PCB- Maine

W. B. Papageorge - B2NK

February 25, 1972

H. S. Bergen
W. R. Corey
C. P. Cunningham
K. W. Easley - 1920
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FILE

Discussed Maine PCB poultry incident with Mr. LeRoy Schilte, Ralston-Purina, St. Louis, at 1:00 PM Thursday, February 24, 1972.

He informed me of the following:

1. The number of chickens (200,000) involved as quoted in the USDA press release dated 2/23/72 is low. Actually there are many more. He did not state how many.

2. Penobscot Poultry Company, Belfast, Maine and Fort Halifax Poultry Company, Waterville, Maine were formerly Purina operations.

3. The samples of feed which ranged from 88 to 578 ppm PCB were four in number and were analyzed by the Purina laboratory.

4. He confirmed that samples of fat tissue from some of the birds had as much as 600 ppm PCB present.

5. The only symptom noted among the flocks was mortality.

6. Pine State Rendering Company, Portland, Maine, was inspected by FDA on February 22, 1972. No evidence of PCB use was found.

7. Samples of meat meal from current Pine State Rendering Company production were analyzed and no PCB's were detected. No samples of previous production are available.

8. The poultry by-product meal was processed by Bay Side Rendering Company from wastes resulting from the slaughtering of 8 week old birds from the same producers (Penobscot and Fort Halifax). Presence of 11-13 ppm PCB is attributed to contamination in feed and could have occurred at anytime during the two month growing period (approximately December and January).

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9. All feed ingredients used by Purina were analyzed and, except for the poultry by-product sample, were found free of PCB. Samples were also taken of hydraulic fluids, greases, oils, etc. in the feed formulating plant. No PCB's were detected.

10. Mr. Schilte reported that he was told of a recent transformer "blowout" at the formulation plant in Thorndike, Maine. He asked if this could be a source of PCB. I told him PCB's were present in some transformer fluids but usually they are either Aroclor 1254 or Aroclor 1260 but some did contain Aroclor 1242. I also informed him that a transformer failure did not necessarily involve rupture of the transformer case and release of the fluid. I also expressed doubt that the amount of transformer fluid which could have escaped could account for the extremely high PCB levels found in the feed and in the poultry tissue. Mr. Schilte stated he will look further into the transformer incident.

11. Mr. Schilte asked if I thought anyone could get a drum of PCB's and deliberately add it to a feed ingredient. I agreed that it was possible but I could not understand why anyone would take such action.

12. Purina is sending representatives to Washington on Friday, February 25, 1972 to discuss permissible PCB levels in poultry.

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