ingredients because of potential dioxin, dibenzofuran generation under abuse conditions. Target date for this new electrical rule is July, 1985.

- The proposed "incidental PCB" manufacturing rule negotiated by CMA and environmentalist groups (EDF and NRDC) has been used as the basis for a settlement of the "monochlorobiphenyl issue" between Dow Chemical and EPA. If EPA adopts the proposed rule, Dow agreed to pay a stipulated $120k civil penalty.

2. Objective

[redacted]

3. Objective

Provide guidance to Monsanto facilities for cost effective compliance with PCB rules and regulations.

Status

- The EPA PCB enforcement program is expected to emphasize heat transfer and hydraulic systems during the next two months as part of an evaluation of whether or not to extend the current contaminated equipment use authorizations which expire July 1984. (These systems primarily used old Therminol FR and Pydraul fluids.) Many such systems are still located at several Monsanto facility sites.

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- John Craddock visited the Soda Springs plant to discuss and review PCB inventory and disposal practices. While at the plant August 25, EPA conducted a PCB enforcement/compliance inspection. PCB records and equipment were in order and received favorable comment from the inspector.

- The Idaho Grand Jury investigation of the Soda Springs transformer disposal incident appears to be subsiding. Indications this week are that they are satisfied with Monsanto information and will probably not pursue any other Monsanto witnesses.

- Carondelet Plant has received a request from EPA for a PCB inspection including records and facilities. A mutually convenient time is being scheduled--probably early September.

4. Objective

Provide initiatives to reduce public hysteria and develop more reasonable understanding of PCB health and environmental effects.

Status

- Contract details are being finalized on a research proposal to study effects of PCBs fed at various levels to dairy cattle at Ohio State University. The study will begin in early September.

- The St. Louis Post Dispatch "finally got it right" in a recent editorial on military installation hazardous waste disposal. The Post editorial described PCBs: "PCBs have caused cancer and birth defects in animals and skin diseases in humans." (Emphasis mine!)

J. H. Craddock

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