April 19, 197

PCB POSITION STATEMENT

1977 ANNUAL MEETING

Q: As the only domestic producer of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), what is Monsanto going to do about the PCB contaminated oils found recently in (Frontenac, Mo.; Franklin County, Mo.; Cedar Falls, Iowa; etc.)?

A: The situation you refer to should not be viewed as a chemical emergency since PCBs have a very low acute toxicity. The primary concern over PCBs involves their persistence in the environment more than any direct toxic hazard to humans.

In any real emergency, such as a transportation accident involving sulfuric acid in a highly populated area, Monsanto would react quickly to protect the public. Such action would be taken whether a product was made by us or another chemical company.

Now back to your concern over PCBs. There are clearly established procedures to safely and effectively dispose of PCB contaminated material. The agencies task with enforcing our pollution laws are aware of these procedures.

There are at least five incinerator services available in the U.S. for the destruction of flammable liquids containing PCBs. Scientific landfills which can be used for the disposal of solid materials contaminated with PCBs are located in six states.

As far back as 1970 we began to warn our customers of the potential environmental problems associated with PCBs and the need to prevent the entry of this material into the environment. Detailed instructions have been provided to our customers on how to properly dispose of PCB dielectric insulating fluids. In addition, Monsanto continues to provide whatever technical assistance it can to firms and agencies seeking information on PCBs.

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