December 6, 1971

Dr. Donald J. Baumgartner
National Environmental Research Center
Environmental Protection Agency
200 SW 35th Street
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Dear Dr. Baumgartner:

I regret and apologize for the delay in responding to your letter dated September 24.

In mid-1970 Monsanto had announced its intention of discontinuing by August 30, the sale of PCB's to non-controllable open system applications such as specialty paints, adhesives, paper coatings, sealants, industrial and hydraulic fluids. Although the timing was deliberately challenging, a high percentage of the uses were eliminated by August 30. Technological obstacles were finally resolved in the hydraulic fluids and paper coatings applications with total phase-out occurring early in 1971.

The uses to which PCB's are still being applied include electrical transformers, electrical capacitors and closed heat transfer systems which are not food related and in which fire resistance is critical. No fluid with the proper characteristics is today available for these applications.

Control of loss can be exercised by proper handling, storage and disposal methods. To achieve this objective we are cooperating with our customers in the regeneration or disposal by incineration of waste PCB liquids.

As a result of this program sales of PCB's in 1971 dropped more than 40% from sales in 1970, with further reductions anticipated in the future.

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I have attached copies of Monsanto news releases and articles relating to our program which I hope you find informative and useful.

If I can be of further service please let me know.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Protection

WBP/er

Enclosures

bcc: W. Easley - 1920

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