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June 19, 1975

Mr. Clifford Tuttle
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Cliff:

A new development in the PCB field.

The other day I had a call from Mr. Kleinert, Chief, Surveillance Section, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He advised that as a result of action by FDA banning the commercial sale of certain fish taken in Lake Michigan and the upper Mississippi River due to the levels of PCB which have been found, his agency has become quite concerned with this problem.

The Natural Resources Board will consider the matter at a meeting shortly and is expected to hold some hearings later, probably in August, on the extent of the problem and what might be done to reduce the further discharge of PCB into the water.

Apparently one action which is under consideration is a banning in the state of the installation of capacitors and transformers using PCB. Another approach apparently being considered is the replacement of the PCB fluid in existing capacitors and transformers.

When I pointed out that capacitors and transformers are closed systems, he responded that they have been known to develop leaks; there have been instances of vandalism where holes are shot in capacitors and transformers, and there is the possibility of spillage in the refilling process or the transportation of PCB.

If the Department does hold hearings on this matter, Mr. Kleinert will be looking to EIA to provide a witness who can testify as to the need to use PCB in capacitors. He has talked to Bill Papageorge, who gave him my name, and also planned to talk with Al Salazar at NEMA about transformers.

Due to the ban on commercial fishing, and the concern of sports fishermen and environmental groups, at the least there certainly will be an investigation of this matter.

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I will keep you informed of developments but suggest you consider the possible need for an industry witness to participate in this investigation in a few months.

Sincerely,

Tyler

Tyler Nourse
Staff Vice President
Parts Division

P.S. Do you have any background on why Sweden has a ban or very strict restrictions on the use of PCB? Mr. Kleinert asked about this and so have several other people who are interested in the PCB matter.