September 28, 1970

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: H. P. MICHENER

FROM: A. M. SALAZAR

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL THAT NEMA JOIN THE MONSANTO COMPANY IN SPONSORING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON DISPOSAL OF ASKAREL USED IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

On the recommendations of a Special Committee appointed to investigate problems caused by components of askarel, the Board of Directors unanimously recommended that the C&S Committee should approve the subject. The background and recommended scope for the new Committee is covered in the attached record of developments, so far.

For the C&S Committee's further information, the Monsanto Company reported that the presence of materials identified as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in marine environments was first noted by Professors G. Widmark and S. Jensen of the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Stockholm, Sweden, and reported in November, 1966. Since then, and with increasing frequency, other investigators have identified PCB in marine and animal life; and its presence has been cited as being harmful to a few specific types of wildlife. In July, 1970, the Food & Drug Administration issued guidelines to its field offices, establishing upper limits of PCB content of 0.2 ppm in milk and 5.0 ppm in food. Milk or food exceeding these limits is subject to confiscation.

The Monsanto Company has already taken steps to limit the availability of askarel to those uses where the fluid is essential and is contained in a closed system, such as is the case for transformers and capacitors. With the cooperation of transformer and capacitor manufacturers, steps have also been taken to alert all known users on the problem and on corrective measures. Monsanto has also instituted a means for disposing of bulk fluids and means for idsposing of askarel-soaked waste materials, coils, insulation scrap, discarded capacitors, etc., are currently being investigated.

Due to the obvious urgency of getting this activity on the way, as soon as possible, your cooperation is requested in submitting this matter, by letter ballot, rather than waiting for the Officers' next meeting. Monsanto has agreed to take the lead in this effort on the basis that a NEMA Staff Secretary will serve the Committee.

DSW 323894

8

EXHIBIT A

Monsanto has also agreed to Chair the Organization meeting and provide a Chairman for the ANSI Committee, if appointed.

It is recommended that the entire Board Committee listed in the attachment be invited to attend the Organization meeting, at which a smaller NEMA representation could more appropriate be recommended. Mr. E. L. Raab is Chairman of a Working Group of the IEEE Transformers Committee, which is developing Guide information for the care and maintenance of askarel-filled transformers. He is also Chairman of a similar ASTM activity and Mr. W. C. Reinhardt is a member of both of these Groups.

Monsanto and the members of the Board Committee can provide names of people to contact from the following Groups, that either have already been involved in this matter, so far, or would otherwise be the most qualified:

1. Utilities

2. Government Power Agencies

3. Industrial Groups, such as GM and Ford

4. Disposal Consultants

Carbon copies of this memorandum have been sent to Messrs. Reinhardt, Chairman of the Board Committee and P. G. Benignus and W. B. Papageorge of Monsanto, to alert them on the possible need for their help with respect to the above matters.

CC: W.C. Reinhardt
P.G. Benignus
W.B. Papageorge
J.F. Miller
H.N. Muller
B.H. Falk
W.C. Pelster
J.J. Kark

DSW 323896

EXHIBIT A

9.