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Dear Joe:

Will you let me know when we might expect a preliminary report on the Pydraul 150 studies?

Frank Langenfeld visited the Portsmouth Navy Yard last week where several new submarines are under construction and where older models are being converted in one respect or another. The engineering, construction, and operating personnel in the submarine service are extremely anxious to get some word from BuMed regarding the possible use of Pydraul 150.

When Bob Sido in Washington reported verbally the concentrations you found in your experiments, he left BuMed with the impression that there was no hope of getting approval for this fluid in submarines. You will recall that your figures show a concentration of Aroclor above the recommended threshold hygienic standard for eight hour daily exposure. I am sure that Commander Siegel looked at this and threw his hands up in horror on the basis that submariners might be exposed to such concentrations not only for eight hours, but for twenty-four hours continuously. I suppose further that Siegel neglected to consider whether or not the use of Pydraul 150 could, under any conceivable circumstances, result in saturated atmospheres within a submarine.

In the meantime, the non-medical people concerned with submarines have been unable to find any substitute fluid which meets their specifications with the exception of Pydraul 150, and engineering plans have been completed not only for the systems which would use 150 in new submarines, but also conversion units for submarines now in service. These people are completely stymied, however, until BuMed issues a more satisfactory verdict.

Langenfeld and I believe that we should at least make an effort to convince Siegel that the Portsmouth Navy Yard should be given permission to install 150, either in a completed submarine or a suitable section thereof, and actually measure air concentrations. This should not be too difficult since there is an industrial hygienist (Alex Manton) at the Navy Yard.

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