

THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

CITY OF SEATTLE, a municipal corporation)	CASE NO. 2:16-cv-00107-RSL
located in the County of King, State of)	
Washington,)	PLAINTIFF’S FIRST AMENDED
)	COMPLAINT
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
MONSANTO COMPANY,)	
SOLUTIA INC., and)	
PHARMACIA CORPORATION, and DOES 1)	
through 100,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Polychlorinated biphenyls (or “PCBs”) are man-made chemical compounds that have become notorious as global environmental contaminants — found in bays, oceans, rivers, streams, soil, and air. As a result, PCBs have been detected in the tissues of all living beings on earth including all forms of marine life, various animals and birds, plants and trees, and humans.

2. The extent of environmental PCB contamination is troubling because PCBs cause a variety of adverse health effects. In humans, PCB exposure is associated with cancer as well as serious non-cancer health effects, including effects on the immune system, reproductive system,

1 nervous system, endocrine system and other health effects. In addition, PCBs destroy
2 populations of fish, birds, and other animal life.

3 3. Monsanto Company was the sole manufacturer of PCBs in the United States from
4 1935 to 1979, and trademarked the name “Aroclor” for certain PCB compounds. Although
5 Monsanto knew for decades that PCBs were toxic and knew that they were widely contaminating
6 all natural resources and living organisms, Monsanto concealed these facts and continued
7 producing PCBs until Congress enacted the Toxic Substances Control Act (“TSCA”), which
8 banned the manufacture and most uses of PCBs as of January 1, 1979.

9 4. PCBs were used in many industrial and commercial applications such as paint,
10 caulking, transformers, capacitors, coolants, hydraulic fluids, plasticizers, sealants, inks,
11 lubricants, and other uses. PCBs regularly leach, leak, off-gas, and escape their intended
12 applications, contaminating runoff during naturally occurring storm and rain events.

13 5. As a result, PCBs contaminate City streets, the City’s drainage systems,
14 stormwater, and water bodies within the City of Seattle.

15 6. The Duwamish River runs through the heart of the City of Seattle. At the mouth
16 of the Duwamish is Harbor Island, bounded on one side by the East Waterway and on the other
17 side by the West Waterway. Beginning at the upstream end of Harbor Island and continuing for
18 about six miles upstream is a section known as the Lower Duwamish.

19 7. PCBs were detected in seventy-five percent of more than 1,000 samples collected
20 from catch basins and drainage lines in the Lower Duwamish drainage area. In the East
21 Waterway drainage areas, PCBs were detected in eighty-two percent of samples collected with
22 “in-line grabs” of sediment in drainage pipes and PCBs were detected in seventy-three percent
23 of samples collected from catch basins in street right-of-ways.

8. The City has incurred costs to identify and reduce sources of PCBs entering its
stormwater and wastewater systems. The Washington Department of Ecology is requiring the

1 City to increase its efforts to reduce PCBs entering its drainage systems. The City will continue
2 to incur costs to do so.

3 9. Under a Consent Decree jointly issued by EPA and the Washington Department
4 of Ecology, the City will be constructing a stormwater treatment plant adjacent to the Lower
5 Duwamish River. The plant is designed to remove PCBs from stormwater. The cost for the
6 plant is currently estimated to be nearly \$27 Million. The plant will treat stormwater from 1.25
7 percent of the 20,000 acres that drain to the Lower Duwamish.

8 10. The Lower Duwamish is listed on the National Priorities List as a Superfund Site.
9 The City is subject to an administrative order issued jointly by the United States Environmental
10 Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology that required extensive
11 investigation of contamination in the Lower Duwamish and preparation of a Feasibility Study
12 identifying remedial options. The City is continuing to incur costs to implement the order and
13 will incur costs to implement the remedy selected by EPA.

14 11. In November 2014, EPA issued its Record of Decision for the Lower Duwamish.
15 EPA selected a remedy that EPA estimates will cost \$342 million.

16 12. The City also incurred millions of dollars investigating and remediating four
17 specific areas, called Early Action Areas, within the Lower Duwamish Site that were
18 contaminated with PCBs, including property that the City owns in Slip 4 and City streets
19 adjacent to Terminal 117.

20 13. The other two Early Action Areas were adjacent to outfalls where discharges from
21 the City's drainage system were contaminated with PCBs through no fault of the City.

22 14. The East Waterway also is listed on the National Priorities List as a Superfund
23 Site. PCBs are a primary contaminant of concern. Some of the PCB contamination got into
sediments in the East Waterway through stormwater and combined sewer overflows.

15. The City is paying a substantial portion of the costs to investigate contamination
in the East Waterway and identify remedial options. The current draft of the Feasibility Study

1 identifies remedial options that range in cost from \$267 million to \$443 million. The City will
2 continue incurring costs to complete the Feasibility Study and to implement the remedy that EPA
3 selects.

4 Plaintiff CITY OF SEATTLE hereby alleges, upon information and belief, as follows:

5 **II. PARTIES**

6 16. The CITY OF SEATTLE (“Seattle,” “City,” or “Plaintiff”) is a municipal
7 corporation, duly organized and existing by virtue of the laws of the State of Washington.

8 17. The City brings this suit pursuant to RCW 7.48.010, et al. and any other
9 applicable codes or forms of relief available for monetary damages and removal of the public
10 nuisance caused by Monsanto’s PCBs.

11 18. Seattle has three types of drainage systems: a municipal separated stormwater
12 system (MS4), a partially separated system, and a combined sewer system that collects
13 stormwater and sewage. The City’s combined system is connected to trunk lines operated by
14 King County that go to wastewater treatment plants. Heavy rains cause the combined system to
15 overflow through Combined Sewer Outfalls (“CSOs”).

16 19. In order to discharge stormwater from the MS4, Seattle is subject to a Phase I
17 Municipal Stormwater Permit issued by the State of Washington, Department of Ecology,
18 pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System under the Clean Water Act.

