Monsanto

MONSANTO INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS CO.
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
Phone: (314) 694-1000

October 24, 1975

Dr. Robert A. Stenger
General Electric Co.
John Street
Hudson Falls, N.Y. 12839

Dear Bob:

I just received your 10-17-75 letter posing two questions about our recent analyses of water for PCBs. Regarding the first question about the two values we obtained on the Ft. Edward bridge sample, we feel confident that the lower value is more accurate. In my 10-16-75 letter to you, I did not include the higher value. As I indicated during our phone conversation, we feel the higher value was in error because of cross contamination from water sample "B" sent to Dr. Crow. We were unaware of the very high (3200 ppb) concentration of PCB in "B" and did not take special precautions to prevent PCB migration through lab air, which probably contaminated nearby samples concurrently being extracted. This emphasizes the care which must be exercised when sampling and analyzing for ppb levels of PCBs in the presence of potential sources of contamination.

As a matter of principle when analyzing for PCBs, we always use multiple (3) extractions on unfiltered water. We also extract (rinse) the container thoroughly. These precautions help insure accurate sampling and analysis. Woodson-Tenent Laboratories assure us that they also follow these procedures, as outlined in ASTM Method D 3304.

I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. James P. Mieure
Research Group Leader

ss

bcc: W. C. Hammann
R. E. Keller
W. B. Papageorge
W. R. Richard
J. C. Weber
D. Wood

IDS 003085

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 56

WATER_PCB-SD0000001771

GENERAL ELECTRIC
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INDUSTRIAL AND POWER
CAPACITOR DEPARTMENT

October 17, 1975

Dr. James Mieure
Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co.
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your call yesterday to review the results of recent analyses. One question on the Fort Edward bridge sample, where you obtained two values. When you used the second method, adding some hexane to the container, were multiple extractions used to check for extraction completeness? If not, perhaps that is another possible reason for that result coming out lower.

As far as a report on Woodson-Tenent's capability goes, Mike Modan agreed that your verbal report is sufficient for now. Perhaps it would be good to have a trip report by Bob Kaely in your files however, just in case any questions on this come up in the future.

Another item that occurred to me relates to the question of filtering water samples. As you know, most natural water samples and those of our main effluents contain some suspended solids. It is our practice to extract the whole sample without filtration. Is that the way your group and Woodson-Tenent proceed as well? If not, I think no filtration should be performed.

I received the bibliography and found it most helpful. Thank you very much for sending me a copy.

Yours truly,

Robert A. Stenger, Mgr.
Engineering Laboratory

/baw

IDS 003086

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