Request for Renewal of Contract dated November 5, 1970, between Monsanto Company and Biological Consultants: Dr. R. D. Suttkus and Dr. G. E. Gunning

Introduction:

For the past two years consultants have conducted a biological survey of the streams affected by Monsanto Company discharge at Anniston, Alabama: Choccolocco Creek, Coosa River, Logan Martin Reservoir, and various tributaries of these. The survey has actually consisted of two separate but related parts: 1) An ichthyological survey of these waters designed to determine species composition and relative abundance of the various fishes present with a view toward ascertaining any possible effects the Monsanto effluent might have on the fish populations, and 2) A residue analysis conducted by Monsanto Company using fishes from ten (10) stations supplied by consultants. Consultants have interpreted the residue findings on a trip-by-trip basis during the first two years of the present contract as they are available from Monsanto Company employees. We have worked rather closely with Mr. J. T. Bell and Mr. Donald Turner of the Anniston plant, and previously with Mr. Wright before he left Monsanto Company.

Background:

Consultants have found a rather large number of deformed fishes below the point of effluent discharge, as well as many fishes that are hemorrhaging or exhibiting various degrees of nervous system damage. These instances have been reported to Monsanto regularly. Since these fishes are found in parts of the stream that are characterized by high P.C.B. levels, one must admit the possibility that debilitation is due directly to P.C.B's or other products manufactured by Monsanto.

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Analysis of five sets of data for trips made during December, 1970; March, 1971; June, 1971; September, 1971; and December, 1971 have shown that there has been no decrease in P.C.B. levels during this time, that is to say the levels within a given species of fish have remained fairly constant. Mr. Turner is presently doing the analyses for the March, 1971 survey and has in his possession the fishes for the June and September trips as well. Other work at the plant caused this delay which will be rectified by the end of December, 1972 (personal communication with Mr. Bell and Mr. Turner).

The release of P.C.B. effluent in some form, or to some degree, has been such that the first trip for the collection of fishes that should be free of P.C.B. effluent discharge was made in September, 1972. This is the last trip in our present contract, hence this request for a renewal.

Proposal for Additional Work:

As consultants we recommend that the contract be extended for one additional year in order that we may learn whether or not there will be a decrease in P.C.B. residues in the fishes of Choccolocco Creek and the Coosa River. It is imperative that residue analyses be made for at least two survey trips in order to determine whether or not the curtailment of P.C.B. release is reflected in the fish residue levels. The ichthyological survey (two trips) would be continued in its present form in order to monitor species composition and relative abundance of the various fish species as in the past two years of the survey. A study of the frequency of deformities and other abnormalities would be included as an integral part of the ichthyological survey as well.

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Cost of Renewal Contract:

Trip 1 March, 1973

Dr. Suttkus--$1,800; Dr. Gunning--$1,800; 2 students--$400 total, i.e. $200 each per trip; jar allowance for year--$250.

Grand total of $4,250 for Trip 1

Trip 2 September, 1973

Dr. Suttkus--$1,800; Dr. Gunning--$1,800; 2 students--$400 total.
Grand total of $4,000 for Trip 2

Hence, total cost of survey for one year would be $8,250 plus expenses, i.e. vehicle travel of 10¢ per mile and actual motel expense for the four men (see original contract).

(Signed) _____

Gerald E. Gunning, Ph.D.
Biological Consultant

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