19 20. Seattle’s other systems are subject to the National Pollutant Discharge
20 Elimination System (NPDES) Waste Discharge Permit (WDR) WA0031682.

21 21. The City currently has one CSO outfall in the Lower Duwamish. The City’s MS4
22 system discharges stormwater into the Lower Duwamish through 17 outfalls that the City owns
23 and 12 outfalls owned by others. The City also has CSO and stormwater outfalls in the East
Waterway.

1 22. The City of Seattle has spent and will continue to spend significant money to
2 reduce PCBs in its discharges. Under a Consent Decree regarding the City’s combined sewer
3 overflows (CSOs), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has approved the City’s
4 plan to build a stormwater treatment plant adjacent to the Lower Duwamish. The plant will treat
5 stormwater for PCBs. The cost for treating stormwater from this one drainage basin is currently
6 estimated to be \$26,899,672. This drainage basin contains just 1.25 percent of the twenty
7 thousand acres that drain to the Lower Duwamish.

8 23. In November 2014, EPA issued its Record of Decision selecting a remedy for the
9 Lower Duwamish. EPA identified PCBs in the Lower Duwamish as a significant threat to
10 human health and the environment.

11 24. Fish and shellfish that reside in the Lower Duwamish are contaminated with
12 PCBs at levels that make them unfit for human consumption. Despite warnings, people continue
13 to eat them. Many residents of the City of Seattle, particularly people who are recent immigrants
14 or low income, depend on fish and shellfish from the Lower Duwamish as a significant food
15 source.

16 25. Puget Sound is a Category 5 “impaired” water body for PCBs through at least one
17 medium: wildlife tissue. PCBs are found in the tissue of harbor seal pups in South Central Puget
18 Sound.

19 26. Defendant Monsanto Company (“Monsanto”) is a Delaware corporation with its
20 principal place of business in St. Louis, Missouri.

21 27. Defendant Solutia Inc. (“Solutia”) is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters
22 and principal place of business in St. Louis, Missouri.

23 28. Defendant Pharmacia LLC (formerly known as “Pharmacia Corporation” and
successor to the original Monsanto Company) is a Delaware LLC with its principal place of
business in Peapack, New Jersey. Pharmacia is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pfizer, Inc.
The City is not asserting claims against Pharmacia for costs of investigating and remediating

1 contamination in the Lower Duwamish. In all other respects the City's claims apply to
2 Pharmacia.

3 29. The original Monsanto Company ("Old Monsanto") operated an agricultural
4 products business, a pharmaceutical and nutrition business, and a chemical products business.
5 Old Monsanto began manufacturing PCBs in the 1930s and continued to manufacture
6 commercial PCBs until the late 1970s.

7 30. Through a series of transactions beginning in approximately 1997, Old
8 Monsanto's businesses were spun off to form three separate corporations. The corporation now
9 known as Monsanto operates Old Monsanto's agricultural products business. Old Monsanto's
10 chemical products business is now operated by Solutia. Old Monsanto's pharmaceuticals
11 business is now operated by Pharmacia.

12 31. Solutia was organized by Old Monsanto to own and operate its chemical
13 manufacturing business. Solutia assumed the operations, assets, and liabilities of Old
14 Monsanto's chemicals business.¹

15 32. Although Solutia assumed and agreed to indemnify Pharmacia (then known as
16 Monsanto Company) for certain liabilities related to the chemicals business, Defendants have
17 entered into agreements to share or apportion liabilities, and/or to indemnify one or more entity,
18 for claims arising from Old Monsanto's chemical business --- including the manufacture and sale
19 of PCBs.²

20 33. In 2003, Solutia filed a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of
21 the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Solutia's reorganization was completed in 2008. In connection with
22 Solutia's Plan of Reorganization, Solutia, Pharmacia and New Monsanto entered into several
23

¹ See MONSANTO COMPANY'S ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND, *Town of Lexington v. Pharmacia Corp., Solutia, Inc., and Monsanto Company*, C.A. No. 12-CV-11645, D. Mass. (October 8, 2013); see also Relationships Among Monsanto Company, Pharmacia Corporation, Pfizer Inc., and Solutia Inc., <http://www.monsanto.com/whoweare/pages/monsanto-relationships-pfizer-solutia.aspx> (last accessed January 20, 2016).

² See *id.*

1 agreements under which Monsanto continues to manage and assume financial responsibility for
2 certain tort litigation and environmental remediation related to the Chemicals Business.³

3 34. Monsanto, Solutia, and Pharmacia are collectively referred to in this Complaint as
4 “Defendants.”

5 III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6 35. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 because complete
7 diversity exists between Plaintiff and Defendants. The Plaintiff is located in Washington, but no
8 Defendant is a citizen of Washington. Monsanto is a Delaware corporation with its principal
9 place of business in St. Louis, Missouri. Solutia is a Delaware corporation with its principal
10 place of business in St. Louis, Missouri. Pharmacia is a Delaware limited liability company with
11 its principal place of business in Peapack, New Jersey.

12 36. Venue is appropriate in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1391(a)
13 because a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated in this
14 judicial district.

14 IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

15 A. PCBs are Toxic Chemicals that Cause Environmental Contamination.

16 37. Polychlorinated biphenyl, or “PCB,” is a molecule comprised of chlorine atoms
17 attached to a double carbon-hydrogen ring (a “biphenyl” ring). A “PCB congener” is any single,
18 unique chemical compound in the PCB category. Over two hundred congeners have been
19 identified.⁴

20 38. PCBs were generally manufactured as mixtures of congeners. From
21 approximately 1935 to 1979, Monsanto Company was the only manufacturer in the United States

22 ³ See Monsanto’s Form 8-K (March 24, 2008), and Form 10-Q (June 27, 2008), available at
<http://www.monsanto.com/investors/pages/sec-filings.aspx> (last accessed January 20, 2016).

