

bcc: C. Paton/J. J. Roder
1800 D. R. Hansen
1800 C. Boutin
B2SL T. L. Gossage
B2NK W. B. Papageorge

October 4, 1971

Mr. Al Batey
Project Architect
Kaiser Engineers
Kaiser Center
Oakland, Calif. 94604

Dear Al:

As requested in your letter of September 23 to D. R. Hansen, the primary reason for our discontinuing sale of Therminol FR fluids into new heating systems is to control the amount of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in our environment. Therminol FR fluids contain PCBs.

This action is prompted by recent investigations by governmental and scientific research laboratories which show certain PCBs to be a persistent environmental contaminant and, possibly, injurious to certain forms of bird, aquatic and animal life.

PCBs were involved in an incident outside the U.S. where ingestion of a food product contaminated by this chemistry caused skin disease and symptoms of poisoning.

In the states, PCB content in various food and feed stuffs have been widely publicized in recent weeks.

Distribution of PCB containing products has been curtailed and, at this time, a House Bill (H.R. 10085) is in committee calling for a ban on delivery of PCB into commerce.

In view of the above, we will not sell PCB containing Therminol FR fluids into any new system, whether designed to use the product or not. The "hold harmless" letter does not, then apply to the case of a new system.

For the Oakland Towers heating system, we can only suggest the use of Therminol 56 in place of Therminol FR-1

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Unfortunately, Therminol 66 is not a fire resistant fluid and our joint attempt to gain its approval for this application has not been successful.

Any qualification of the use of Therminol 66 in commercial buildings by a non-Monsanto testing agency such as UL or FM would involve a minimum of eight weeks. We are seeking approval to initiate these tests.

In the interim, the data available on Therminol 66 as related to fire risk is that presented to the California State Fire Marshall on August 31. You participated in this meeting and have copies of the data presented. Vapor pressures at the flash and fire points appear on the tabulation of physical property variation with temperature.

Concerning auto ignition of Therminol 66 saturated insulation, I can quote data from Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited where the temperature requirement to cause ignition is greater than 527°F.

The installations using Therminol 66 are primarily industrial. However, two that circulate hot fluid inside occupied buildings are:

Amoco Research Corp.
Naperville, Ill.
(312) 420-5111
Contact: Wm. Taylor
E. Saunders

Whiteshell Nuclear Facility
Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada
Contact: S. Hatcher

Other installed systems in your area:

Chevron Chemical Co.
Richmond, Calif.

Harvey Aluminum Co.
Johnday, Washington

Ashland Chemical Co.
Oakland, California

Perhaps contact with these installations will assuage the apprehensions of the Oakland Fire Marshall.

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Contact at a higher authority in Oakland city government, as suggested in our conversation of September 29, may also be useful. D. R. Hansen or C. Boutin of our Santa Clara office will be happy to cooperate on any meetings.

We can certainly understand and share your concern as a December startup of this system is close at hand. We will continue to pursue data on Therminol 66 as related to this application.

Cordially,

D. E. Roush
Product Specialist
Heat Transfer Fluids

cs

cc K. Willson
J. Castle

DSW 020447