Monsanto

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Mr. Joseph Johnson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
Laboratory Support Section
944 E. Harmon Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In answer to your recent request I have enclosed a Monsanto publication entitled, Polychlorinated Biphenyls -PCBs A Report on Uses, Environmental and Health Effects and Disposal. This document is a summary of data presented by Monsanto Company in November 1979 to a Committee of the U.S. Congress and includes data on manufacturing and sales of PCB products by grade from 1957-1978.

Data in the Table and Graphs in Section 1 show actual sales of the PCB products Aroclor® 1221 and Aroclor® 1232. As you can see sales of Aroclor® 1232 were relatively low compared to all other Aroclor® products and no sales of this product were made after 1971. The data also shows sales of the product Aroclor® 1221 were low during the same time period and although some sales of this product continued from 1972-1976, total sales of this grade were very low compared to total PCB sales.

Aroclor® 1221 is a PCB mixture having an average of 21% chlorine which corresponds to an average of 1 chlorine atom per molecule. Aroclor® 1232 contains an average of 32% chlorine corrresponding to an average of 2 chlorine atoms per molecule.

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PCB molecules having 4 or less chlorine atoms per molecule are readily biodegradable, i.e., the half life of mono-chloro is of the order of days, bi-chloro - the order of weeks and tri-chloro biphenyl the order of 2-3 months. Thus the environmental persistence of these compounds is such that little, if any, of these compounds would be expected to be found intact free in the environment since Monsanto voluntarily ceased manufacture and sales of these products.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to phone.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Craddock, Ph.D.
Product and Environmental
Safety Director

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