

BLOOMINGTON WORKS

Engineering
October 27, 1971
Status of PCB's

Mr. J. B. Brittain
Engineering Manager

1. Full production of capacitors with 100% Aroclor 1016 will be reached about January 1, 1972. (It will take about ten weeks to use the present inventory of Aroclor 1242.)

2. G.E. has offered a new, more biodegradable asharel in at least two recent negotiations. Marketing is countering this with a release to all holders of capacitor catalogs, commending Monsanto for taking a step in the right direction.

3. Capacitor Unit Engineering is preparing raw data for a Marketing report on Aroclor 1016, stating its properties and giving the testing background to support its broad marketing introduction without need of customer testing, re-evaluation or re-qualification.

4. Monsanto refuses to state that Aroclor 1016 is biodegradable, and requests we state only that the tetra-, penta-, and hexachlor- content has been reduced.

5. F.D.A. Commissioner, Charles C. Edwards, M.D., in a press briefing 9-29-71, made a strong plea for restrained action against PCB's. The public outcry against PCB's has abated for the moment, but could be restored by any incident of general concern.

6. Paul Benignus and Bill Papageorge continue to represent the Monsanto public position that controlled use and disposal of Aroclor 1016 is a suitable answer to the problem. It is my opinion that Monsanto is so far committed to this policy that they are not actively engaging in development of suitable alternatives. It is also my opinion that it is in the best interest of DAD to maintain public support for their effort.

7. Factors tending to undermine the Monsanto approach cannot be ignored, however.

- A. Although the hazard of a precipitous Federal ban on PCB's has lulled, it cannot yet be totally discounted.
- B. Reduction in the commercial importance of Aroclors, already achieved to a large extent by the elimination of multiple Aroclor markets, is subject to additional

attention

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1. G.E. and Westinghouse transformer plants are actively searching for a suitable substitute material. Success could reduce Monsanto activity by almost 35% (from about \$7,000,000 per year to about \$5,000,000 per year). *[X-former will not allow]*
2. G.E., Westinghouse, Dow Chemical, and others are actively searching for a suitable replacement material to be used in capacitors. Success, on the part of one or more of the laboratories involved, could bring Aracolor to an end.
- C. Litigation, arising from the fish meal contamination episode, is still in preparation and can be expected to involve Monsanto heavily.
8. Although success of the Aracolor 1016 program has a good probability - and is certainly to be hoped for - the potentially calamitous effects of withdrawal of Aracolor 1016 on DAD operations cannot be ignored. R&D efforts to identify and develop a suitable alternate fluid must be maintained at a high level. DAD efforts should parallel and complement R&D work. Possible means for expanding the total effort are under consideration as to cost and feasibility, with the intent of making a proposal for review in November.

Robert D. McClain, Manager
Capacitor Unit Engineering

RDMC:kb

Attach.

CC: TW Dalton 9/28

UORL - WESD Study underway (Munson)

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