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Mobil Oil Corporation

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November 24, 1976

NIOSH Review Committee
for PCB Criteria Document

I discussed Chapter 3 Effects on Humans of the draft copy of the NIOSH PCB Criteria Document with Dr. Paul E. Brubaker and with Dr. J. Rodney Meredith, the Chief Clinician in Paulsboro, New Jersey, for Mobil Oil Corporation. Dr. Meredith has been intimately involved with the concern about PCB's being carcinogenic in humans. It was his preliminary report which Dr. Bahn analyzed and which we then forwarded to Dr. Finklea. Since Dr. Meredith was at the last minute unable to attend your meeting, he would like to emphasize by letter a fact for your consideration in preparing the document.

The report of data from Mobil which is cited in this document was very preliminary. We feel that this should be so stated. Dr. Meredith points out the following: (1) the report was based almost exclusively on a chart search; (2) there was no medical information available on a large segment of the group as Dr. Bahn pointed out; (3) as discussed below there has been a substantial change in the cohort since release of that first report. For those reasons Dr. Meredith suspected that the composition of the cohort was of limited accuracy. Not, however, until we began to identify the cohort more precisely did we realize how difficult was the process of determing exposure and how many changes we would have to make. Old records, laboratory notebooks, personnel records and memories of long service employees for 20 and 25 years ago had been consulted, but we began to gain confidence in our cohort only when we resorted to individual interviews with nearly every person possibly associated with PCB's. This process is near completion.

There is still the task of notifying some employees added to the exposure group and of others deleted from the exposure group to form the new, based-on-best-data cohort. An extensive examination program has been instituted for both current and former employees. Diagnoses will be verified.

DSW 020386