12/22/71 - Draft
PCB Press Release

Monsanto Company announced today that it has notified its customers for Therminol FR (fire-resistant) heat-transfer fluids, which contain polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), that sales of these fulids are being discontinued. These fluids are used in closed, recirculating systems in various industries, including chemical and petroleum processing systems where fire prevention is of primary importance. In addition, a plan to terminate by mid-1972 all sales of polychlorinated terphenyls was announced. Monsanto had previously discontinued PCB sales for paints, plasticizers, sealants, adhesives and all other open-system uses, and for heat-transfer fluids to customers whose businesses or operations might involve food or animal feed.

C. P. Cunningham, Managing Director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., an operating unit of Monsanto Company, reported that this action had been taken as a part of Monsanto's voluntary program to protect the environment. Some studies have indicated that PCB is a persistent chemical which is building up in the environment.

Monsanto has organized a team of experienced engineers to offer free technical advice to customers who convert to other heat-transfer products. Many Therminol FR customers have already converted their heat-transfer systems to other Monsanto products which do not contain PCB.

As part of the close-out of Therminol FR product line, Monsanto will credit customers for the full purchase price of any unused fluids,

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in unopened drums, returned before March 1, 1972. Freight costs will be paid on any used material drained from the customers' equipment and returned to Monsanto for safe disposal in its recently completed high temperature incineration facility.

Monsanto also announced that sales of PCB for sealed electrical components, such as transformers and capacitators, would be continued, but under special arrangements. For safety reasons, many state and local laws require the use of non-flammable fluids in certain electrical equipment. Because there are no substitutes presently available which equal the safety performance of PCB, it is important that sales of PCB should be continued for this purpose.

"With the bulk of the remaining sales of PCB being limited to electrical components, those monitoring this issue will see further reductions in the possibilities of PCB entering into the environment, and consequently public concern about its presence there should be diminished," Cunningham said. He added, "Although Monsanto's voluntary actions to curb the uses and escape of PCB are important, these actions alone will not solve the worldwide problem of PCB in the environment unless other producers follow our leadership."

Monsanto believes that it has been a leader among companies in the chemical industry in its efforts to minimize environmental pollution. During 1971, Monsanto expended about $_____ for pollution control projects and estimates that during the next three years approximately $60 million will be further expended for these projects, excluding operating costs.

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Monsanto is vigorously defending certain lawsuits and claims involving the alleged contamination of animal feed resulting from PCB. A suit recently instituted by Holly Farms Poultry, Inc. in Wilkes County, North Carolina against Monsanto and four other defendants alleges contamination of fishmeal, purchased by Holly Farms as an ingredient in its chicken feed, by reason of leakage of PCB from a heat transfer system allegedly operated by two of the other defendants. Monsanto had no interest in the heat transfer system nor control over its operation. Monsanto does not consider itself responsible for any of the damages alleged in the complaint, including a count against Monsanto for punitive damages which, in the opinion of its counsel, is wholly without merit and unsupportable.

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