Questions and Answers to be Used Only to Respond to Direct Questions from the Media.

Second Draft Approved November 4, 1977

To be placed in Position Book

Q: Is the Monsanto phase-out of PCB on schedule?

A: Yes, Monsanto exited the PCB business completely in October 1977. Monsanto had announced in October 1976 that it would "shut down its PCB manufacturing unit, complete distribution of all inventories and withdraw completely from the market as the principal supplier of PCB dielectric insulating fluids to the electric power supply industry by no later than October 31, 1977."

Q: What will happen to the PCB plant?

A: The entire PCB production area at the Krummrich plant is scheduled for dismantling. All pipes and tanks in the production unit will be decontaminated for reuse or prepared for disposal. Tankcars used to ship PCBs will be decontaminated and taken out of finished product service.

Q: How many people are involved in this PCB unit and what happens to their jobs?

A: There were 23 supervisors and operators assigned to the PCB unit with a similar number of support jobs, mechanics, distribution, etc. eliminated. All have been placed in different jobs at the Krummrich plant and none have been layed off although approximately 40 jobs have been eliminated.

Q: What will happen to the incinerator at the Krummrich plant?

A: That incinerator was built 6 years ago primarily to burn residues created when PCB is manufactured. Lately we'd also been burning spent PCBs from our customers' operations. These wastes are within the relatively narrow specifications for which our incinerator was designed. The incinerator is now shut down, it will eventually be dismantled. The incinerator has handled relatively minor quantities of retrieved wastes (less than 10% of its annual capacity). Most of our customers and industrial users have been disposing of their wastes through commercial facilities approved to dispose of PCBs.

Q: Is shutting down the PCB incinerator a responsible action when there is so much PCB to get rid of?

A: We think we've been very socially responsible. From the beginning of the recognition that PCBs are highly persistent in our environment we've taken steps that represent the highest level of social responsibility. Our incinerator at the Krummrich plant was primarily made to handle residue PCBs from the production process.

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Its specialized design and small size doesn't make this incinerator as effective as larger and newer ones. For example, some commercial incinerators are thought to be able to destroy 70-80,000,000 pounds of waste material per year. That means that all the PCBs shipped to Monsanto by our customers during the first 6 months of 1977 could have been burned in about 30 hours in just one of those really big and modern commercial incinerators (actual amount from January-June, 1977 225,000 pounds). So shutting down the Monsanto incinerator didn't pose a problem in getting PCBs destroyed. The federal EPA has received testimony indicating sufficient commercial capacity for incineration of PCBs excluding the Monsanto unit.

Q: What was the capability of the Krummrich incinerator?

A: About 6,000,000 pounds a year. Because of high temperatures involved we had to replace refractory linings more frequently than originally expected and this reduced our effective capacity substantially.

Q: Will Monsanto landfill any of the PCB equipment?

A: Yes. All equipment will be prepared for landfilling consistent with proposed federal guidelines. Smaller equipment will be cleaned and then sealed in larger steel vessels. a) Final arrangements have not yet been made but we are investigating a number of potential sites to ensure that they are suitable for such landfill. b) The dismantled equipment will be shipped to an approved landfill.

Q: Where is the landfill?

A: The landfill selected is close to the plant. It is a government-approved landfill for handling "Chemical Hazardous Wastes."

(additional probes on location)
If directly asked the question if the dismantled plant is going to Earthlines site in Wilsonville we will say no. If asked about any other site we will say the site is commercially owned and contracts and sites of this sort are proprietary information.

Q: What criteria is used in determining a safe disposal site for chemicals?

A: Monsanto has a check-off list of 26 items for inspection during the site visit of a hazardous chemical landfill. Such things as permits, local regulations, soil testing, ground water level, and so on.

Q: Did Monsanto produce substantial stockpiles of PCBs for its customers before shutting down the production unit at Krummrich?

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A: Some of our customers did place orders for material which will be used after October 31, 1977. These volumes permitted our customers to continue perfecting PCB replacement fluids and achieve orderly changeovers to non-PCB materials consistent with their own conversion timetables.

Q: What is your timetable for dismantling your PCB plant?

A: Our general timetable is: (as of October 31, 1977)

mid-November: clean and prepare plant for dismantling
mid-December: dismantling begins
2nd qtr. 1978: dismantled equipment shipped to landfill

- throughout, cleaning fluids and solvents shipped to contract commercial incinerator