23 ⁴ Table of PCB Congeners, available at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/pubs/congeners.htm> (last
accessed February 20, 2014).

1 that intentionally produced PCBs for commercial use.⁵ The most common trade name for PCBs
2 in the United States was “Aroclor,” which was trademarked by Old Monsanto.

3 39. Monsanto’s commercially-produced PCBs were used in a wide range of industrial
4 applications in the United States including electrical equipment such as transformers, motor start
5 capacitors, and lighting ballasts. In addition, PCBs were incorporated into a variety of products
6 such as caulks, paints, and sealants.

7 40. As used in this Complaint, the terms “PCB,” “PCBs,” “PCB-containing
8 products,” and “PCB products” refer to products containing polychlorinated biphenyl
9 congener(s) manufactured for placement into trade or commerce, including any product that
10 forms a component part of or that is subsequently incorporated into another product.

11 41. PCBs easily migrate out of their original source material or enclosure and
12 contaminate nearby surfaces, air, water, soil, and other materials. For example, PCB compounds
13 volatilize out of building materials (such as caulk) into surrounding materials such as masonry,
14 wood, drywall, and soil, thereby causing damage to those surrounding materials. PCBs can also
15 escape from totally-enclosed materials (such as light ballasts) and similarly contaminate and
16 damage surrounding materials.

17 42. PCBs present serious risks to the health of humans, wildlife, and the environment.

18 43. Humans may be exposed to PCBs through ingestion, inhalation, and dermal
19 contact. Individuals may inhale PCBs that are emitted into the air. They may also ingest PCBs
20 that are emitted into air and settle onto surfaces that come into contact with food or drinks. And
21 they may absorb PCBs from physical contact with PCBs or PCB-containing materials.

22 44. EPA has determined that Monsanto’s PCBs are probable human carcinogens. In
23 1996, EPA reassessed PCB carcinogenicity, based on data related to Aroclors 1016, 1242, 1254,

⁵ See 116 Cong. Record 11695, 91st Congress, (April 14, 1970) (“Insofar as the Monsanto Co., the sole manufacturer of PCB’s is concerned”); 121 Cong. Record 33879, 94th Congress, (October 23, 1975) (“The sole U.S. producer, Monsanto Co. . . .”). See also MONS 058730-058752 at 058733 (identifying other producers as “all ex-USA.”).

1 and 1260.⁶ EPA’s cancer reassessment was peer reviewed by 15 experts on PCBs, including
2 scientists from government, academia and industry, all of whom agreed that PCBs are probable
3 human carcinogens.

4 45. The International Agency for Research on Cancer published an assessment in
5 2015 that asserts an even stronger relationship between PCBs and human cancer. The report
6 explains: “There is sufficient evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of polychlorinated
7 biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs cause malignant melanoma. Positive associations have been observed
8 for non-Hodgkin lymphoma and cancer of the breast. ... PCBs are carcinogenic to humans”⁷

9 46. In addition, EPA concluded that PCBs are associated with serious non-cancer
10 health effects. From extensive studies of animals and primates using environmentally relevant
11 doses, EPA has found evidence that PCBs exert significant toxic effects, including effects on the
12 immune system, the reproductive system, the nervous system, and the endocrine system.

13 47. PCBs affect the immune system by causing a significant decrease in the size of
14 the thymus gland, lowered immune response, and decreased resistance to viruses and other
15 infections. The animal studies were not able to identify a level of PCB exposure that did not
16 affect the immune system. Human studies confirmed immune system suppression.

17 48. Studies of reproductive effects in human populations exposed to PCBs show
18 decreased birth weight and a significant decrease in gestational age with increasing exposures to
19 PCBs. Animal studies have shown that PCB exposures reduce birth weight, conception rates,
20 live birth rates, and reduced sperm counts.

21 49. Human and animal studies confirm that PCB exposure causes persistent and
22 significant deficits in neurological development, affecting visual recognition, short-term
23

⁶ EPA, PCBs: Cancer Dose-Response Assessment and Application to Environmental Mixtures, EPA/600/P-96/001F (September 1996), available at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/pubs/pcb.pdf> (last accessed January 20, 2016).

⁷ International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, volume 107. Polychlorinated and Polybrominated Biphenyls (2015), available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol107/> (last accessed January 20, 2016).

1 memory, and learning. Some of these studies were conducted using the types of PCBs most
2 commonly found in human breast milk.

3 50. PCBs may also disrupt the normal function of the endocrine system. PCBs have
4 been shown to affect thyroid hormone levels in both animals and humans. In animals, decreased
5 thyroid hormone levels have resulted in developmental deficits, including deficits in hearing.
6 PCB exposures have also been associated with changes in thyroid hormone levels in infants in
7 studies conducted in the Netherlands and Japan.

8 51. PCBs have been associated with other health effects including elevated blood
9 pressure, serum triglyceride, and serum cholesterol in humans; dermal and ocular effects in
10 monkeys and humans; and liver toxicity in rodents.

11 52. Children may be affected to a greater extent than adults. The Agency for Toxic
12 Substances and Disease Registry explained: “Younger children may be particularly vulnerable
13 to PCBs because, compared to adults, they are growing more rapidly and generally have lower
14 and distinct profiles of biotransformation enzymes, as well as much smaller fat deposits for
15 sequestering the lipophilic PCBs.”⁸

16 53. PCBs are known to be toxic to a number of aquatic species and wildlife including
17 fish, marine mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. Exposure is associated with death,
18 compromised immune system function, adverse effects on reproduction, development, and
19 endocrine function. PCB exposure affects liver function, the digestive system, and nervous
20 systems and can promote cancer in a number of animal species. The presence of PCBs can cause
21 changes in community and ecosystem structure and function.⁹

22 ⁸ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs),
(November 2000), at 381, available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov (last accessed January 20, 2016).

