

W. B. Papageorge - St. Louis

March 31, 1971

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The Sherwin-Williams Company, Chicago, Illinois, has submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Customer and Marketing Service Division, for approval, a proposed formulation for paint to be used in meat processing plants. One of the ingredients in the formulation is Aroclor 6050 (50% Aroclor 5460-50% Aroclor 1221). I was asked by Sherwin-Williams to contact the U.S.D.A. representative, Mr. Donald D. Derr to help answer his questions regarding Aroclor composition.

While involved in these discussions, I found out that this approval procedure applies to all materials used in meat processing plants, - detergents, bactericides, preservatives, lubricants, etc. - as well as paints. In the past paint formulations containing Aroclor 1254 have been approved.

Mr. Derr admitted that approval had been given but could not recall specific requests and stated that a search of the files would be very difficult and time consuming. Mr. Derr also commented that paint approval by U.S.D.A. did not extend to silo coatings.

I requested copies of correspondence concerning past approvals of formulations containing Aroclor 1254 but Mr. Clyde Hirn, Sherwin-Williams Research Dept., refused to send me copies claiming that the formulations were confidential.

I recognize that this does not directly relate to the Ohio silo cases but it is the first example we have of a Federal agency approving a coating containing Aroclor 1254 for use near food intended for human consumption. Perhaps Jacob Hess can use this information.

It appears to me that the possibility of a PCB problem arising in meat processing plants is present.

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