March 31, 1976

J. W. Ahlen
Staff Scientist
Illinois Legislative Council
107 State Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Mr. Ahlen:

Mr. Weber referred your request for polychlorinated biphenyl acute toxicity data to me. Representative data are contained in REGISTRY OF TOXIC EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, (US HEW, NIOSH, June 1975). The following single dose oral LD_{50} values for rats were reported:

AROCLOR® 1242	4.2 g/kg
AROCLOR 1254	1.3 g/kg
AROCLOR 1260	1.3 g/kg

Among the many other values for various materials were:

Salt (NaCL)	3.0 g/kg
Aspirin	0.6 g/kg

The polychlorinated biphenyls are classified as only slightly toxic when administered in single oral doses. It must, however, be stressed that the acute toxicity following single doses is not a widely extrapolatable indication of the effects of these materials. The major toxic effects will be observed only after prolonged or repeated exposures. These subacute toxic effects occur as a result of the accumulation of polychlorinated biphenyl when exposures exceed the rate of metabolism and excretion. The current guide lines for work place exposure and the Food and Drug Administration guide lines on permissible polychlorinated-biphenyl content of food items are considered to be low enough to prevent tissue accumulation and

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manifestation of subacute effects.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Wright, PhD
Mgr., Toxicology

PLW:alw

cc: J. C. Weber, B2SK

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