W. B. Papageorge - General Offices, BIND

December 14, 1973

PYROCLORS -- TRANSFORMERS

Mr. W. H. Matthews
5430 - London

Russ Miller informed me of Walter Cline's concerns relating to the continued presence of Pyroclor filled transformers at the Echternach plant. I can appreciate Walt's concerns since I am aware of his unpleasant experience with air compressor fluid leakage into the estuary near the Pensacola, Florida plant. There is, in our opinion, considerable differences in application in that we believe the transformer fluid in the hermetically sealed unit can be controlled and escape to the environment can be prevented, except, of course, under those rare conditions which result in explosions and dispersement of the fluid into the environment.

We have, after considerable deliberation, concluded that the fire resistant features of Pyroclors are highly desirable and the benefits derived far outweigh the occasional mishap which results in environmental contamination. Monsanto, as you know, has withdrawn the sale of these types of materials from all previous applications and has restricted them only to dielectric use such as transformers. When properly handled the fluid should not pose any problems due to topping-off or drain and refill situations. The used transformer fluid should be disposed of by incineration at temperatures exceeding 2000°F. An incinerator capable of achieving these temperatures is available for your use. This unit is located near Essex, England. John Haggart in our Brussels office can give you details.

I am enclosing some reading material which addresses itself to the proper handling and use of these fluids. I hope you find them useful. If I can be of further service, please let me know.

W. B. Papageorge

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Attachments-2