W. B. Papageorge - B2NA

October 6, 1972

PYDRAULS - RALSTON-PURINA

W. R. Corey - B2SL
J. H. Davidson - B2SF
C. Paton - B2SC
J. F. Stapleton - B2SA
R. A. Stohr - A3SB

Mr. H. S. Bergen
B2SL

As requested I have attempted to summarize all known information relating to Ralston-Purina's recent interest in Monsanto's Pydrauls.

Ralston-Purina's concern apparently was first stimulated by their involvement in the North Carolina fishmeal incident last summer and became greater following a PCB-poultry feed incident in Maine in February, 1972.

Jerry Davidson has been discussing Pydrauls with Messrs. Bill McCollister and Paul Brauch of Ralston-Purina's Engineering Department. A memorandum to File summarizing activities up to April, 1972 was written by Jerry (a copy is attached). In addition to the offer to incinerate returned used Pydraul fluid free of charge, Jerry also offered to accept with full credit any unused, unopened drums. Since April six Ralston-Purina plants have returned material.

In January, 1972 Paul Brauch had requested samples of our new phosphate ester Pydrauls (Pydraul 90E, Pydraul 230C and Pydraul 312C) indicating that tests would be conducted. On October 4 Jerry was informed that feeding studies were conducted with chickens and these Pydrauls were determined to be non-toxic. Paul Brauch asked if they could use Pydraul 30E. George Levinskas was consulted and recommended that because of our demyelination studies that Pydraul 30E not be used in feed applications. Jerry was asked if Pydraul 29ELT could be used and he advised Mr. Brauch it should not be used. During this conversation Mr. Brauch informed Jerry that Mr. Cliff Harden, former Secretary of Agriculture and presently Vice President, Ralston-Purina, was personally interested in Monsanto's Pydrauls, particularly the formulations containing PCBs, and was very disturbed that Monsanto had not offered free replacement fluid. Mr. Brauch indicated Mr. Hardin planned to discuss this matter with Monsanto's upper management.

Also, on October 4 I received a call from Dr. M. Cover, Head, Veterinary Services, Ralston-Purina, who asked me what the letters "LT" in Pydraul 29ELT meant. I told him I thought they indicated "Low Temperature" but I would confirm this understanding and call him back. I contacted Jerry Davidson who assured me LT referred to "Low Temperature." When I called Dr. Cover back as promised, I attempted to get more information from him regarding his interest in Pydraul 29ELT but he was not responsive. He would only indicate they were reviewing all of our new Pydrauls.

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Back in March, 1972 Ralston-Purina's legal representatives contacted Rod Harris to complain that Monsanto's representatives were not cooperating in determining the source of PCB in the Maine poultry incident. Ralston-Purina suspected that hydraulic fluid from a front end pay-loader was the source of PCB and requested detailed information on analytical methodology and Pydraul formulations.

In early April Dick Stohr and Scott Tucker met with Ralston-Purina representatives at their headquarters and informed them that the old Pydraul fluids were mixtures of PCB, phosphate esters and mineral oil. Although we had no specific analytical methodology, Scott discussed possible approaches for determining phosphate esters in animal feed samples. We have received no further information from Ralston-Purina relating to the Maine incident.

Ralston-Purina has purchased relatively small quantities of Pydrauls. Twenty locations are involved with 1971 purchases of 18,000 pounds and 1972 purchases of 10,500 pounds. Most of the applications are in air compressors.

In summary, Ralston-Purina has a program for replacing the old Pydraul fluids; has evaluated Pydraul 90E, Pydraul 230C and Pydraul 312C and found them acceptable; six of their plants have returned old Pydraul fluids; nine have ordered the new Pydrauls; we have advised against the use of Pydraul 30E and Pydraul 29ELT; Mr. Hardin believes Monsanto should supply replacement fluids as well as disposal service and we have no information relating to the source of PCB in the Maine poultry incident.

W. B. Papageorge

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