23 ⁹ See EPA, Understanding PCB Risks, available at <http://www.epa.gov/ge-housatonic/understanding-pcb-risks-ge-pittsfieldhousatonic-river-site#WildlifeHumanHealthEffects> (last accessed January 20, 2016).

1
2 **B. Monsanto Has Long Known of PCBs' Toxicity.**

3 54. Monsanto was well aware of scientific literature published in the 1930s that
4 established that inhalation in industrial settings resulted in toxic systemic effects.

5 55. An October 11, 1937, Monsanto memorandum advises that "Experimental work
6 in animals shows that prolonged exposure to Aroclor vapors evolved at high temperatures or by
7 repeated oral ingestion will lead to systemic toxic effects. Repeated bodily contact with the
8 liquid Aroclors may lead to an acne-form skin eruption."¹⁰

9 56. A September 20, 1955, memo from Emmet Kelly set out Monsanto's position
10 with respect to PCB toxicity: "We know Aroclors are toxic but the actual limit has not been
11 precisely defined. It does not make too much difference, it seems to me, because our main worry
12 is what will happen if an individual develops [*sic*] any type of liver disease and gives a history of
13 Aroclor exposure. I am sure the juries would not pay a great deal of attention to [maximum
14 allowable concentrates]."¹¹

15 57. On November 14, 1955, Monsanto's Medical Department provided an opinion
16 that workers should not be allowed to eat lunch in the Aroclor department:

17 It has long been the opinion of the Medical Department that eating in
18 process departments is a potentially hazardous procedure that could lead
19 to serious difficulties. While the Aroclors are not particularly hazardous
20 from our own experience, this is a difficult problem to define because
21 early literature work claimed that chlorinated biphenyls were quite toxic
22 materials by ingestion or inhalation.¹²

23 58. On January 21, 1957, Emmet Kelly reported that after conducting its own tests,
the U.S. Navy decided against using Monsanto's Aroclors: "No matter how we discussed the

¹⁰ MONS 061332.

¹¹ MONS 095196-7.

¹² Monsanto Chemical Company, Memorandum to H.B. Patrick, November 14, 1955 (no Bates number).

1 situation, it was impossible to change their thinking that Pydraul 150 is just too toxic for use in a
2 submarine.”¹³

3 59. In 1966, Kelly reviewed a presentation by Swedish researcher Soren Jensen, who
4 stated that PCBs “appeared to be the most injurious chlorinated compounds of all tested.”¹⁴
5 Jensen refers to a 1939 study associating PCBs with the deaths of three young workers and
6 concluding that “pregnant women and persons who have at any time had any liver disease are
7 particularly susceptible.”¹⁵ Kelly does not dispute any of Jensen’s remarks, noting only, “As far
8 as the section on toxicology is concerned, it is true that chloracne and liver trouble can result
9 from large doses.”¹⁶

10 60. On January 29, 1970, Elmer Wheeler of the Medical Department circulated
11 laboratory reports discussing results of animal studies. He noted: “Our interpretation is that the
12 PCB’s are exhibiting a greater degree of toxicity in this chronic study than we had anticipated.
13 Secondly, although there are variations depending on species of animals, the PCB’s are about the
14 same as DDT in mammals.”¹⁷

15 **C. Monsanto Has Long Known that PCBs Were “Global Contaminants” Causing Harm
16 to Animals and Fish.**

17 61. At the same time, Monsanto became aware that PCBs were causing widespread
18 contamination of the environment, far beyond the areas of its use.

19 62. Monsanto’s Medical Director reviewed an article by Swedish researcher Soren
20 Jensen, who reported the detection of PCBs in the tissues of fish and wildlife in Sweden.¹⁸ The
21 report noted that PCBs were also detected in the air over London and Hamburg and found in

22 ¹³ MONS 095640.

23 ¹⁴ See JDGFOX00000037-63.

¹⁵ *Id.* at JDGFOX00000039.

¹⁶ *Id.* at JDGFOX00000037.

¹⁷ MONS 098480, attached as Exhibit K.

¹⁸ New Scientist (December 15, 1966), MONSFOX00003427.

1 seals caught off the coast of Scotland. Jensen concluded that PCBs can “be presumed to be
2 widespread throughout the world.”¹⁹

3 63. A December 1968 article by Richard Risebrough identified chlorinated
4 hydrocarbons (which include PCBs) as “the most abundant synthetic pollutants present in the
5 global environment.”²⁰ The article reported finding significant concentrations of PCBs in the
6 bodies and eggs of peregrine falcons and 34 other bird species. The report linked PCBs to the
7 rapid decline in peregrine falcon populations in the United States.

8 64. On March 6, 1969, Monsanto employee W. M. Richard wrote a memorandum
9 discussing Risebrough’s article that criticized PCBs as a “toxic substance”, “widely spread by
10 air-water; therefore, an uncontrollable pollutant . . . causing extinction of peregrine falcon . . .
11 [and] endangering man himself.”²¹ Richard explained that Monsanto could take steps to reduce
12 PCB releases from its own plants but cautioned, “It will be still more difficult to control other
13 end uses such as cutting oils, adhesives, plastics, and NCR paper. In this applications exposure
14 to consumers is greater and the disposal problem becomes complex.”²²

15 65. On September 9, 1969, Monsanto employee W.R. Richard wrote an interoffice
16 memo titled “Defense of Aroclor.”²³ He acknowledged the role of Aroclor in water pollution:
17 “Aroclor product is refractive, will settle out on solids – sewerage sludge – river bottoms, and
18 apparently has a long life.” He noted that Aroclors 1254 and 1260 had been found along the
19 Gulf Coast of Florida causing a problem with shrimp; in San Francisco Bay, where it was
20 reported to thin egg shells in birds; and in the Great Lakes. Richard advised that the company
21 could not defend itself against all criticism: “We can’t defend vs. everything. Some animals or
22 fish or insects will be harmed. Aroclor degradation rate will be slow. Tough to defend against.
23

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ R.W. Risebrough, Polychlorinated Biphenyls in the Global Ecosystem, *Nature*, Vol. 220 (December 14, 1968).

