BUREAU INTERNATIONAL TECHNIQUE
D'ASKARELS

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MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING OF THE BIT/ASKARELS
Frankfurt, 10 th, February 1970 (Confidential and restricted).

PARTICIPANTS :

Mr. DAHLSTROM	: Chairman -	MONSANTO
Mr. Dr. KNUST	(	
Mr. Dr. WISSNER	(	Farbenfabriken BAYER.
Mr. Dr. HOEHNE	(	
Mr. JOTTEN	(	
Mr. CASALE	:	CAFFARO
Mr. JAY	(	
Mr. STEINMULLER	(	PRODELEC
Mr. CAMERON	(	
Mr. VODDEN	(	
Mr. LIDGETT	(	MONSANTO
Mr. COLEMAN	(	
Mr. GILLES	:	Secretary.

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The meeting starts at 8.30 a.m.
Mr. DAHLSTROM takes the chair. The purpose of the meeting is to define what kind of actions can be taken and how far common work could be achieved.

A/ ANALYTICAL RESEARCH :

(1) To start with Mr. DAHLSTROM is stating that to help and foster common studies, his company will put its analytical methods at the disposal of all participants.

(2) The immediate aim is to improve and accelerate the studies by combining the actions of the four companies.
Identical studies on identical samples will be conducted to see how far similar results are obtained. The studies of Dr. WIDMARK (Sweden) will be taken into account and the Bayer Cy will remain in touch with him.
Monsanto will contact the Utrecht Institute of Veterinary & Pharmacology and Toxicology and T.N.O.ZEIST.
Bayer & Monsanto will report on the possibilities of contracting work to these institutions at next meeting.

(3) It is proposed that each Company studies the environment of its customers and mainly the used water "effluent". This proposal is accepted.
It is nevertheless stated that - on the continent of Europe where customers are not fully aware of the magnitude of the problem - some difficultics migh be encountered.
Informations about clients reactions will be exchanged, in order to define typical industry profiles.

(4) An analysis of the situation on the European continent is advocated.
The right psychological moment for this study is still unknow. But one should not forget that some important companies such as Shell (for insecticides) and Unilever (for fishes) are studying the same problem for different purposes.
Each Company will report at the next meeting on which institutions are working on this problem in its domestic market.

(5) Monsanto will tell what is done at the USA and what kind of expenses were involved.

(6) It is well understood that all participant companies will gain from mutual feed back of information.
The ultimate objective was to determine the need for a total European survey of PCB's in the marine environment and if need be, fund this survey trough the combined resources of all PCB producers.

B/ TOXICOLOGY :

(1) The problem seems more important with small mammals and birds.
The studies will have to appreciate between acute and long term toxicity..
More work on possible chronic toxici city is needed and exchange of information is desirable.

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Monsanto will circulate study results on small mammals, shrimps, etc...

Bayer will study the effects of paints on fishes. The results of feeding sea birds with those fishes will also be analysed. Bayer is also starting work with small mammals and will report as data becomes available

Progil while well equiped for the same studies, thinks that its management should first be well updated on the magnitude of the problem.

Caffaro is not equipped for this kind of studies.

(2) As a matter of interest it is restated that some Universities in the USA and the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries in the U.K. are also conducting researches on the same problem. It is understood that these studies are not yet systematical.
Monsanto will circulate all available information about these studies as well as the forthcoming U.K. report (mid-March).

(3) Bayer conducted an internal medical examination of 13 workers working in average for 11 years on Askarels.
No positive results were obtained (see appendix A).

(4) Bayer conducted also some decomposition test on P.C.B. paints.
The analytical method will be circulated. This P.C.B. usage is feared by some participants as producers have no possibility to trace the distribution of the products and the whereabouts of the final usage.

(5) The longer term objective is to contract out toxicological work to neutral institution once the scope of such work as been established.

