Monsanto

BHO Hee file

FROM
(NAME—LOCATION—PHONE) D. R. Bishop - A3NB

DATE : March 25, 1981

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE :

TO : Mr. R. T. Berendt - E2ND
Dr. C. F. Callis - B3CA
Dr. J. H. Craddock - A2SA
Mr. J. Ortiz - E2ND

cc. Dr. W. D. Carpenter - G3WG
Mr. H. B. English - B3SA
Mr. T. L. Gossage - B2SA
Mr. E. H. Harbison - B2SA
Mr. J. F. Hussey - A3NB
Mr. G. D. Ingenthron - A3NB
Mr. R. C. Isham - B1ND
Dr. W. J. McCarville - G3WG
Mr. J. T. Nolan - D1A
Dr. G. Roush - G2WG
Mr. R. A. Stohr - B3NJ
Mr. M. C. Throdahl - D1D
Mr. B. J. Wander - G3WG

MAR 26 1981

I have a videotape of the story described in the attached transcript from last night's ABC Network News if anyone would like to see it.

The local Cincinnati media are having a field day with this one, which builds on the Bingington, N.Y., office fiasco of a few weeks back.

With these two widely publicized incidents fresh in the minds of public authorities, they will be hard pressed to take similar actions when equipment failures occur in their locales. And, indeed, there is a lot of PCB-containing electrical equipment in service throughout the country with failures occurring every day, somewhere.

If we don't get this situation in perspective and under control quickly, it could easily escalate into a national crisis that will make "Love Canal" pale by comparison.

What is clearly needed, in my opinion, is a major corporate effort to bring some sanity to this situation. We could use some technical support from EPA, academia and the independent medical community as well.

DRB.

Dan R. Bishop

/ec

Attachment

EX P-0975
Page 1 of 3

IN - 10 (REV. 8/77)

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Following is a verbatim transcript from ABC Network News of March 24, 1981:

Max Robinson:

Increasingly we have been learning of the serious health problems caused by chemicals, including PCBs, a suspected cancer causing agent banned in 1970. Well, the PCB problem has now surfaced in a suburb of Cincinnati where it has forced the closing of an elementary school.

Rebecca Chase reports:

The 600 students at Our Lady of Visitation School were told to go home yesterday because their school was hazardous to their health. Ever since last December when an electrical motor overheated and gave off fumes, the children have been complaining of skin rashes, swollen eyes and difficulty in breathing. Parents became concerned. (Greg Troeler, parent): "My daughter was coming home with this rash, her face was fire red, she had bumps or small marks on her face and I got really scared."

Federal agencies tested the classrooms and found nothing. But parents knew something was making their children sick. That's when Troeler, an electrician, asked to look at the electrical motor. "We took the serial numbers off the capacitators and the motor. We called the factory. The factory acknowledged that yes, it did contain PCB when it was manufactured." Was it possible that this small school was filled with PCBs? Last Friday, the health department said yes the school was contaminated and on Monday ordered it closed. Dr. Harold Jacobs, DVM, Hamilton County

Health Commissioner, said "Certainly I'm not going to permit it to open until I feel sure the rooms can be used safely." (Judy Roth, parent): "You don't feel any better knowing what caused this. It's very upsetting. I worry for my child's health."

Federal agencies and local specialists are conducting further tests but parents here are confused and upset. They want answers to hard questions like have their children been poisoned? And will their school ever be safe enough to open again. Rebecca Chase, ABC, Mac, Ohio.

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