File	✓
Destroy	
CDB	
JTG	
WHH	
MNJ	✓
REK	✓
RAM	
EPW	✓
GJL	

November 30, 1971

Mr. Jack VanBynen
30 Cross Street
Ingersoll, Ontario
CANADA

Dear Mr. VanBynen:

I have received, after a little circuitous travel, your letter to Monsanto Company of Canada, as well as the one to Monsanto Company U.S.A. I think this will answer the questions you brought up in both of them.

First of all, let me say we ~~have never~~ had a report of a case of illness from contact with Inerteen in the transformer industry. This is in spite of the fact ~~that literally~~ millions of pounds are sold every year.

Here are the answers to your questions:

1) The safety measures we suggest should be used when working with this material would be to avoid prolonged or repeated skin contact and to avoid breathing the fumes that may be liberated in confined areas at elevated temperatures. For example, if a transformer were being drained at elevated temperatures outside, I would recommend that the individual stand upwind and I would certainly not anticipate any problem. Should the material be drained in a close confined area, the people should use respiratory protection.

2) If an individual dips his hand in the material often enough and for a long enough period without cleaning it off, he could develop a condition known as chloracne. This is similar to teenage acne. Simple housekeeping methods to prevent this obviously must have worked in the transformer industry because, again, we have had no reports of skin problems.

3) I do not believe the material has any action on the lungs.

4) The situation that occurs when the material is hot is that more of it is liberated. The action is the same but one

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cannot get enough fumes at room temperatures to cause any problem. However, when the material is heated more fumes are liberated. A threshold limit in mg/cu. meter has been set for these compounds. It varies with the chlorine concentration from 0.5 to 1 mg/cu. meter.

(5) You asked about what prolonged health hazard exists in working with this material. Here, again, one must differentiate between hazard and exposure. In usual operations I can see no hazard. If one breathes the fumes at elevated temperatures or gets the material on the skin and leaves it there for a prolonged period of time without washing it there might be a hazard. This hazard could take the form of chloracne on the skin and, conceivably, liver damage.

(6) The fumes have, of course, a rather characteristic odor and, aside from temporary irritation of the eyelids, I do not think they have any effect on the eyes and would not weaken them after a period of time.

Your last paragraph asks for safety procedures or equipment to be suggested for the use of this material. All we would suggest is good housekeeping and the voidance of repeated and prolonged skin contact and the breathing of fumes that could be liberated at elevated temperatures or in confined areas. Obviously, if this latter situation has to occur, respiratory protection would be needed.

Sincerely,

R. Emmet Kelly, M. D.
Medical Director

REK/ln
cc: J. G. Edmiston
Monsanto Canada Ltd.
Toronto

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