²¹ MONS 096509-096511.

²² *Id.*

²³ DSW 014256-014263.

1 Higher chlorination compounds will be worse [than] lower chlorine compounds. Therefore we
 2 will have to restrict uses and clean-up as much as we can, starting immediately.”²⁴

3 66. The Aroclor Ad Hoc Committee held its first meeting on September 5, 1969. The
 4 committee’s objectives were to continue sales and profits of Aroclors in light of the fact that
 5 PCB “may be a global contaminant.”²⁵ The meeting minutes acknowledge that PCB has been
 6 found in fish, oysters, shrimp, birds, along coastlines of industrialized areas such as Great
 7 Britain, Sweden, Rhine River, low countries, Lake Michigan, Pensacola Bay, and in Western
 8 wildlife. Moreover, the committee implicated the normal use of PCB-containing products as the
 9 cause of the problem: “In one application alone (highway paints), one million lbs/year are used.
 10 Through abrasion and leaching we can assume that nearly all of this Aroclor winds up in the
 environment.”²⁶

11 67. A month later, on October 2, 1969, the Committee reported extensive
 12 environmental contamination. The U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife found PCB
 13 residues in dead eagles and marine birds. Similarly, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
 14 reported finding PCBs in the river below Monsanto’s Pensacola plant. The U.S. Food and Drug
 15 Administration had discovered PCBs in milk supplies. The Committee advised that Monsanto
 16 could not protect the environment from Aroclors as “global” contaminants but could protect the
 continued manufacture and sale of Aroclors:

17 There is little probability that any action that can be taken will prevent the
 18 growing incrimination of specific polychlorinated biphenyls (the higher
 chlorinated – e.g. Aroclors 1254 and 1260) as nearly global environmental
 19 contaminants leading to contamination of human food (particularly fish),
 the killing of some marine species (shrimp), and the possible extinction
 of several species of fish eating birds.

20 Secondly, the committee believes that there is no practical course of action
 21 that can so effectively police the uses of these products as to prevent
 environmental contamination. There are, however a number of actions
 22 which must be undertaken to prolong the manufacture, sale and use of

23 ²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ MONS 030483-030486.

²⁶ *Id.* at 030485.

1 these particular Aroclors as well as to protect the continued use of other
2 members of the Aroclor series.²⁷

3 68. Despite growing evidence of PCBs' infiltration of every level of the global
4 ecology, Monsanto remained steadfast in its production of Aroclors and other PCBs.

5 69. Monsanto expressed a desire to keep profiting from PCBs despite the
6 environmental havoc in a PCB Presentation to Corporate Development Committee. The report
7 suggests possible reactions to the contamination issue. It considered that doing nothing was
8 "unacceptable from a legal, moral, and customer public relations and company policy
9 viewpoint." But the option of going out of the Aroclor business was also considered
10 unacceptable: "there is too much customer/market need and selfishly too much Monsanto profit
11 to go out."²⁸

12 70. Monsanto's desire to protect Aroclor sales rather than the environment is reflected
13 in the Committee's stated objectives:

- 14 1. Protect continues sales and profits of Aroclors;
- 15 2. Permit continued development of new uses and sales, and
- 16 3. Protect the image of the Organic Division and the Corporation as members of the
17 business community recognizing their responsibilities to prevent and/or control
18 contamination of the global ecosystem.²⁹

19 71. An interoffice memorandum circulated on February 16, 1970, provided talking
20 points for discussions with customers in response to Monsanto's decision to eliminate Aroclors
21 1254 and 1260: "We (your customer and Monsanto) are not interested in using a product which
22 may present a problem to our environment." Nevertheless, the memo acknowledges that
23 Monsanto "can't afford to lose one dollar of business." To that end, it says, "We want to avoid
any situation where a customer wants to return fluid. . . . We would prefer that the customer use
up his current inventory and purchase [new products] when available. He will then top off with

²⁷ DSW 014612-014624, at 014615.

²⁸ MONS 058737.

²⁹ *Id.*

1 the new fluid and eventually all Aroclor 1254 and Aroclor 1260 will be out of his system. We
2 don't want to take fluid back."³⁰

3 72. Even worse, Monsanto instructed its customers to dispose of PCB containing
4 material in local landfills, knowing that landfills were not suitable for PCB contaminated waste.
5 Monsanto had determined that the only effective method of disposing of PCBs was incineration,
6 and it constructed an incinerator for disposal of its own PCB contaminants. Nevertheless, as
7 William Papageorge explained in his 1975 testimony before the Department of Natural
8 Resources, Monsanto instructed its customers to dispose of PCB contaminated waste in landfills:
9 "lacking that resource [a commercial incinerator], we have to reluctantly suggest, because we
10 don't have a better answer, that they find a well operated, properly operated landfill and dispose
11 of the material in that fashion."³¹

12 73. In 1970, the year after Monsanto formed the "ad hoc" committee, and despite
13 Monsanto's knowledge of the global reach of PCB contamination, PCB production in the United
14 States peaked at 85 million pounds.

15 74. Growing awareness of the ubiquitous nature of PCBs led the United States to
16 conduct an investigation of health and environmental effects and contamination of food and
17 other products. An interdepartmental task force concluded in May 1972 that PCBs were highly
18 persistent, could bioaccumulate to relatively high levels, and could have serious adverse health
19 effects on human health.³²

20 75. After that report, environmental sampling and studies indicated that PCBs were a
21 "more serious and continuing environmental and health threat than had been originally
22 realized."³³ To address these concerns, EPA undertook a study to assess PCB levels in the

23 ³⁰ MONS 100123-100124.

³¹ See Testimony of William Papageorge, Public Hearing to Review and Receive Public Comment Upon Proposed Administrative Rules Relating to the Discharge of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's) Into the Waters of the State, Before the Department of Natural Resources (August 28-29, 1975).

