

The University of Wisconsin

WATER CHEMISTRY LABORATORY
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
262-2470
AREA CODE 608

March 26, 1969

Dr. R. D. Swisher, Research Group Leader
Monsanto Company
800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

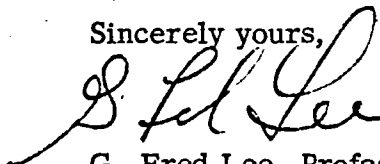
Dear Dr. Swisher:

I am writing you to ask for your assistance in establishing contacts within Monsanto with individuals who are working on environmental pollution with PCB (polychlorobiphenyl) compounds.

As you no doubt are aware, some of the published and soon to be published reports implicate Monsanto's arochlors as being a general environmental pollutant which may be of biological significance. The information available to date is largely circumstantial. However, we feel that there is sufficient information available to warrant our initiation of a study in this area. Specifically, we would want to attempt to isolate, identify and otherwise characterize the compounds which are consistently showing up in gas chromatograph chromatograms of fish and birds. Once we are certain that these compounds are likely to be industrial pollutants, then we would initiate a study on the aqueous environmental chemistry of these compounds, i. e., where do they come from? what happens to them in natural waters and sediments, etc?

I feel that representatives of Monsanto could save us some time and effort by providing us with information on the use of the various arochlors which are likely to become environmental pollutants? What is known about the composition of the mixtures, etc? We would be interested in meeting with a representative of Monsanto to discuss this problem.

Sincerely yours,



G. Fred Lee, Professor
Water Chemistry

GFL/js

DSW 201055

STLCOPCB4059119

bc: Mr. I. R. Cole - LCOLE
Mr. J. C. Holt
Mr. H. S. Bergen - NBERG

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Arvidson
Tobias
P1*

*Howard
This guy is a stock broker.*

April 1, 1969

Tom

Mr. R. G. Powell
Account Executive
Birr Wilson Inc.
P. O. Box 1012
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Dear Mr. Powell:

Roy Brandenburger asked that I send you some information regarding the alleged threat to wildlife by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). I presume your questions relate to the story which appeared in the February 24 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Unfortunately, the deadline of the writer did not permit Monsanto's reply to appear in this story. Attached is a statement with some facts which should have been presented.

As you may know, a number of scientists are studying several types of residues which appear in our environment; this primarily involves DDT pesticide. Of course the commercial impact of such studies is unknown at present. The involvement of PCB is an even more marginal matter. We have some doubt that Dr. Risebrough properly identified the residues and would seriously question how that amount of commercially produced PCB could appear in the environment.

At this stage, we do not believe these reports pose any serious implications for Monsanto. These initial scientific studies will have to be evaluated extensively before the complete truth of the matter is known.

Sincerely,

Tom C. Ford
Manager
Divisional Public Relations

TCF:mm
Enclosure

DSW 201056

cc: Mr. R. L. Brandenburger

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