Monsanto

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JM

Mr. Roger W. James
317-B South 11th Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Mr. James:

Since PCBs fall within the Monsanto unit that I'm responsible for, Tom Smith sent me your April 22 letter.

We're proud of Monsanto's total program to date. Our plan to bring about the fastest possible orderly withdrawal from the manufacture of PCBs is, in my opinion, the best possible way to serve total public interest, not our profits.

When we announced the discontinuance of manufacture, Monsanto clearly was abandoning this business of the past several years. Every one of our customers immediately stepped up their technical replacement programs. Our volumes manufactured were down substantially in 1975 from 1974. Our 1976 volumes will be far below 1975. I really expect our total production to have ceased before the end of 1977.

PCBs have not been proven poisons, carcinogens, or other direct threats to animal or human safety. In fact, the considerable body of test data and research information indicate just the contrary. However, they do accumulate. They tend to build up in the environment (not biodegrade) and will accumulate in animal tissue. While the fact of accumulation without any proven harm might be called a secondary concern, Monsanto was motivated by even the secondary concern sufficient to begin our withdrawal from the business.

If we stop manufacturing PCBs tomorrow, I'm personally convinced the electrical industry would have no feasible substitutes. On the other hand, I am convinced they have an all-out effort to find replacements and that they will be successful almost totally before next year is out.

Monsanto is taking positive steps to stop the flow of PCBs, we're doing it in the most rapid, orderly fashion that we can control, and we are within sight of consciously discontinuing a reasonably profitable business.

I am grateful for thoughtful letters such as yours. With complete sincerity, I can say that I'm proud that my company has taken a very responsible position on PCBs, contrary to our longer-term profit interest, and compatible with total public interest.

Sincerely,

F. J. Fitzgerald

FJF:PH

CC: Mr. T. K. Smith, Jr.