We (the Insulating Fluids Subcommittee of the IEEE Transformers Committee) feel that the users of electrical equipment containing askarel should be aware of a notification received by the manufacturers of such apparatus from the Monsanto Company. This notification was dated February 18, 1970 and evidenced some concern that certain askarel types might become environmental contaminants if handled carelessly. In part, the Monsanto letter states:

"Recently several newspaper and magazine articles have been published indicating that Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's) have been discovered at some points in some marine, acquatic and wildlife environments. The quantities detected are said to be in the parts per million and parts per billion category.

"It is claimed that the PCB's found strongly resemble chlorinated biphenyls containing 54% and 60% chlorine by weight. Products which are sold by Monsanto under the trade names of Aroclor 1254 and 1260 do contain chlorinated biphenyls.

"As your supplier of Aroclor 1254 and 1260 and formulated products containing 1254, we wish to alert you to the potential problem of environmental contamination as referred to in the newspaper and magazine articles.

"We feel that all possible care should be taken in the application, processing and effluent disposal of these products to prevent them becoming environmental contaminants."

As a user of askarel-filled electrical equipment, we feel that in the unusual event of leaks or equipment repair necessitating replacement of the fluid, that all possible care should be taken to prevent these products from finding their way into the waterways.

E. L. Raab

April 9, 1970

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