

September 28, 1970

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: H. P. MICHENER

FROM: A. M. SALAZAR

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL THAT NEMA JOIN THE MONSANTO COMPANY
IN SPONSORING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
ON DISPOSAL OF ASKAREL USED IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

On the recommendations of a Special Committee appointed to investigate problems caused by components of askarel, the Board of Directors unanimously recommended that the C&S Committee should approve the subject. The background and recommended scope for the new Committee is covered in the attached record of developments, so far.

For the C&S Committee's further information, the Monsanto Company reported that the presence of materials identified as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in marine environments was first noted by Professors G. Widmark and S. Jensen of the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, Stockholm, Sweden, and reported in November, 1966. Since then, and with increasing frequency, other investigators have identified PCB in marine and animal life; and its presence has been cited as being harmful to a few specific types of wildlife. In July, 1970, the Food & Drug Administration issued guidelines to its field offices, establishing upper limits of PCB content of 0.2 ppm in milk and 5.0 ppm in food. Milk or food exceeding these limits is subject to confiscation.

The Monsanto Company has already taken steps to limit the availability of askarel to those uses where the fluid is essential and is contained in a closed system, such as is the case for transformers and capacitors. With the cooperation of transformer and capacitor manufacturers, steps have also been taken to alert all known users on the problem and on corrective measures. Monsanto has also instituted a means for disposing of bulk fluids and means for disposing of askarel-soaked waste materials, coils, insulation scrap, discarded capacitors, etc., are currently being investigated.

Due to the obvious urgency of getting this activity on the way, as soon as possible, your cooperation is requested in submitting this matter, by letter ballot, rather than waiting for the Officers' next meeting. Monsanto has agreed to take the lead in this effort on the basis that a NEMA Staff Secretary will serve the Committee.



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EXHIBIT

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