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December 28, 1976

EIA PCB AD HOC COMMITTEE

Subject: PCBs Panel Discussion on December 20, 1976

The EPA held a panel discussion on PCBs on 12/20/76 at the Waterside Mall in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open to the public and attendance included representatives from the EIA PCB Ad Hoc Committee, The Sierra Club, DOT, NEMA, The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and The State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition to the preceding, there were numerous other representatives and observers, with a total attendance of approximately 80 people.

Mr. George Wirth of the EPA Office of Toxic Substances, guided the panel thru the agenda which included questions on disposal of the different types of PCB wastes, on the labeling of capacitors and transformers, and on the controlling of imported PCBs, etc. (Ray Clark has sent a copy of the EPA agenda to EIA PCB Ad Hoc Committee members along with a copy of his statement which he made at the meeting). Mr. Wirth provided low key agenda guidance and allowed ample time for panel statements and comments as well as for some comments from those who were there as observers.

Mr. John Hesse of the State of Michigan was an effective, and knowledgeable spokesman for the "Michigan PCB Rules" and appeared to influence most of those in attendance with his statement and subsequent comments. He effectively answered questions from environmental panel members and indicated, throughout, that the Michigan regulations were based on practical, as well as environmental considerations.

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As Ray Clark mentioned in his brief comments of 12/23/76, EPA appears to be uncertain how they should regulate PCB waste disposal and labeling requirements. The first meeting was broad on generalities and low on specifics and the impression received by the writer was that they were observing diversified reactions prior to recommending more specific approaches.

Ray Clark was an effective spokesman for the EIA PCB Ad Hoc Committee and, in addition to his prepared statement, answered several panel questions relative to capacitors and PCBs.

The EPA has scheduled public participation meetings on January 11 in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco and is aiming for a 2/4/77 target date for a draft of the proposed Labeling and Disposal Regulation. Other meetings will follow prior to the final version of the Labeling and Disposal Regulation of PCBs which is scheduled for July 1, 1977.

Norman Butterworth

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