P. G. Benignus - St. Louis

August 10, 1970

Santotherm 55

Yours August 3

C. COLEMAN - RUABON

A. Arpino - BRUSSELS
P.J.A. Marsh - BRUSSELS
J. N. Haggart - BRUSSELS
A. F. Vodden - RUABON
J.M.M. Thomson - LONDON
R. H. Munch - QUEENY
W. R. Richard - WRICH
D. A. Olson - DOLSO

Dear Colin:

Thanks for your referenced memo. While you admit to being left in a state of confusion by Mr. Arpino's memo -- you are not alone as I believe everybody is confused.

This probably stems from the similarity of nomenclature used at Chocolate Bayou. They seem to have a material called Alkylate H-230L at a price I believe around 2¢ a pound and which seems to be involved in Santotherm 55. Then they appear to have Alkylate 230-L which seems to be a distilled material used by the detergent industry and which costs considerably more. This latter has been tested as a possible dielectric and the properties are quite good.

But this does not seem to be the H-230L material which we have not probed for electrical values but which Mr. Arpino and his friends in England entertain marketing as a transformer dielectric fluid. They seem to be attracted by the very low cost of this material. However, as you found that the dielectric breakdown voltage of this material is less than 10 KV, this enthusiasm will probably die on the vine at least until there has been opportunity to study this material and determine what clean-up steps would be required and at what cost it might become useful. Its viscosity characteristics would also have to be probed.

Thanks again for your referenced memo as the brief work you did on these two different materials points out that they are not at all the same. I am sending copy of this note to Dr. Munch and to Dr. Richard.

P. G. Benignus

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