-MONSANTO CO TO CLOSE ITS PCB
MANUFACTURING UNIT NO LATER THAN OCT 31 1977

DRB
2
GB

ST LOUIS -DJ- MONSANTO CO SAID THAT IT WILL CLOSE ITS POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL -PCB- MANUFACTURING UNIT, COMPLETE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL INVENTORIES AND WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE MARKET AS THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF PCB DIELECTRIC INSULATING FLUIDS TO THE ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY INDUSTRY BY NO LATER THAN OCT 31 1977.

THE FIRM WITHDRAWAL DATE WAS ANNOUNCED BY EARLE H HARBISON JR GENERAL MANAGER OF MONSANTO'S SPECIALTY CHEMICALS DIVISION.

HARBISON SAID THE COMPANY WOULD HAVE TARGETED AN EVEN EARLIER SHUTDOWN DATE HAD TRANSFORMER AND CAPACITOR MANUFACTURERS' CONVERSION TIMETABLES PERMITTED. MONSANTO'S PCB PRODUCTS ARE PRODUCED SOLELY FOR USE AS DIELECTRIC INSULATING FLUIDS AT THE COMPANY'S WILLIAM G KRUMMRICH PLANT LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF EAST ST LOUIS ILL.

-0- 10 12 AM EDT OCT 5-76

PART II

MONSANTO-PCB MANUFACTURING UNIT -2-

ST LOUIS -DJ- MONSANTO CO SAID IT ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION LAST JANUARY TO STOP MAKING POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL -PCB- BECAUSE THE CHEMICAL HAS A TENDENCY TO RESIST BIODEGRADATION: AND THAT IT WOULD CEASE PRODUCTION AS SOON AS THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY COULD FIND VIABLE ALTERNATE FLUIDS AND CONVERT ITS EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS TO THEIR USE.

EARLE H HARBISON JR GENERAL MANAGER OF MONSANTO'S SPECIALTY CHEMICALS DIVISION SAID IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE INDUSTRY HAS FOUND REPLACEMENT CANDIDATES AND IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN FIELD TESTING OF NON-PCB ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS PRIOR TO EFFECTING A TOTAL CHANGEOVER TO THEIR USE.

HE SAID 'BASED ON WHAT MONSANTO HAS BEEN TOLD ABOUT THEM IT'S LIKELY THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO OFFER A COMPARABLE DEGREE OF FIRE RESISTANCE. THE PROSPECTIVE REPLACEMENTS APPEAR TO PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE DIELECTRIC PERFORMANCE BUT SYSTEM REDESIGN HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO CIRCUMVENT THE FIRE HAZARD POTENTIAL WHICH WAS INTRODUCED. WHETHER THESE CANDIDATES WILL IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS BE 'ACCEPTABLE' IS ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE FIELD TESTS NOW IN PROGRESS' HE ADDED.

-0- 10 42 AM EDT OCT 5-76