³² EPA, Review of PCB Levels in the Environment, EPA-560/7-76-001 (January 1976).

³³ *Id.* at 1.

1 environment on a national basis. That study revealed widespread occurrence of PCBs in bottom
2 sediments in several states; in fish and birds; in lakes and rivers; in the Atlantic Ocean, the
3 Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico; sewage treatment facilities; in a variety of foods
4 including milk, poultry, eggs, fish, meat, and grains; and in human tissues, blood, hair, and
5 milk.³⁴

6 76. At the same time, Monsanto was promoting the use and sale of Aroclor and other
7 PCB compounds. In a 1960 brochure, Monsanto promotes the use of Aroclors in transformers
8 and capacitors, utility transmission lines, home appliances, electric motors, fluorescent light
9 ballasts, wire or cable coatings, impregnants for insulation, dielectric sealants, chemical
10 processing vessels, food cookers, potato chip fryers, drying ovens, thermostats, furnaces, and
11 vacuum diffusion pumps. Aroclors could also be used, the brochure advertised, as a component
12 of automotive transmission oil; insecticides; natural waxes used in dental casting, aircraft parts,
13 and jewelry; abrasives; specialized lubricants; industrial cutting oils; adhesives; moisture-proof
14 coatings; printing inks; papers; mastics; sealant; caulking compounds; tack coatings; plasticizers;
15 resin; asphalt; paints, varnishes, and lacquers; masonry coatings for swimming pools, stucco
16 homes, and highway paints; protective and decorative coatings for steel structures, railway tank
and gondola cars; wood and metal maritime equipment; and coatings for chemical plants, boats,

17 77. A 1961 brochure explains that Monsanto's Aroclors are being used in "lacquers
18 for women's shoes," as "a wax for the flame proofing of Christmas trees," as "floor wax," as
19 an adhesive for bookbinding, leather, and shoes, and as invisible marking ink used to make
20 chenille rugs and spreads.³⁶

21 78. Thus, by February 1961, at the latest, Monsanto knew that its Aroclors were being
22 used in a variety of industrial, commercial, household, and consumer goods. Moreover,

23 ³⁴ *Id.*, *passim*.

³⁵ The Aroclor Compounds (hand dated May 1960), 0509822- 66.

³⁶ Plasticizer Patter (February 1961), 0627503-21.

1 Monsanto affirmatively encouraged these uses by encouraging salesmen to market products for
2 these and other applications.

3 79. A few years later, in 1970, Monsanto tried to distance itself from the variety of
4 applications of Aroclors that it proudly espoused a few years before. In a press release, the
5 company claimed: “ ‘What should be emphasized . . . is that PCB was developed over 40 years
6 ago primarily for use as a coolant in electrical transformers and capacitors. It is also used in
7 commercial heating and cooling systems. It is not a ‘household’ item.”³⁷

7 **D. Monsanto Concealed the Nature of PCBs from Governmental Entities.**

8 80. While the scientific community and Monsanto knew that PCBs were toxic and
9 becoming a global contaminant, Monsanto repeatedly misrepresented these facts, telling
10 governmental entities the exact opposite — that the compounds were not toxic and that the
11 company would not expect to find PCBs in the environment in a widespread manner.

12 81. In a March 24, 1969 letter to Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District,
13 Monsanto advised that the Aroclor compounds “are not particularly toxic by oral ingestion or
14 skin absorption.”³⁸ Addressing reports of PCBs found along the West Coast, Monsanto claimed
15 ignorance as to their origin, explaining that “very little [Aroclor] would normally be expected
16 either in the air or in the liquid discharges from a using industry.”³⁹ A similar letter to the
17 Regional Water Quality Control Board explained that PCBs are associated with “no special
18 health problems” and “no problems associated with the environment.”⁴⁰

19 82. In May, 1969, Monsanto employee Elmer Wheeler spoke with a representative of
20 the National Air Pollution Control Administration, who promised to relay to Congress the
21 message that Monsanto “cannot conceive how the PCBs can be getting into the environment in a
22 widespread fashion.”⁴¹

22 ³⁷ See Press release (July 16, 1970), MCL000647-50.

23 ³⁸ Letter from Monsanto to Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District (March 24, 1969).

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ Letter from Monsanto to State of California Resources Agency (March 27, 1969).

⁴¹ Monsanto Memorandum to W.R. Richard (May 26, 1969).

1 83. Monsanto delivered the same message to the New Jersey Department of
 2 Conservation in July, 1969, claiming first, “Based on available data, manufacturing and use
 3 experience, we do not believe the PCBs to be seriously toxic.”⁴² The letter then reiterates
 4 Monsanto’s position regarding environmental contamination: “We are unable at this time to
 5 conceive of how the PCBs can become wide spread in the environment. It is certain that no
 6 applications to our knowledge have been made where the PCBs would be broadcast in the same
 7 fashion as the chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides have been.”⁴³

8 **E. The Duwamish River is “Impaired” Due to PCB Contamination**

9 84. As described above, PCBs enter the City’s stormwater and wastewater systems
 10 through no fault of the City of Seattle. The City then lawfully discharges wastewater and
 11 stormwater into the Duwamish River in accordance with its NDPES permits.

12 85. Under the Clean Water Act, Washington State has designated uses for the Lower
 13 Duwamish and the East Waterway that include commercial, recreation, navigation, boating,
 14 fishing, shellfish harvesting, and wildlife habitat. It is also part of the Muckleshoot Tribe’s
 15 commercial, ceremonial, and subsistence fishing area.⁴⁴

16 86. The Lower Duwamish and the East Waterway are listed on the Washington State
 17 Water Quality Assessment list of impaired water bodies, in accordance with section 303(d) of the
 18 Clean Water Act, due to PCBs in sediments.⁴⁵

19 87. PCBs are the most widespread contaminant in Lower Duwamish sediment, found
 20 in 94% of the surface sediment locations sampled for PCBs and 48% of the subsurface sediment
 21 samples.⁴⁶

22 _____
 23 ⁴² Letter from Monsanto to Department of Conservation and Economic Development (July 23, 1969).

