National Electrical Manufacturers Association
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NEWS

For Release: Immediate

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PROCEDURE TO ELIMINATE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD POSED BY ASKAREL IS PROPOSED

New York, N.Y.— A procedure to insure proper handling and disposal of askarel, which contains chemicals that could be harmful to the environment, has been published by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) in the form of a Standards Proposal.

This Standards Proposal will ultimately become American National Standard Guidelines (an ANSI Standard) for handling and disposal of capacitor and transformer grade askarels containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). At that time this Standards Proposal will be rescinded.

Askarel is a fluid used as an insulation in sealed electrical transformers and capacitors. Consisting of or containing PCB's, askarel has been used in a wide variety of applications over the past 40 years. But recently evidence was uncovered that PCB's are widely dispersed in the environment, and some studies have shown that PCB's may be a contaminant.

Recognizing the responsibility of controlling the use and disposal of askarel, the Monsanto Company--sole U.S. producer of

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Exhibit A

the material--and NEMA, representing the producers of transformers and capacitors, organized in early 1971 a committee to develop recommendations for the procedures to be followed in dealing with askarel.

The committee became known as the American National Standards Committee C107. In addition to searching for guidelines for use and disposal of askarel, the committee also served as a source for technical information and advice for Federal, State and local authorities; encouraged the development of suitable disposal facilities and maintained a list of their capabilities, and served as an advisory group for U.S. participation in other international organizations.

The Standards Proposal drawn up by the committee covers such things as capacitor guidelines which includes plant housekeeping and employee safety; control of water effluents; scrap disposal procedures and labeling.

Additionally, transformer guidelines covering safety precautions, transport container markings, receiving, handling and storing of askarel, analytical procedures and disposal are covered.

Upon publication as an ANSI Standard, it will receive attention on a world-wide basis through ANSI's contacts consisting of about 65,000 engineers, buyers, and executives and organizations, including libraries, universities, professional societies and national standards organizations.

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The Official Standards Proposal (NEMA Publication CP-P1-1973 and TR-P6-1973) is available for $2.25 per copy from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, 155 East 44th Street, New York, N. Y. 10017.

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MGNS 057071

EXHIBIT A