Monsanto

DEC 27 RECD

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): D. Wood - B2SD

DATE: December 20, 1977

SUBJECT: PCB PLANT DISPOSAL
NECO SHEFFIELD, ILLINOIS

REFERENCE:

TO: E. T. Mollica
B3SA

CC: J. R. Condray
A. E. Leisy
M. E. Pierle
R. A. Pohl
F. Provorny
R. A. Stohr
[redacted]
R. C. Isham

We selected Nuclear Engineerings Sheffield, Illinois hazardous landfill site for burial of the PCB equipment from W.G. Krummrich.

The attached contract has been reviewed by MIC and MCI legal departments and represents the best balance of imdemnification which could be negotiated.

In recent weeks the landfilling of radioactive wastes at the Sheffield site has received adverse publicity, attention of the Illinois Attorney General W.J. Scott and a visit from members of a House Government Operations Subcommittee concerned about the costs of perpetual storage of nuclear wastes and the safety of the Sheffield site.

In spite of this recent attention we recommend selection of the Sheffield site should stand and we should enter into a contract with Nuclear Engineering.

On December 20th R.A. Pohl and I reviewed with MIC and MCI environmental groups the criteria for selection of Sheffield.

They are satisfied that given the need to use landfill for plant disposal, in the absence of any better technically approved method, the Sheffield site remains approved and preferred.

Sheffield was selected as having suitable geological structure, EPA permits for PCB landfill, good operating practice, good control of surface water and proximity to St. Louis reducing transportation risk.

All landfill sites are receiving increased public scrutiny and, although there are alternative out of state sites which could potentially handle the plant disposal, they could equally become the subject of emotional adverse publicity in the future. In the meantime their selection would increase the real risk during transportation and involve crossing of state lines with hazardous waste.

Additional considerations are the additional cost and delay of changing site selection at this time.

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We recommend retaining Nuclear Engineering Sheffield for PCB plant disposal even in light of the recent attention focused on its nuclear waste operation. There is positive supportive data for this decision.

We considered the view that in spite of the logic of Sheffield site selection, the timing of landfill may be inopportune and consideration should be given to delay of landfill at that site to permit the current controversy to quieten. Such delay could cost $25,000.

Additionally, Attorney General Scott, who as a crusading Attorney General has previously involved himself in the PCB issue at Wilsonville can potentially interject himself into our plant disposal at any time we elect to proceed at any site in Illinois.

Bob Isham felt potential PR exposure was the same now as in the future. Accordingly we recommend proceeding at once to utilize Sheffield landfill.

D. Wood

pm

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