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Monsanto

FROM (DEPT. & LOCATION): D. B. Hosmer - General Offices

File

DATE: August 11, 1971

cc: Mr. E. V. John

SUBJECT:

REFERENCE:

TO: Mr. W. B. Papageorge

Mr. John Piccorello of Science Magazine called me at 11:00 AM on August 10, concerning PCB's. He referred to our 1970 policy statement on the sale of PCB and asked if we still adhere to this policy. I assured him that we do indeed follow the policy. After some additional questions, I told him it was our intent to sell PCB's only where it was used in closed systems, would not come in contact with foods and would not enter the environment. He then asked about the incident at E. Coast Terminals. I told him I was not familiar with the details of the incident other than we had reported the matter to the FDA as soon as we learned of it. Then I suggested he could get further information from Ed John. He asked whether we felt we could prevent the use of PCB's in prohibited services. I said we were again reviewing all customers and their use of PCB's. In addition we were selling for new uses only with written approval from several responsible executives. Here, again, I emphasized the need for him to talk to Ed John.

Finally, Mr. Piccorello brought up the testimony about PCB's in Washington. He said he understood that fish in a river in Alabama contained a great deal more PCB's than was permitted and our plant discharged to this river (300 ppm were quoted). I said the stream was a creek not a river and there were many other discharges to it and doubted if I would want to wade in the creek for many reasons.

He then asked how we dumped PCB's from the plant. I told him we did not dump them, instead we treated our liquid effluents to remove PCB's.

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He said there were those in Washington who did not believe PCB's could be held in a closed system. How did I feel about this. I said they could be retained based upon my experience and again referred to Ed John.

He thanked me and hung up to call Ed.

D. B. Hosmer

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