

TELEGRAM

AS A RESULT OF A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE TODAY, THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE
IN PITTSFIELD DID A FOLLOWUP STORY. WE RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"PITTSFIELD GENERAL ELECTRIC USES LIQUIDS CONTAINING PCBs AS
A NONFLAMMABLE INSULATION IN SOME TRANSFORMERS. DEPENDING
UPON THE APPLICATION, THIS LIQUID CONTAINS VARYING AMOUNTS OF
POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs). SIMILAR COMBINATIONS
CONTAINING PCBs ARE USED BY OTHER MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRICAL
APPARATUS.

"THE REASON FOR ITS USE IS SAFETY. ITS NONFLAMMABILITY ALLOWS
TRANSFORMERS TO BE INSTALLED INSIDE BUILDINGS, FACTORIES, MINES,
SUBWAYS, SCHOOLS, AND ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES. NEITHER REGULAR
OIL-FILLED OR AIR-COOLED TRANSFORMERS COULD BE USED IN THESE
APPLICATIONS. STILL ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS THAT TRANSFORMERS
INSULATED THIS WAY CAN BE SMALLER IN SIZE THAN OIL-FILLED OR
AIR-COOLED UNITS.

"THESE TRANSFORMERS ARE HERMETICALLY SEALED. THUS, DURING
THEIR NORMAL LIFE THE LIQUID INSULATORS CONTAINING PCBs
ARE NOT IN CONTACT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

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"AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO LIGHT OVER THE PAST YEAR RELATIVE TO THE POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY PCBs, WE HAVE MOVED REQUIRED ACTIONS FORWARD IN OUR TOTAL POLLUTION-CONTROL PROGRAM.

"ALTERNATIVES ? IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT MANY COMPANIES, INCLUDING GE, HAVE INVESTED RESEARCH MONEY TO SEEK A SUBSTITUTE INSULATING LIQUID, NONE HAVING SIMILAR PROPERTIES HAS YET BEEN DISCOVERED."

YOU, TOO, MAY BE RECEIVING INQUIRES FROM YOUR LOCAL PRESS. THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY IS OF OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE.

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