

505 Rivercrest Dr.  
Seneca, SC 29678

1 April 2010

Governor Bob Riley, State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Gov. Riley:

I am writing you today to discuss the improper use and concealment of vital information regarding the disposal of hazardous waste chemicals, namely PCBs, into the water system near Anniston, Alabama by the Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company.

Evidence has been shown that Monsanto has knowingly withheld information from the town of Anniston regarding dangerous chemicals for over 30 years. Documents have been found as long ago as 1970 showing that the company was knowingly discharging dangerous levels of PCBs into streams that flowed through the town.

It has proven to be obvious that information regarding public health and safety was deliberately not released, through both internal company and inter-agency documents. Documents referring to the amounts of PCBs released within the company did not correlate with those released to the Alabama Water Improvement Commission. Documents were also shown to indicate deliberate concealment of information about the levels of PCBs and their possible and likely danger to the public.

### **Findings**

A memo dated August 7, 1970 explicitly stated that the memo was “Confidential - F.Y.I and Destroy.” The memo contained information regarding the current output of PCBs and the collaboration with Joe Crockett, the Secretary of the Alabama Water Improvement Commission to prevent public release of the information.

In his deposition, William B. Papageorge, Monsanto Manager of Environmental Control, explicitly stated that Monsanto did not inform the residents of Anniston of the dangers of PCBs, nor did they inform the residents of the water and fish testing done by the company for high levels of PCBs. In this deposition, Mr. Papageorge clearly states that “PCBs can cause certain

toxic and systemic effects,” and that the residents were not informed about these dangers (Deposition of William B. Papageorge, 191).

Currently, Solutia, Inc. has operational control over the plant in Anniston. Their denial of the dangers of PCBs and other compounds is irresponsible and unfounded. A representative of Solutia, Inc. was quoted as saying to *Chemical Week*, “The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence suggests there are no chronic human health effects associated with exposure to PCBs.” The U.S. EPA has deemed these chemicals dangerous for a reason, and they should thus be controlled. These chemicals have scientifically been shown to be carcinogens in humans, and therefore should be controlled, at minimum, to the EPA’s standards. Cooperation between Solutia, Inc and Monsanto Chemicals can help to prevent more damage to human lives and the environment.

### **Recommendations**

Even though the circumstances of the information were obviously less than desirable for the Monsanto Company, the endangerment of the public’s health is a crime. Complete ignorance is one matter, but deliberate ignorance is outrageous and dangerous. Unfortunately, this disaster was created over decades of poor choices, and there is nothing to do but more forward.

Action must be taken by the State of Alabama to hold Monsanto Industrial Chemicals accountable for the damage wrought by their plant and their judgment. Immediate clean up of properties and protection of citizens is vital.

If you wish to contact me for further discussion, I can be reached by email at [jdoe@clmson.edu](mailto:jdoe@clmson.edu) or by phone at 614-555-3426.

Sincerely,

Janice Doe