St. Louis, Missouri

March 18, 1954

Dr. J. W. Barrett (2)

London

Dr. H.R. Newman, Newport
Dr. H.B. Dyson, Newport
Dr. J.A. Gardner, London
Mr. W.E. Hamor, Rumbon
Newport T.I.E. file
Mr. J. F. Stickley

ARoclor TOXICITY

On receipt of your letter of March 4, 1954 I asked Anniston for their last minute information on the toxicity of Aroclors with special reference to the use of Aroclors in paints etc., and Mr. Ellenburg has replied as follows:

"The final report on the problem of checking the concentration of Aroclor vapor in the air has been written and is now in the process of being typed.

In the report the method of determining the Aroclor concentration in the air is given in detail. You will also find these methods in the interim report by H. B. Richards, Jr. dated June 17, 1953.

No work has been done since last October on this project. In fact, Mr. Richards has left the company and this has cut the work a little short. However, we did accumulate enough data to show the concentration of Aroclor at various points and under different conditions in the manufacturing area.

In connection with the room painted with Lustrex Latex Paint containing Aroclor 1248, the sampling operation shows that the concentration falls off in a few days to the limit of less than 1 mg/cu.meter. There is definitely an Aroclor odor in the room after being freshly painted and the odor persists for several days before it disappears with natural air movements. In forced ventilation the story might be different.

Our work is merely an indication of the levels of Aroclor vapor found in the areas under test. In our manufacturing areas, the level varies according to the type Aroclor being handled and the temperature of the Aroclor. The Aroclor vapors are usually strong enough to be quite irritating when they reach the level of 1 mg./cu. meter.

MONS 095184

My opinion on the use of Aroclor in paint is that each paint would have to be tested in a room. If the odor of Aroclor is present, then caution will have to be exercised before the paint is distributed freely for household use.

As you probably know, work on the safe limits of Aroclor vapor concentration in air is being carried on by the Medical Department at the Kettering Laboratories in Cincinnati. This work on animals is well under way and will help us know a little better just what is the safe limit of Aroclor vapor that one might work in."

E. Mather

em

MONS 095185