Transformer Fluid Accounts

Dear Sir:

By now most of you are aware of the controversy surrounding the use of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and the need to prevent contamination of the environment by them. PCBs are present in the askarel fluids sold by Monsanto for use in askarel transformers. These fluids include Aroclor® 1254 and 1260, Inerteen 70-30 and 100-42 and Pyranol PPO and A13B3B.

The necessity of these fluids in certain transformer applications seems to be accepted by governmental agencies such as FDA and EPA.

To continue with these applications, however, users of these fluids should exercise every precaution in filling and refilling transformers with askarel fluids either during initial manufacture or servicing and repair. The harmless disposal of waste or scrap fluid is a matter that you may wish to consider. Indiscriminate dumping or sale to scrap-fluid merchants for possible sale in uncontrollable applications is not recommended. Monsanto has facilities at its Sauget, Illinois plant for complete incineration of transformer fluids at a cost of $0.03 per pound. Material should be shipped prepaid to our Sauget plant.

We will be happy to furnish labels for return and describe this service more completely should you wish.

Further to this effort, ANSI has formed Committee C107 to establish procedures and guidelines for the use of PCB-containing fluids in the dielectric industry. Mr. Salazar, executive secretary of the Power Equipment Division of NEMA is secretary of this Committee. Its chairman is Mr. W. B. Papageorge, environmental control manager for Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company. The chairman of the sub-committee on transformers is Mr. E. L. Raab of G.E., Pittsfield, Mass. The first meeting of the transformer subcommittee will take place in November.

It is necessary for Monsanto to keep careful records of askarel fluid sales and also to confirm that their use is restricted to use as transformer coolant. We would appreciate your taking the brief time necessary to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to Monsanto.

Very respectfully,