Monsanto

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DATE: April 1, 1991

SUBJECT: PCB Issues - March Highlights

REFERENCE:

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FILE

I. Regulatory Issues

- EPA OTS reportedly will finally issue the first of two new ANPR's for PCBs about April 1. The first ANPR purportedly will be directed to pipeline site remediation and equipment disposal particularly in the natural gas transmission industry. The second ANPR, now several months late, also will be more directed to clean-up of old spills and superfund sites. The CMA PCB Panel and the Industry PCB Consensus Group will offer comments and suggestions to make the rules practicable and cost-effective.

- In Europe, EC legislation creating tighter control on disposal of PCBs and PCTs was endorsed by the European Parliament after months of argument with the EC Commission. While welcoming the legislation, many EP members do not feel that the new directive goes far enough to protect health and the environment. European regulations are not as stringent as those of the US as yet, but may ultimately be equivalent to US requirements.

II. New Technology

- Quicklime Treatment of PCBs

  For several months, reports have appeared in the technical press ("Superfund" and "Inside EPA") and more recently in major newspapers concerning "disappearing PCBs" at remediation sites. This phenomenon occurred at several sites where sludges, containing PCBs, were solidified with quicklime. When the material from the sites was reanalyzed after several months, PCBs were not found or were found at significantly decreased levels. Because of the potential importance of this finding, a small scale laboratory study on the treatment of PCBs with quicklime was commissioned in the ESC in cooperation with MCC Environmental Staff. Preliminary results are underway and expected by mid-April.

- CMA and NEMA filed a petition for review of the PCB standards in the recently published Drinking Water Quality Criteria.

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III. Miscellaneous

- Record PCB Fine

  General Motors and two landfill operators are facing fines of $35 million for improper disposal of industrial sludge containing more than 500 ppm of PCBs from Massena, N.Y. At the same time, a smaller company in Portland, Oregon is being fined almost $200,000 for six record keeping violations. Judging from the first quarter, 1991 could be another banner year for PCB fines. This highlights the need for Monsanto to continue proper PCB disposal procedures as well as very careful record keeping.

- PCB Health Effects Discussions

  John H. Craddock presented discussions of risk assessment and health effects of PCBs and other TSCA regulated chemicals to the Missouri River Township Republican Women's Club (Chesterfield, MO) and the PCB Forum in Houston, Texas.

JHC/GWM

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