

April 10, 1970

Division General Managers - Sales Divisions
Department General Managers - Domestic Operations

Gentlemen:

Recently there have been indications that polychlorbyphenyls have been found at some points in marine, aquatic and wildlife environments. While quantities of these materials are relatively small, it is receiving the kind of concern that has arisen with DDT and other pollutants. Monsanto Chemical Company is the sole supplier to General Electric of various grades of this material under the trade names of Aroclor for electrical use in capacitors and transformers, Pydraul for hydraulic uses, and Therminols as heat transfer agents. The materials are also known as Askarels, or by our registered trademark, Pyranol.

Monsanto has been reviewing procedures to be sure that these materials do not find their way into the land or water environment. The Company is in receipt of a letter dated February 18, 1970 from Monsanto expressing its concern (copy attached).

In order to deal with this problem, the Executive Office appointed a task force consisting of Robert B. Ames as Chairman, Charles J. Meloun, and Leonard C. Maier, Jr. whose Divisions account for 98 percent of the Company's usage. The task force recommends that two immediate steps must be taken:

1. Control of the disposition of Pyranol, Pydraul, Therminols and related materials at all General Electric locations, and
2. Appropriate notification to customers purchasing equipment and apparatus containing Pyranol. (Take no action on this until further advised by the task force.)

Environmental control at General Electric locations having any of these materials either for use in manufacture of General Electric products or in any apparatus or equipment used for such manufacture, consists of controlling the disposal of scrap, spills, failed apparatus, and drum residue. Scrap Pyranol, Pydraul and Therminols should be disposed of by containment in drums and stored, or snipping the drums, at cost, to Monsanto's W. G. Krummrich Plant at Sauget, Illinois, attention Supervisor, Dept. 246. Monsanto will charge 3¢ for each pound of scrap Pyranol, Pydraul and Therminols. Monsanto intends to hold the material in drums or in a storage tank pending the installation of an incinerator.

Materials which have become contaminated with polychlorbyphenyls such as Fuller's earth, sawdust, rags, solid insulations from failed apparatus, etc., should be contained and stored. In no event should polychlorbyphenyls or materials contaminated with the same be put into any water system or land fill.

It is recommended that the manager of any domestic GE facility which produces products containing Pyranol, or which includes plant equipment containing it (such as transformers or capacitors in its substation or test facilities), or which provides service on equipment containing it (such as most Service Shops), or which acts as selling agent for it, receive this information and establish controls as appropriate. The necessary special attention of General Managers of sales divisions to oversee communication to appropriate Sales Managers, and of General Managers of multiple location departments to communicate to local plant managers, is requested.

The task force is preparing on a Company basis an appropriate notification to be sent to General Electric customers advising them of this situation. This letter will be reviewed with the Product Departments concerned prior to its being issued.

The task force will continue to review the situation and will make recommendations for solving this problem on a long-range basis.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Ames, Chairman
C. J. Meloun
L. C. Maier, Jr.

PYRANOL TASK FORCE

Attachment

cc: Members, Corporate Operations Office
Division General Managers