November 4, 1971

Dr. Jeffrey L. Lincer
Section of Ecology and Systematics
Division of Biological Sciences
Building 6, Langmuir Laboratory
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Dr. Lincer:

Monsanto's T. L. Gossage has asked me to respond to your letter dated October 22 since I am deeply involved in the problem of PCB's and the environment.

The policy of voluntary curtailment of the sales of PCB's established by Monsanto in the U.K. on March 1, 1971 was implemented first in the U.S. on August 30, 1970. The only applications which now utilize PCB's are electrical transformers, electrical capacitors and closed heat transfer systems in non-food use when fire resistance is critical.

To supply these limited markets we have restricted the manufacture of polychlorinated biphenyls to these mixtures:

> Aroclor 1221, Aroclor 1242, Aroclor 1254, and Aroclor 1260. A refined version of Aroclor 1242 from which the higher, more persistent chlorinated isomers have been removed was introduced commercially on September 1, 1971 for use in electrical capacitors. This material is referred to as Aroclor 1016.

The question relating to the presence of PCB's in wildlife still remains inadequately answered. We can only speculate, as you no doubt have, that the mode of movement in the environment of the more persistent isomers has been primarily through natural water systems and secondarily through atmospheric pollution via vaporization resulting from inadequate incineration.

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Monsanto has conducted toxicological studies to establish the chronic effect of PCB's at low levels. The results of these studies were reported in March, 1971 in Washington, D.C. at the annual meeting of the Society of Toxicologists. The authors are now preparing the final drafts for publication in the Society's journal in the very near future. Because of the imminent date of publication I do not believe it would be appropriate to prematurely divulge the data. I have attached a copy of the abstract which I hope you find useful.

I regret I cannot send you a copy of Monsanto Technical Bulletin O/PL-306 because it has been out of print for approximately two years. I have enclosed a revision (O/PL-306A) which contains the physical and chemical characteristics which were formally included in the older version.

I hope my comments are helpful. If I can help further please let me know.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge, Manager
Environmental Protection

WBP/bt
Enc.

cc: Mr. T. L. Gossage

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