

J. E. Davis - Hobbs, M.D.
F. H. Langenfeld -
H. S. Litsinger -
bcc Dr. J. F. Treon

St. Louis, Mo.

December 26, 1956

G. Robert Sido
Washington, D. C.

Your memo December 19
HYDRAUL 150 -- U.S. NAVY

Dr. Kelly and I have discussed Commander Siegel's position on Hydraul 150 with several of the people getting a copy of this memo. I believe there is general agreement among us here in St. Louis that this is about the last straw in our relationship with the Bureau of Medicine.

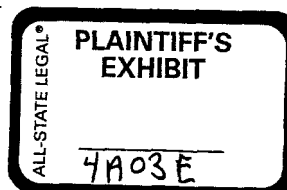
Without a knowledge of the details of the experiments which NAMRI is running for Siegel, we can only conclude from your description of the tests that Siegel is drawing conclusions from data obtained by exposures to animals which have no practical significance insofar as potential human exposure aboard a submarine is concerned. We can do nothing to influence the type of tests which he wants done by NAMRI. Apparently we can do nothing about influencing his conclusions based on such tests.

Our only approach would appear to be to make all data which we have available to the Toxicological Committee of the National Research Council (which we have done) and let them decide about the validity of any conclusions which Siegel reaches based on a comparison of our data and the NAMRI data. At the moment none of us here feel like approaching Dr. Hodge's committee requesting such an opinion from that group.

In the first place, I don't know if we at Monsanto could ethically make such a proposal to Dr. Hodge and secondly, I don't know how the Hodge committee could force any action out of Siegel if they wanted to. In the third place, of course, if we received a favorable recommendation from the committee over Siegel's objections, it would not improve our "friendly" relationship with him.

Out of all of this it appears quite certain that in the future we will not spend one nickel to develop toxicity data on hydraulic fluids for the Navy. We will continue to get information to satisfy ourselves that the use of our fluids is safe under any normal foreseeable conditions. This is generally enough to satisfy non-military customers.

MONS 095637



G. Robert Sido -- Page 2 -- December 26, 1956

If the Navy has interest in any of these fluids and wishes to accept them toxicity wise on the information available, they are welcome to do so. If the fluids are not acceptable toxicity wise on the basis of such data, then perhaps we can save a lot of time and effort by advising the Navy to look elsewhere for their requirements.

In spite of the tone of the above memo, Emmet and I wish you the happiest of New Years!

Elmer F. Wheeler

EFW:ch

MONS 095638