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November 6, 1972

PCB - RALSTON-PURINA

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The phosphate ester base Pydrauls in which the Ralston-Purina laboratory detected PCBs were blended at the J. F. Queeny plant after the system had been thoroughly flushed and chemically cleaned, with all absorbent materials such as gaskets and hoses replaced. The lots involved were also produced after those which, at one time, were questioned by General Motors and which we conclusively demonstrated did not contain PCBs. Status of our investigation is as follows:

Analyses by our laboratory of reserve samples of the four lots involved indicate no PCBs are present. Three of these samples were sent to Ralston-Purina. Their results concur that no PCBs are present.

One sample taken from a sealed drum from our warehouse was also found to be free of PCBs. Sealed drums representing all lots involved are available if we desire to do more analyses.

Two samples of Ralston-Purina material, one from Battle Creek, Michigan and the other from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, were received by our laboratory. Our laboratory, using its normal analytical methodology and Ralston-Purina's method, found PCBs present at levels that indicate agreement with Ralston-Purina's original report. Our laboratory information indicates the samples were contaminated with old formula Pydrauls previously used at the Ralston-Purina locations.

I had called Dr. Hardin, as promised, on Thursday, October 26, to inform him of our reserve sample results and also to tell him the two laboratories were exchanging samples to confirm each other's findings. He agreed this was an excellent approach. I do not know how much information Dr. Hardin has received from his laboratory since then.

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I recommend we call Dr. Hardin and review with him our total findings. If during the conversation it appears appropriate we should suggest that representatives of the two laboratories meet to review all of the available analytical data.

W. B. Papageorge

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