August 27, 1965

Mr. Frank Haredos
Reliance Electric & Engineering Company
1088 Ivanhoe Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

Dear Mr. Haredos:

Mr. Nichols, of our Cleveland Office, has asked the Medical Department to forward toxicity information on our products Aroclor 1242 and 1254.

Enclosed are two copies of reprints of technical literature describing results of vapor inhalation studies with these materials. Our interpretation of these data is that there is little vapor inhalation hazard when the fluids are handled in a closed system or at room temperature. Further, we do not believe there is any serious acute toxicity problem from an occasional exposure that might result when the fluids are heated slightly (perhaps up to 150° F.). Continuous day-in and day-out exposures to the vapors evolved at this moderate temperature would be undesirable.

The Aroclors are not strong skin irritants. The local action on the skin is similar to that of a paint thinner or paint remover, where prolonged skin contact results in defatting or removing the natural skin surface oils from the skin with resulting drying and cracking.

There is no great hazard from the standpoint of skin absorption if there is occasional short-term skin exposure. However, repeated and prolonged skin contact should be avoided to prevent the local action on the skin referred to above, and to eliminate any hazard of systemic effects following skin absorption.

If the enclosures in this letter do not answer your specific questions, please write to me or to Dr. R. Emmet Kelly, our Medical Director, at the St. Louis address, and we will try to be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Elmer P. Wheeler
Manager, Environmental Health
Medical Department

EPW/ln
cc: Mr. Mack Nichols

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