

Monsanto

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

DATE February 7, 1972
SUBJECT Aroclor - Dielectric
Applications
REFERENCE Your memo 1/28 to C. Paton
TO : 5210
JOE CULVER

cc: A2NA E. Greene
B2SL T. L. Gossage
B2SC C. Paton
5400 E. Liang
→1760 R. H. Munch
B2SL H. S. Bergen

Dear Joe:

You requested us to put together a security procedure presumably with all details to avoid PCB environmental contamination in the Asia/Pacific area by capacitor and transformer makers.

One should at least start with such obvious things as stop selling scrap to junk dealers for de-dusting roads and stop discarding PCB scrap fluids into the sewer or water systems. Stop using PCBs in formulations to treat against termites, etc.

The foregoing is quite obvious and simple enough. However, in your area I suppose you do not have the proper incinerating equipment such as we now have at WGK where scrap PCB dielectric fluids are sent for complete destruction. It would seem impractical to ship scrap from, say, Taiwan to us for incineration at 3¢/lb.

I can't very well set up an incinerator in Taiwan per your memo. Nor does this memo allow me to do the things we are doing here in the states to clean up as required a transformer or capacitor maker's operation. To do this effectively we visit these plants repeatedly as there is a great deal of detail.

I could work on this by traveling to Taiwan and the Asia Pacific area. However, I don't see this in the cards.

While Monsanto may elect to take unilateral steps regarding offering PCBs in the Asia Pacific area, it seems to me that the PCB environmental pollution situation in that area and in other areas in the world is not nearly as intense as it is here in the states. This is to say that I believe the users will continue to get PCBs if they elect to use them, regardless of what Monsanto's individual policy may be. The foregoing leads me to point out that the users, given time, can have available exacting and detailed guidelines about how to properly handle PCBs for electrical applications to minimize environmental pollution. This refers to the tremendous amount of work being done

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collectively by the transformer and capacitor industries here in the states to formulate these guidelines at our ANSI committee on behalf of the myriad of other electrical associations and governmental agencies and on behalf of Monsanto as a producer of PCBs.

But we won't have all of this over night and I can't write it in a memo albeit the security procedure you requested. Yet give us a little time and all of this will be available for use around the world and it will be based on the collective best thoughts of all parties concerned. It will be worthwhile waiting for.

P. G. Benignus

P.S.

After dictating the above but prior to having it typed copy of E. Liang's memo to you of February 2 came to my attention. His writing seems very much to the point. He states that none of his six customers will give Monsanto full support on "hold harmless agreement". He states "I would say that all our market share will go to Kaneka, Bayer or Prodelec". He concludes with a question, "Will we continue or give up this business?"

Until this is resolved and as I have plenty to do on our domestic PCB problems I cannot justify my time trying to clean up the capacitor plants in Taiwan, etc.. if indeed the effort would mainly help only our competitors.

PGB

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