Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): B2SC P. G. Benignus

DATE: April 23, 1974

SUBJECT: General Electric
Hudson Falls, N.Y.

REFERENCE:

TO: C. PATON

cc: H. S. Bergen
T. L. Gossage
W. B. Papageorge - B1ND
J. R. Savage
W. R. Richard - T3A
M. H. Munch - T1B
P. L. Slayton - 1650
J. G. Bryant - 1650

Relative to his move to Schenectady, the party for Bob Abbe was not small and included the wives. This time Bob's leaving was real. He will be missed. Luke Hart pointed out that finally they got rid of their biggest spender. Larry Barker conducted the ceremony in most pleasing style.

The outside guests represented the suppliers of critical materials, and included the illustrious Mr. Peter Schweitzer.

Luke Hart looks forward to meeting with Howard, in the near future.

At the technical level, Dr. Stenger said that he wishes to meet with Dr. Munch.

Loss of Gene Cox, who was anxious to visit us in St. Louis, disrupted plans, which now await appointment of a leader. Currently Luke has four people carrying on in Gene's role and he wants to get this oriented. Two months was indicated. I suggested that we should be able to get together before then.

I asked what they would do if next week they learned that PCBs would be cut off. They said this would throw them into a miserable nightmare for a minimum of two years and that they could never find an entirely suitable replacement. They added that their environmental advisor (Al Pozefsky) informs that somehow the EPA will get around to an arrangement allowing continued use of PCBs.

In any event, they indicated that phthalate esters are not a broad replacement for PCBs.

An air conditioner fire convinced G.E. that they would have been blamed and sued if the capacitor had contained a flammable fluid. They appear to have come to feel that fire-resistance is more important than the ecological matters. Fire-resistance is now proclaimed important for air-conditioners.

They express agreement that their Econol literature and similar writings by Sprague and Aerovox can be misleading. They show a strange pleasure and satisfaction from extracting a premium price for the Econol units, while higher prices for Aroclor units would seem long past due.

I mentioned to Luke and also to others most of whom seemed oblivious, if not uninformed, that we submit a significant stipend for guidance and appear to get very little to none that would not be available otherwise. Probably they have little "viable" and significant for us. The pending meetings will throw more light on this.

Paul

P. G. Benignus

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