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Record of Decision — Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site*, WA00002329803 (November 2014) at 34, available at http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/ldw/ROD_final_11-21-2014.pdf (last accessed January 20, 2016).

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 14.

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 22, 28.

1 88. The Washington State Department of Health advises “no consumption of resident
2 fish and shellfish from the LDW,”⁴⁷ due to elevated PCB levels.

3 89. The City has participated in cleanups of PCB-contaminated sediment from the
4 Lower Duwamish Waterway.⁴⁸

5 90. PCB was also detected in almost all samples of fish, shellfish, and benthic
6 invertebrate tissues.⁴⁹ EPA identified PCBs as presenting a human health risk for individuals
7 engaged in netfishing, clamming, and beach play.⁵⁰

8 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **PUBLIC NUISANCE**

10 91. Plaintiff realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation set forth in all
11 preceding paragraphs as if fully restated in this cause of action.

12 92. The City is not asserting this claim against Pharmacia for costs to investigate and
13 remediate contamination in the Lower Duwamish. In all other respects Pharmacia is subject to
14 this claim.

15 93. Monsanto manufactured, distributed, marketed, and promoted PCBs in a manner
16 that created or participated in creating a public nuisance that is harmful to health and obstructs
17 the free use of the Duwamish River.

18 94. Monsanto intentionally manufactured, marketed, and sold PCBs with the
19 knowledge that they were causing global environmental contamination.

20 95. Monsanto knew that PCBs would likely end up in stormwater systems,
21 waterways, water bodies, sediments, fish and animal tissues.

22

⁴⁷ *Id.* at 34.

⁴⁸ *Id.* at 5.

⁴⁹ *Id.* at 28.

⁵⁰ *Id.* at 50-53.

1 96. Monsanto's conduct and the presence of PCBs annoys, injures, and endangers the
2 comfort, repose, health, and safety of others.

3 97. Monsanto's conduct and the presence of PCBs interferes with and obstructs the
4 public's free use and comfortable enjoyment of the Duwamish River for commerce, navigation,
5 fishing, recreation, and aesthetic enjoyment.

6 98. The presence of PCBs also interferes with the free use of Duwamish River for a
7 healthy ecological environment.

8 99. Monsanto's conduct and the presence of PCBs in the Duwamish River is injurious
9 to human, animal, and environmental health.

10 100. An ordinary person would be reasonably annoyed or disturbed by the presence of
11 toxic PCBs that endanger the health of fish, animals, and humans and degrade water quality and
12 marine habitats.

13 101. The seriousness of the environmental and human health risk far outweighs any
14 social utility of Monsanto's conduct in manufacturing PCBs and concealing the dangers posed
15 to human health and the environment.

16 102. The rights, interests, and inconvenience to the City of Seattle and general public
17 far outweighs the rights, interests, and inconvenience to Monsanto, which profited heavily from
18 the manufacture of PCBs and which can no longer produce PCBs.

19 103. Monsanto's conduct caused and continues to cause harm to Seattle.

20 104. The City of Seattle suffers damage from Monsanto's PCBs. The City incurs costs
21 to remove PCBs that have invaded its drainage systems and to prevent additional PCBs from
22 entering its systems. Many of the City's streets are contaminated with PCBs that get into the
23 City's drainage systems. The City of Seattle suffers injuries that are different from those
suffered by the public at large.

 105. Seattle has already incurred costs associated with testing and monitoring for
PCBs, reducing PCBs in stormwater, and removing PCBs from the Lower Duwamish

1 Waterway. The Washington Department of Ecology is requiring the City to increase its efforts
2 to identify and reduce sources of PCBs to its drainage systems. Under the EPA/Ecology
3 Consent Decree, Seattle will incur nearly \$27 Million to construct a stormwater treatment plant
4 to reduce PCBs in stormwater discharges from one drainage basin adjacent to the Lower
5 Duwamish.

6 106. The City is incurring and will continue to incur costs to investigate and remediate
7 PCB contamination in the East Waterway.

8 107. Monsanto knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known that the
9 manufacture and sale of PCBs was causing and would cause the type of contamination now
10 found in the Duwamish River. Monsanto knew that PCBs would contaminate water supplies,
11 would degrade marine habitats and would endanger birds and animals. In addition, Monsanto
12 knew PCBs are associated with serious illnesses and cancers in humans and that humans may be
13 exposed to PCBs through ingestion of fish and/or dermal contact. As a result, it was foreseeable
14 to Monsanto that humans may be exposed to PCBs through swimming in contaminated waters,
15 playing on contaminated beaches, and by eating fish and shellfish from contaminated areas.
16 Monsanto thus knew, or should have known, that PCB contamination would seriously and
17 unreasonably interfere with the ordinary comfort, use, and enjoyment of any contaminated
18 water body. Monsanto had a duty to cease manufacturing, distributing, selling and promoting
19 PCBs and failed to do so. Monsanto also had a duty to warn about the dangers of PCBs and
20 failed to do so.

21 108. As a direct and proximate result of Monsanto's creation of a public nuisance,
22 Seattle has suffered, and continues to suffer, monetary damages to be proven at trial.
23

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

PRODUCTS LIABILITY- DEFECTIVE DESIGN

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2
3
4 109. Plaintiff realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation set forth in all
5 preceding paragraphs as if fully restated in this cause of action.

6 110. The City is not asserting this claim against Pharmacia for costs to investigate and
7 remediate contamination in the Lower Duwamish. In all other respects Pharmacia is subject to
8 this claim.

9 111. Monsanto's PCBs were not reasonably safe as designed at the time the PCBs left
10 Monsanto's control.