C/ DEGRADATION :

(1) Despite the fact that Penta and Hexa compounds are used lesser than Tri and Tetra Compounds, they are traced later in much greater quantities. Is it that Tri and Tetra are destroyed by biodegradation or that they are metabolised to leave residues similar to the Penta or Hexa compounds ?
Or is it that more than supposed Penta and Hexa compounds are liberated in the nature ?
The various hypothesis are studied by Monsanto. Bayer envisage to study the same problem.

(2) The same companies will study the effects on fishes birds and small mammals of various concentrations of PCB's to see how much residues relate to the compounds originaly fed.

D/ DISPOSAL :

(1) The disposal of wastes and return materials; the incineration and reclamation are problems which so far have had little importance in the USA and U.K.
On the European continent more attention has been paid to it.

For instance :

Bayer : incinerates fluid mixtures (10%) at 1200° C; solid residues are burned in rotating ovens at the same temperature.
They have also the facility to incinerate on high seas aboard a ship.
This process has not yet been used for Askarels as a preliminary study of residues in the atmosphere is needed.

Prodelec : incinerates also in combinaition with other products.
Contaminated fuller's earth are buried on the factory ground.

Caffaro : do not incinerate. Practically everything coming back from customers is reprocessed. If not, wastes are put in drums and buried

Monsanto : does not incinerate. A third party is burying the residues.

(2) To conclude it is decided that :

a/ information about incinerating vapours will be exchanged

b/ Monsanto will study Bayer's incinerating process.

B/ RECLAMATION :

The various Companies gave information about the present situation.

(1) What concerns ASKARELS FOR TRANSFORMERS :

Bayer : During ten years Bayer has regenerate the customer's products. To-day, due to high costs and unsatisfactory quality results, the process is stopped. Bayer gives recommandation to customers willing to do it themselves. Furthermore a specialized company can help the customers. Most of Bayer's important customers are themselves regenerating at lesser costs than Bayer could do it . . . and they are sole responsable for the quality. The fuller's earth is buried by Bayer's customers. Bayer offers to incinerate the customer's degenerated Askarels.

Prodelec : As regenerated Askarels are cheaper than new ones, the Company does it for its customers. An estimated 80% is regenerated while 20% are not reusable.
Clients are paying for transport, processing and or destruction.
The specifications of regenerated Askarels being different for new ones (colour and loss factors). Prodelec is in favour of a general agreement on specifications of regenerated askarels.
Bayer, Caffaro & Monsanto will consider this and report at the next meeting. They advocate also that regeneration should be universalised to eliminate losses (in the nature).

Caffaro : The Company regenerates for its customers. They envisage the use of mobile regenerating units.

Monsanto : Few Askarels are used for transformers in the U.K.
Monsanto does not regenerate. A third party does it at half cost of new ones.

(2) After this survey of the problem, the following OBJECTIVES were proposed :

a. Find ways to avoid that customers should dispose of old Askarels.

b. Established a centralized control of regeneration.

c. Define sufficiently broad specifications for regenerated Askarels to make the process acceptable to customers.

d. Find economical insentives for users to return used Askarels to producers.

(3) What concern ASKARELS FOR CAPACITORS :

It appears that producers are not involving themselves in this problem for the time being.

The main causes of troubles originate :

a/ at the moment the capacitors are put into service.

b/ with damaged capacitors either at factory level or in the network.

In both cases users must regenerate with fuller's earth. The fuller's earth can then either be buried or incinerated. Whenever possible Municipal incinerators could be used but only after a careful study of the incinerating processes.
In the mean time, the residues should be buried and customers of Askarels for capacitors should be told.

F/ PACKAGING PROBLEMS.

A great variety of containers is known.

Returnable drums :

Those are good containers because they do come back to the factories; but they are slowly disappearing from the market.

Containers :

This kind of packaging is ideal but their very size restricts their usage to large quantity clients.

Technically speaking customers should be obliged to use containers only . . . but obviously marketing people should first agree.

The meeting was closed at 1 p.m.