bcc: H. L. Minckler HMINC
J. Mason JMASO
H. S. Bergen HBERG

January 11, 1971

Mrs. Fredrika E. Bernstein
14710 Sutton Street
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

Dear Mrs. Bernstein:

Mr. E. J. Bock, President of Monsanto Company, has asked me to reply to your card since I have been deeply involved in the problem of PCB's and the environment. Mr. Bock was very much impressed with the concern expressed in your letter and you may be assured that all of us at Monsanto share this concern.

We have been investigating the relationship of PCB's to the environment since 1968. Adhering to our policy of cooperating with representatives of the academic and governmental scientific community, we have corresponded with over 100 laboratories and have met with scientists around the world including Dr. Robert Risebrough, University of California, Berkeley, Professor G. Widmark, University of Stockholm, Dr. J. H. Koeman and Professor H. Van Gendeven, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. These scientists are acknowledged leaders in the study of PCB's.

We have had, and continue to have, thorough discussions and exchange of information with representatives of governmental agencies in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Sweden. The United States agencies include the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Water Quality Administration, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, and the National Institute of Health.

In every instance the scientists have expressed appreciation of Monsanto's approach and noted that we were taking a responsible position on the PCB problem.

DSW 202336

With regard to your suggestion that we release production information on PCB's, I am sure you are aware that production and sales figures are considered confidential information, as they are in most companies, since this information is vital to the survival of any business. We have informed governmental agencies that we are perfectly willing to make such information available to their responsible representatives subject to our receiving an assurance that these figures would be kept confidential and used only for scientific purposes. Much more meaningful in terms of preventing further contamination of our environment is Monsanto's self-imposed decision that effective from the 30th of August, 1970, we will no longer sell the polychlorinated biphenyls to customers for use in applications where the use and disposal of the end product cannot be controlled.

We have taken the position that we have a responsibility to insure that they are used only in applications where their unique properties are vitally important and where usage and eventual disposal can be monitored and controlled. We, therefore, will continue to sell polychlorinated biphenyls for use in sealed or closed system applications, e.g. transformers, capacitors and heat transfer systems, in which their fire-resistant properties are extremely important in insuring maximum protection for the safety of the population of this country. Coupled with this closed system usage, we have established a service to collect used material for regeneration or safe and total destruction.

You suggest that we consider limiting plastics production. Referring specifically to PCB's, although we have referred to the use of these materials as plasticizers, they were never used in the plastic items you normally encounter such as shower curtains, toys or containers, but were used in special, primarily industrial, types of sealants, coatings, gaskets and the like which as I indicated earlier we no longer supply.

In summary we do share your concern regarding the contamination of our environment with PCB's, we have actively cooperated with scientists studying the problem, we have offered to divulge production information to responsible government agencies on a confidential basis, we have voluntarily refused to sell PCB's to uncontrolled uses and we have established a system for controlling environmental contamination from closed system application. We believe our actions are those that any responsible company would take when faced with this type of problem.

DSW 202337

STLCOPCB4052768

I hope this information is helpful. If I can be of further service, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by W. B. Papageorge

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Control

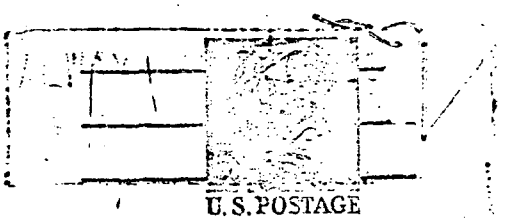
WBP:ms

cc: Mr. E. J. Bock
President
Monsanto Company

DSW 202338

Bernstein
14710 Sutton Street
Sherman Oaks
California 91403






President
Monsanto Corp.
[illegible] N Broadway Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63166

Sir

JAN 8 1971

As a stockholder I deplore your lack of cooperation with scientists seeking to reduce chemical pollutants. It is imperative to release production information on PCBs, for the safety of all of us. You invite rigid controls and government examination of operations unless you give out data voluntarily. We must consider limiting plastics production.

Most sincerely,
(Mrs.) Fredrika E. Bernstein
13 Shares

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