Monsanto

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DATE: April 22, 1981

cc: D. R. Bishop
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SUBJECT: PCB OUTSIDE RESEARCH PROJECTS

REFERENCE:

File PCBS

TO: J. T. Nolan

Monsanto is currently funding two outside research projects exploring new and innovative technologies for degradation of PCB's at

1) New York University Medical Center
Institute of Environmental Medicine
Prof. Merril Eisenbud, Director
Dr. C. C. Lee, Project Director

2) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Prof. George M. Whitesides, Principal Investigator

These projects have been in progress since late 1979. The projects are summarized below:

1. NYU Project

The NYU project is ending its second and final year and will terminate in late summer.

Briefly, this project has explored microbial degradation of PCB's by aquatic fungi and anerobic bacteria. Dr. Lee has made some significant findings that PCB's appear to be degraded by anerobic bacteria in natural river sediments. This work is in very preliminary stages but suggests that PCB's buried in river sediment, etc., will ultimately degrade. Rate factors have yet to be defined quantitatively.

This data will be released and published by Dr. Lee in the next several months and hopefully will stimulate other researchers in this area.

2. MIT Project

The MIT project is in its second year. MIT researchers, under the direction of Professor Whitesides, are exploring innovative technologies other than enzymatic or biological systems to degrade PCB's. Currently they are exploring

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2. MIT Project (continued)

catalytic systems to degrade dilute PCB streams using Noble metal complex catalysts. In many aspects catalytic degradation technology is significantly more difficult than biological systems. No significant findings to date.

The cost of both programs for 1979 (late October), 1980 and 1981 will be about $165,000.

J. H. Craddock

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