WILLIAM F. RYAN
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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June 18, 1970

Xerox copies sent to:
J. R. [illegible] (3)
R. S. Bergen ✓
J. R. Springgate
R. L. Minckler
R. V. John
P. S. Park
Sam Pickard, Wash., D.C.

Mr. John Mason
Assistant General Manager
Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear Mr. Mason:

Despite your letter of April 28 I am most disturbed by the PCB danger and what I consider Monsanto's unwillingness to deal candidly with a dangerous situation.

While you specifically answer some questions I raised in my April 9 letter, you also chose to ignore others.

I asked Monsanto to fully cooperate with scientists doing independent research on PCBs. In return, I was assured that Monsanto scientists have met with others investigating the problem. The two are not the same. If Monsanto truly wanted outside opinions it would offer its findings to men like Dr. Robert Risebrough, who are widely known for the PCB research.

I asked that Monsanto state clearly whether during the manufacturing process Aroclor is released to the environment, and in what form and quantities, and what control measures are in effect or being developed.

Your letter said, "...we have stated clearly our total commitment to pollution abatement. Production of polychlorinated biphenyls came under even stricter scrutiny when it appeared as a possible environmental hazard. We have improved production techniques and are continually upgrading pollution abatement devices in our plants."

I consider that a vague reply. Surely you must know specifically what quantity of PCBs is escaping during the manufacturing process. And if you do not know, then certainly now is the time to findout.

MONS 087863

You also avoided a specific reply to the question of what controls are now in effect. It is not enough for you to assure me that you are doing your best. I want to know how efficient and effective your best is.

In my letter I also asked for copies of five bulletins on PCB use mentioned in your Technical Bulletin O/PL-306. Actually, that technical bulletin referred to seven more. I understand that these bulletins offer additional information on use in resins, chlorinated rubber, emulsion adhesives, protective coatings, modifiers for polysulfides, fire-retarding plasticizers and wax compounds.

From these bulletins I hoped to learn how many uses have previously been suggested for this dangerous family of chemicals. Despite your assurances that PCBs are only used in closed systems, independent researchers have found them in the environment. I wonder if it surprises you to learn that Dr. Risebrough has discovered PCBs in paints bought at a Berkeley, California hardware store.

I again ask that you send me copies of the seven bulletins and any other material used to promote the sale and use of Aroclor.

I understand that you admit that during the early days of PCB use there were many suggested chemical uses that have since been discontinued. I wonder how much Monsanto has done to discourage continuation of these uses. Have you issued any notices recalling bulletins such as Technical Bulletin O/PL-306? Have you issued any warnings to all potential users of PCBs?

I again request that Monsanto inform me immediately of its annual production and sales figures for each year since 1940 for each of its two plants in the United States and its plant in England. These figures are necessary so that scientists can determine the extent to which PCBs are getting into the environment.

I again request that Monsanto release to the public a complete list of the uses of Aroclor, as well as the names of the products and their manufacturers, so that consumers can be aware of the presence of PCBs. I also ask for a list of all Monsanto products containing Aroclor. And Monsanto should make sure that all companies which use Aroclor label their products accordingly.

Mr. Mason June 18, 1970

In general, I would have appreciated a more specific reply to many of the questions I raised in my April 9 letter and hope that you will respond completely as soon as possible.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

William F. Ryan
Member of Congress

WFR/sp

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