Monsanto

FROM (NAME LOCATION PHONE): D. Wood - B2SD - 2623

DATE: October 18, 1979

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE DISCUSSION WITH DONALD DERR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C. TELEPHONE (202) 447-7680

REFERENCE:

TO:

J. R. Ortiz - E2ND
J. C. Weber - B2SB
R. C. Isham - B1ND
F. A. Provorny - B3NJ
E. T. Mollica - B3SA
D. R. Bishop - A3NB
C. F. Callis - B2SA

Derr called regarding the recent contamination of animal feed in Billings, Montana. The Department of Agriculture has been severely criticized for the delays in its part of testing PCBs in that situation. They are having to respond to considerable pressure from congress, particularly from Representative McGuire of New Jersey. Assistant Director Foreman of the Department of Agriculture has asked Derr's group to design rules which will identify where PCBs exist in food processing plants and will withdraw such sources so that future contamination will not occur.

Derr asked for information on applications of PCBs which might be found in food processing plants. The most likely areas of interest will be on transformers and capacitors in moving equipment and ovens such as microwave ovens, baking ovens and on power factor correction capacitors on incoming power voltage lines. They will be checking any frying and vegetable oil deodorizing units for previous PCB heat transfer use. It may raise the issue of Silo paints again.

Don expressed concern that because of the present political pressures on the Department policy may dictate that their approach to the food processing industry is overreactive. He asked us to keep in touch with him as issues developed.

I believe that we should keep close to this issue since it may become a widespread public issue and could cause severe disruptions in the food processing industry.

D. Wood

DW:pb

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