11 112. PCBs' toxicity and inability to be contained rendered them unreasonably
12 dangerous at all times.

13 113. Monsanto's PCBs were unsafe as designed as demonstrated by the United State
14 Congress banning the production and sale of PCBs pursuant to the Toxic Substances Control
15 Act in 1979.

16 114. Due to their toxicity and inability to be contained, Monsanto knew its PCBs were
17 not safe at the time the product was manufactured because it was certain that the product would
18 become a global contaminant and cause toxic contamination of waterways and wildlife, such as
19 Seattle's stormwater and the fish in the Duwamish River, due to the nature of PCBs.

20 115. Monsanto knew its PCBs were unsafe to an extent beyond that which would be
21 contemplated by an ordinary person because of the overwhelming seriousness of creating global
22 contamination.

23 116. Monsanto manufactured, distributed, sold, and promoted PCBs despite such
knowledge in order to maximize its profits despite the known harm.

117. Monsanto's PCBs caused and continue to cause injury to the City of Seattle.

118. The City of Seattle has suffered and will continue to suffer damages.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

PRODUCTS LIABILITY- FAILURE TO WARN

1
2
3 119. Plaintiff realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation set forth in all
4 preceding paragraphs as if fully restated in this count.

5 120. The City is not asserting this claim against Pharmacia for costs to investigate and
6 remediate contamination in the Lower Duwamish. In all other respects Pharmacia is subject to
7 this claim.

8 121. Monsanto's PCBs were not reasonably safe because they lacked adequate
9 warnings at the time the PCBs left Monsanto's control.

10 122. At the time Monsanto manufactured, distributed, sold, and promoted its PCBs,
11 Monsanto knew it was a certainty that PCBs would become a global contaminate and
12 contaminate waterways and wildlife such as Seattle's stormwater and fish in the Duwamish
13 River.

14 123. Despite Monsanto's knowledge, Monsanto failed to provide adequate warnings
15 that its PCBs would become a global contaminant and contaminate waterways and wildlife, such
16 as Seattle's stormwater and fish in the Duwamish River.

17 124. Monsanto could have warned of this certainty but intentionally concealed the
18 certainty of global contamination in order to maximize profits.

19 125. Monsanto learned and concealed the dangers of PCBs after it manufactured,
20 distributed, promoted, and sold PCBs.

21 126. Without adequate warnings or instructions, Monsanto's PCBs were unsafe to an
22 extent beyond that which would be contemplated by an ordinary person.

23 127. Monsanto knowingly failed to issue warnings or instructions concerning the
dangers of PCBs in the manner that a reasonably prudent manufacturer would act in the same or
similar circumstances.

128. Monsanto's PCBs caused and continue to cause injury to the City of Seattle.

1 129. The City of Seattle has suffered and will continue to suffer damages.

2 ///

3 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **NEGLIGENCE**

5 130. Plaintiff realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation set forth in all
6 preceding paragraphs as if fully restates in this count.

7 131. The City is not asserting this claim against Pharmacia for costs to investigate and
8 remediate contamination in the Lower Duwamish. In all other respects Pharmacia is subject to
9 this claim.

10 132. Monsanto failed to exercise ordinary care because a reasonably careful company
11 that learned of its product's toxicity would not manufacture that product or would warn of its
12 toxic properties.

13 133. Monsanto failed to exercise ordinary care because a reasonably careful company
14 that learned that its product could not be contained during normal production and use would not
15 continue to manufacture that product or would warn of its dangers.

16 134. Monsanto failed to exercise ordinary care because a reasonably careful company
17 would not continue to manufacture PCBs in mass quantities and to the extent that Monsanto
18 manufactured them.

19 135. Monsanto was grossly negligent because it failed to exercise even slight care.

20 136. Monsanto's negligence caused and continues to cause injury to the City of Seattle.

21 137. The City of Seattle has suffered and will continue to suffer damages.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

EQUITABLE INDEMNITY

138. Plaintiff realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully restated in this count.

139. The Washington Department of Ecology is requiring Seattle to increase its efforts to identify and reduce sources of PCBs to its drainage systems.

140. Pursuant to the joint EPA/Ecology Consent Decree issued under the Federal Clean Water Act, Seattle will be constructing a stormwater treatment plant to remove PCBs in stormwater from one drainage basin adjacent to the Duwamish, at an estimated cost of almost \$27 Million.

141. Seattle is paying a substantial portion of costs to investigate contamination in the East Waterway and will continue paying costs to implement the remedy that EPA selects.

142. Monsanto is responsible for the PCB contamination that Seattle must address pursuant to these regulatory requirements.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. Compensatory damages according to proof;
2. Award of the present and future costs to abate the ongoing public nuisance;
3. Declaratory judgment requiring Monsanto to pay for abatement of the ongoing nuisance;
4. Litigation costs and attorney’s fees as provided by law;
5. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
6. Any other and further relief as the Court deems just, proper, and equitable.

1 Dated: 5/4/2016, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

2 PETER S. HOLMES
Seattle City Attorney

3
4 By: Laura Wishik
Peter S. Holmes, WSBA # 15787
5 Laura B. Wishik, WSBA #16682

6
7 **BARON & BUDD, P.C.**
Scott Summy (*pending Pro Hac Vice*)
8 Carla Burke (*pending Pro Hac Vice*)
Celeste Evangelisti (*pending Pro Hac Vice*)

9 **GOMEZ TRIAL ATTORNEYS**
10 John H. Gomez (*pending Pro Hac Vice*)
John P. Fiske (*pending Pro Hac Vice*)

11
12 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

13 Plaintiff demands a jury trial.

14
15 Dated: 5/4/2016, 2016

PETER S. HOLMES
Seattle City Attorney

16
17 By: Laura Wishik
18 Peter S. Holmes, WSBA # 15787
Laura B. Wishik, WSBA #16682

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