Monsanto

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file Phthalate Esters

AUG 17 1976

DATE August 16, 1976

SUBJECT PHTHALATE ESTERS AS PCB REPLACEMENTS IN CAPACITORS

REFERENCE

cc E. H. Fording - B3NA
R. E. Hatton - B2SD
R. E. L. Lamkin - B3NC
C. Paton - B2SK
PAE: Phthalates, Replacement for PCB's

AUG 27 1976

TO : S. A. Heininger
- B3NA

The following is excerpted from a letter written by Russell Train to Senator Pearson (Senate Committee on Commerce):

> "One promising alternative to PCBs in capacitors is phthalates. Dioctyl phthalates and diisonyl phthalates are being used in capacitors in Japan. The Japanese experience with phthalates in capacitors is still too limited, however, to evaluate phthalates' performance. In this country, while the Underwriters Laboratory has indicated that at the present time it would not approve of phthalates in small capacitors on the basis of flammability testing, some have suggested that these compounds could be used in small capacitors if there are reliable circuit interrupters in case of fire. Preliminary studies in this country of phthalates in large capacitors continue to be encouraging."

However, it was also emphasized that to date none of the proposed substitutes for capacitors had been found to be satisfactory.

The significance of an official EPA blessing on phthalates would be to soften some of the opposition to employing an alternative product already burdened with some environmental concerns. The EPA approval (if it comes) would not discourage academic groups from shifting emphasis from PCBs to phthalate esters; which upon reflection, may not be "all bad".

PRG

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