Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): Medical Department A2SA

DATE: October 13, 1971

cc: R. E. Kelly
M. N. Johnson
E. P. Wheeler

SUBJECT: AROCLOR® 1260

REFERENCE:

TO: FILE

I spoke with: Renate D. Kimbrough, M.D.
Pathologist
EPA Atlanta Tox. Branch
4770 Buford Highway
Chamblee, Georgia 30341
Tel: (404) 633-3311, ext. 5218

today regarding her observation of bladder tumors in rats fed AROCLOR 1260.

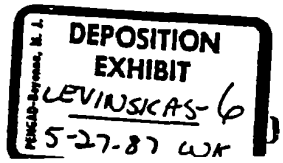
The observations of Vos and Koeman (Toxicol. and Applied Pharmacol. 17, 656-668, 1970) on polychlorinated biphenyls led them to undertake rat reproduction studies with AROCLOR 1254 (Lot AK38) and 1260 (Lot AK3). The materials were obtained from Glasgow at FDA. Their primary findings have been lesions in the liver, and Dr. Kimbrough plans to present a paper on the liver lesions at the 1972 spring meeting of the Society of Toxicology. In addition, she has seen 2 lesions in the bladders of rats fed AROCLOR 1260. The first occurred in a female which died after 6 months on test. This was diagnoaed as a malignant anaplastic carcinoma of the bladder. The second was in a male killed after 8 months on test. The first diagnosis was of epithelial hyperplasia. Sections of both bladders were sent to NCI for diagnosis to Drs. Strauss (?) and Katherine Snell. The diagnosis of carcinoma in the female was confirmed. The lesion in the male was not resolved. Some pathologists believe it is a carcinoma, others believe it is hyperplasia.

Dr. Kimbrough stated that they were trying to analyze the AROCLOR 1260 sample for impurities, but were having some difficulty with their equipment. I indicated that we would try to track down material from the sample that they had received. In the event that we cannot locate this lot, we probably can get some material back through Thomas B. Gaines, Supervisory Research Pharmacologist, at the same location as Dr. Kimbrough. If we have an analysis of this lot, we should make the results known to Dr. Kimbrough.

Dr. Kimbrough said that they had observed porphyria in some rats with both compounds. She also indicated that they were contemplating doing a 2 year feeding study with larger numbers of rats to investigate the problem of bladder tumors. She is perplexed by the bladder tumors, and she is not emphasizing them in her discussions. However, she has mentioned her findings when PCB's have been discussed at various interagency meetings. This is apparrently how Weissburg learned about them.

(cont'd.)

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As a final note, Dr. Kimbrough expressed concern over whether PCB's presented an additional hazard to the employees who manufacture it. I told here that because of the chloracne and liver hazards, there had been medical supervision of the employees. However, I would raise this point with Drs. Kelly and Johnson for their review.

George J. Levinskas

/bks

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