KINGSTON, TENN.
NEWS
W. 8,500

APR 1 2 1973

Cautions On Disposal Of PCB Revealed In GE, Monsanto Letters

Copies of several papers relating to a chemical known as PCB have been made available to the News by persons residing in the area in which some of the chemical was spilled a month ago.

The spillage, on Highway 58 a short distance north of Angler's Cove Road, has been the subject of many reports, some of which are in conflict as to the threat it constitutes.

One of the papers made available to the News was dated in July of 1970 from GE's industrial sales division at Oak Ridge. It was directed to industrial customers who may have purchased "electric apparatus containing Pyranol, an askarel liquid dielectric."

The letter, in part, also said:

"As you are well aware, the public concern with pollution is rapidly escalating. As time goes on, it can be expected to reach out to affect more and more materials that are even suspect of being potential pollutants and contaminants of the environment. Recently there have been indications that polychlorbiphenyls have been found at some points in the fish, aquatic and wildlife environments.

"While quantities are relatively small, it is a matter of growing concern as to their effect on some species of wildlife, Monsanto Chemical Co., is the sole supplier to the industry of various grades of chlorinated byphenyls for use as a liquor dielectric in electrical apparatus. These materials are known as askarels or by various trademarks, including GE's registered trademark, Pyranol.

developed in GE equipment being transported by truck. It was reported that the driver stopped and allowed the equipment to drain at one point until the equipment was empty.

Attached to the GE letter was a letter from Monsanto, under the date of Feb. 18, 1970 and over the signature of Donald A. Olson, director of sales, functional fluids group relating to PCB.

It said, in part, "we feel that all possible care should be taken in the application, processing and effluent disposal of these products to prevent them from becoming environmental contaminants."

It called attention to an article in "Chemical Week" of Oct. 29, 1969 regarding water pollution standards of each state and a copy of the article was attached. The Monsanto letter said "This article reflects that good manufacturing practice in the future may require that no product used by any company should find their way into waterways."

The Monsanto letter also stated:

"We realize that you have marketed or may now market transformers and other electrical equipment containing dielectric fluids which include Arocior 1254 and 1260. Although these liquids are sealed into such equipment, it is recognized that occasionally the fluid may be lost through leaks resulting from equipment misuse or equipment repair necessitating replacement of the fluid. Since the dielectric fluid contained in this equipment is only an incidental part of the over-all manufacturing by you, we are not notifying the purchasers of such equipment of the potential environmental contamination problem described in this letter. We do recommend, however, that you notify such equipment users of this problem."

"Monsanto has been reviewing procedures to be sure that these materials do not find their way into land or water environment.

"Although this material is sealed in electrical apparatus, there may be occasions when disposal may become necessary and the problem of environmental control arises. In order to aid you in solving the problem of disposal we have made arrangements with Monsanto to dispose of scrap Pyranol. Should you have scrap Pyranol, it should be placed in closed drums and shipped, at your expense, to Monsanto's W. G. Krummrich plant at Sauget, Ill., attention supervisor, Dept. 246. Monsanto has initially established a charge of 3 cents per pound of scrap material returned by you.

"Material which is saturated by Pyranol such as fuller's earth, sawdust, rags, solid insulations taken from apparatus, etc., should be contained and stored by you pending a better solution.

"We intend to bring the whole disposal problem to the attention of an appropriate body in the industry with an aim of working out a long-range solution for the industry.

"The industry has used askarels in apparatus for over 30 years. In our experience they have produced no ill effect on workmen in close contact with them except for temporary skin irritation in certain individuals, as noted in our instruction books.

"We plan to continue to use this excellent liquid dielectric and because it is used in a sealed apparatus, we foresee no difficulties provided good judgment is exercised in handling and disposal procedures."

The spillage on Highway 58, at the Ralph Hickey farm, resulted from a leak which