Monsanto

FROM (NAME-LOCATION-PHONE) C. E. Callis/M. C. Throdahl

DATE : February 21, 1978

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE :

TO : H. H. Bible

cc: R. W. Duesenberg - D1V
L. Fernandez - D1C
F. J. Fitzgerald - B2SA
R. J. Mahoney - D1V
L. A. Miller - B3SA
E. T. Mollica - B3SA
J. T. Nolan - D1A
P. S. Park - E2ND
R. A. Stohr - B2SC

Below is a suggested approach to answering the question "Are there practical means that could be developed for removing PCB's from the environment?"

The proposal is to contact research oriented institutions that are sources of unconventional ideas, such as MIT, Cal Tech, or Scripps Oceanographic Institute, outline the situation and offer financial support for generation of ideas and feasibility experiments. No guarantee of support beyond these initial steps would be given. The usual tests of feasibility would be applied independently of the initial investigator.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- No practical methods are known -- except physical removal and incineration.
- Incineration is practical only for highly concentrated PCB's/ or mixtures; most PCB's exist in very dilute or diffuse natural environments.
- Therefore, logical collections of PCB's that are suspect are --
  - ponds and river bottoms
  - pits and landfills (even approved ones)
  - existing drains/sewers in manufacturing facilities
  - paper and refuse
  - existing transformers, capacitors, and closed systems for heat transfer

ALTERNATE APPROACHES:

- In-house ideas have not been fruitful
- Customer industry ideas are no better
- Recent literature references site lasers (MIT) and enzymes (Japan)
- Preferred approach at this time is to go to sources of unconventional ideas

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COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED APPROACH:

The proposal is simply to support exploratory projects to generate ideas. Institutions would be approached until two projects were initiated. Costs equivalent to two man-years for a post-doctoral investigator are envisioned (less than $100,000). Monsanto would use the usual methods to judge practicality of any ideas so generated.

No contacts will be made contingent upon legal and management review.

CFC MCT
Clayton F. Callis/M. C. Throdahl

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