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Monsanto

Monsanto Company
Anniston, Alabama 36201
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October 20, 1971

Mr. J. L. Crockett, Jr.
Technical Staff Director
Water Improvement Commission
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36101

Dear Mr. Crockett:

We respectfully submit the following status report on our progress in reduction of polychlorinated biphenyl discharges.

Since our previous report to you on November 9, 1970 we have proceeded actively with the program proposed. Status as of 10-14-71 is as shown in the attachment with underlined notes added to indicate degree of completion. Losses of PCB's have been steadily reduced to weekly averages of 0.2 - 0.9 lbs./day with a strong downward trend still apparent.

In addition to the program shown in the attachment, we are continuing to make equipment modifications to accomplish the following:

1. Improvement in by-product HCl refining to preclude any PCB loss to the limestone bed influent in subsequent operations. This sharply reduces amounts of PCB's which go to the cleanup facilities and, of course, minimizes the trace amounts leaving the limestone treatment bed.
2. Recycle and/or rerouting of water streams to minimize to less than 50% of previous flows the waste water passing through the limestone bed. This increases the efficiency of the adsorption, filtering and settling cleanup processes in the limestone treatment.
3. Improvement of retention of organics in the limestone beds by improvement of design and operation to avoid short circuiting and by increased frequency of replacement of the limestone bed.



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With the changes underway, we are confident that, by April 1972, we will consistently be at discharge levels below 0.25 lbs./day.

In addition to steps to positively reduce the discharge of PCB's, we are continually working to improve our sampling and analytical techniques. One example of the need for this was the considerably above average concentration of the sample collected by the EPA on 8-19-71. All of our evidence points to this being a non-typical sample -- not to presence of an abnormal discharge during the sampling period represented by that sample.

We will be pleased to keep you advised on progress of our work.

Yours truly,

J. C. Landwehr
Technical Services Superintendent

/dp

Att.

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