November 4, 1971

Mr. Edward L. Raab
Manager of Materials Engineering
Transformer Division, Bldg. 11-223
General Electric Company
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Dear Ed,

I apologize for my overdue response to the questions you asked of Paul Benignus several weeks ago.

I have attached copies of summaries of the acute toxicity and chronic toxicity studies Monsanto has sponsored. As you can see nothing new has been revealed from what we have known for some time.

As you probably noted in the FDA press release information I sent you, Dr. Albert Kolbye of FDA concurs with our opinion that PCB's are not an imminent hazard to humans or domestic animals.

The latest information we have on the Japanese incident is well summarized in the FDA release. Dr. Kolbye indicated the FDA was sending representatives to Japan within two weeks to discuss the incident in depth with the Japanese authorities. In the meantime we have requested from our Japanese partners help in securing and translating appropriate documents concerning the incident.

The biogradability studies at Ruabon, Wales continue at their normal slow pace with no new information. The studies continue to confirm that the lower chlorinated biphenyls can be degraded fairly easily; the higher chlorinated isomers are resistant.

In the United Kingdom, Monsanto, which is the sole producer, is following the same marketing policy we have set for the U.S. There is no government ban nor do we expect one.



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Other than the news releases we issued in April and July, 1970 we have not prepared any to combat the recent adverse publicity in the press. Right or wrong it has been our feeling that we should not be constantly reacting to every untrue statement which appears.

Our discussions with employees have been conducted by the supervisors and foremen in a very informal manner, therefore we have no formal manuscript to send you. We have been following our policy of being open and candid with our people. In every instance the response has been one of relative unconcern, primarily because their personal experience with the PCB's has not indicated that any problem exists.

I hope this information is useful to you. I again apologize for the delay and I hope I did not cause any serious inconvenience.

Sincerely,

W. B. Panageorge, Manager
Environmental Protection

WBP/bt
Attachment

cc: Mr. P. B. Benignus
Mr. T. L. Gossage
Mr. C. Paton

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