December 3, 1971

Mr. George F. Fague
Monsanto Chemical Company
500 Northland Towers, West
Detroit, Michigan 48235

Dear Mr. Fague:

Thank you for your letter of October, 14, 1971 and for the cooperation you have given our Industrial Waste Control Section. The job of reducing water pollution is one which affects us all and your help has been appreciated.

With regard to oil pollution, our major contributors have installed treatment plants including 300,000 gallon tanks to reduce their portion of the total. The last major contributor in our area is presently building an $8½ million plant. With regard to heavy metals, we are currently prepairing a new ordinance to restrict the effluent from plating installations down to a few parts per million of copper, nickel, cyanide, etc. whose harmful effects have been noted. A number of job platers have already installed equipment to prevent these materials from entering our system.

To reduce the phosphate content in our influent and to reduce the rate of eutrophication of Lake Erie, we have restricted the phosphate content of all laundry detergents shipped into the Detroit Area. All manufacturers shipping such products into this area are reporting their formulations to this Department where they are being kept confidential. A copy of the ordinance is enclosed.

With regard to polychlorinated biphenyls, the character of these materials and their effect on the environment has been determined by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Water Resources Commission. The MWRC has detected the presence of PCB in the effluent to our treatment plant and also in our effluent to the Detroit River. Our responsibility now is to determine the magnitude and location of the sources of these materials.

In the past, we have surveyed all industrial users of cutting oils, hydraulic oils, plating chemicals, etc. and required reports of their annual consumption, concentrations in tanks and steps taken to treat any possible discharge to the sewer system. As the major or sole supplier of PCB's in the Detroit Area, you can save us the expense of surveying all possible users by letting us know who in the Detroit Area have purchased this material and how much.

The urgency of this need is of some moment as the MWRC is quite concerned. If we can help to expedite this in any way, please do not hesitate to call the writer at 962-5550, Extension 259.

Yours very truly,

MONS 093538

A. M. Shannon, Ph.D.
Chief, Water and Wastewater Treatment

CC: Mr. William Papageorge ✓
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