Monsanto INDUSTRIAL CHEMIC. CO.

Aroclors SD

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): J. P. Mieure - T2F

DATE: October 7, 1975

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT TO GE-HUDSON FALLS 9/30/75 - 10/3/75

REFERENCE:

TO: H. S. Bergen
B2SL

cc: R. E. Keller - T1B
G. J. Levinskas - A2SC
W. B. Papageorge - B2SK
C. Paton - B2SC
W. R. Richard - T3A
W. W. Withers - B2SA
D. Wood - B2SD

This memo documents my visit to the General Electric Hudson Falls Plant to discuss environmental considerations of PCBs in the Hudson River.

SUMMARY

The most significant activity during my visit was to help prepare a comparison of the environmental compatibilities of several dielectric fluids. This comparison was presented by Frank Price to GE Vice President George Farnsworth on October 3 and should contribute to GE's future dielectric strategy. I also helped assess and improve Hudson Falls' PCB analytical capability and provided guidance in selecting a competent independent laboratory to analyze Hudson River water for PCBs.

DETAILS

My contact with GE was limited to technical personnel. They were concerned with the October 6 hearing with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and with the pending fact-finding visit of Farnsworth. Price had the responsibility for preparing and presenting alternatives to Farnsworth. He used GE data for the engineering portion of his report, but relied heavily on Monsanto for environmental data. The report centered around a comparison of Aroclor 1016, MCS 1238, Phthalates and Dow's new fluid. Environmental parameters included biodegradability, toxicity (human and other organisms), bioaccumulation and pending regulatory action. The report favored MCS 1238.

The toxicity information provided by phone by Richard/Wood was presented to Price in the format suggested by Levinskas. It was well received and improved our credibility relative to Dow's studies.

GE's analytical effort is limited by the high PCB background levels encountered in their laboratory. This typically corresponds to 1-2 ppb for water analyses. I recommended they cease analyzing river water in their lab, because the results are meaningless with their high background. Suggestions were made which should improve their analytical capability.

GE has decided to use Woodson-Tenent Laboratories in Memphis, Tennessee to analyze Hudson River water. River water values are critical because the legal stance will depend on whether the river contains significant PCB levels upstream from the plant. Dr. Lauer of Ecological Analysts, Middletown, N.Y., will be studying biota in the Hudson under contract to GE. He will take extra water samples for Woodson-Tenent to analyze.

After my return to St. Louis, I received a call from Bob Stenger inquiring about chlorinated dibenzofurans in Aroclor 1016. He wondered if chlorodibenzofuran impurities could be responsible for PCB toxicity. I told him of our continuing efforts to show by chemical analysis that chlorodibenzofurans were not present at significant levels in Aroclor.

One humorous sidelite of the visit was a short TV news segment aired by the Albany NBC affiliate. Pete Seeger, the folk singer, has composed a song about GE and PCBs. He sings this ballad while sailing up and down the lower Hudson with "Ban PCB" banners attached to his sloop!

FUTURE WORK

We are analyzing Hudson River water which I sampled upstream from the Hudson Falls outfall. This will help GE establish upstream PCB levels.

We will provide, as requested, a copy of the 600+ titles of current journal articles relating to PCBs. These titles and references were compiled during our recent PCB literature search.

We will provide, if approved, longer cycle biodegradation data for MCS 1238 now being generated. Slow degradation of the TXS has caused some reservations within GE.

Jim

J. P. Mieure

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