bcc: W. S. Culliton - Wilmington
K. L. Grimm - Legal Dept.

November 5, 1970

Mr. Vernon I. K. Wiegand, Sr.
1943 Green Pine Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Dear Mr. Wiegand:

Your letter concerning the potential contamination of your cistern water by mercury has been sent to me for reply.

Lucite® House Paint contains about 0.2% mercury, based on solids content which is needed to prevent the growth of mildew on the paint film. When applied, some of the mercury is absorbed by the substrate and some of it remains in the paint film. The amount of mercury available for leaching or removal by rainwater is dependent on many variables such as the type substrate, weather conditions during application and number of coats applied. In any event, however, only an extremely small amount of mercury could possibly be available for leaching, and we believe it would be removed during the first few washings by rain.

There is no known record of any harm being caused by the leaching of mercury or other materials from Lucite® House Paint. However, if you feel the cistern water should be analyzed for mercur content, I suggest you contact your local Public Health Service Organization or nearest State University, who generally will perform this service for a nominal fee.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

William W. Miller
Toxicity Coordinator

WWM:lhw

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