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Mr. John Moss, B.Sc. (Tech),
Electrical Review,
Quadrant House,
The Quadrant,
SUTTON, Surrey,
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Our Ref. DLKB/BC

Your Ref.

Date 3rd November, 1982

Dear Mr. Moss,

I would like to refer to the article which appeared in the 8th October issue of "Electrical Review" headed "P.c.b.s - as safe as salt?".

The article makes substantial reference to a lot of misleading statements which have appeared in the technical and daily press and I entirely agree that some of the statements that have been made have been completely irresponsible and inaccurate. However, I am afraid I have to take the same exception to this particular article as this headline is also guilty of misleading to the extreme.

My Companies, I think, are most probably recognised as one of the world's leaders in the field of dealing with all problems related to Askarels/PCB's. I have, in fact, presented lectures in the UK and worldwide and in no way, at any time, have I used scare mongering tactics to generate business. In fact, at all times I have tried to keep within the documented evidence and to give a clear and precise picture of the possible dangers. Whatever may be inferred in the article to which I refer there is a great deal of medical evidence, throughout the world, that PCB's, if they get into the environment or the food chain and into the human system, can be extremely harmful.

These points are always mentioned in my talks but the main point I try to put over is the environmental issue and thefact that once the PCB's are in the environment they do not break down and besides being a hasard to ourselves would be a hasard to our children and to our children's children. In other words they will not go away. There is only one way to dispose of PCB's and that is by incineration.

As you will appreciate, we are electrical engineers not chemists but all our comments are based on factual evidence.

Your article appears to be based on statements from Monsanto personnel and seem to be somewhat contradictory to the CEGB Code of Practice and the Department of the Environment Waste Management Paper No. 6 dealing specifically with polychlorinated biphenyl wastes of which Dr. H. A. Bodden of Monsanto Chemicals was on the committee. I also feel there is too much worldwide evidence against PCB's to indicate that there is a very serious problem with them and headings such as "P.c.b.s - as safe as salt?" could be dangerously misleading to industry.

Matters have to be dealt with on a sensible commercial basis but I think it is generally accepted that PCB's have to be disposed of properly and as quickly as possible and replaced with the safe alternatives such as silicones.

Another aspect which is notgenerally appreciated is the production of some very

toxic substances when PCB's are involved in a fire situation. (I refer to the Binghamton incident in New York as the main one but there are numerous others which have occurred). In these situations the PCB's have been broken down and very harmful vapours have been produced. Once more, there is medical evidence to support this and my feelings are that Monsanto are not correct in their statements in this article.

I know Monsanto are a worldwide company but presumably these comments have been issued from the UK end and the track record in the UK is most probably excellent.

There have been numerous incidents of spillages and problems with PCB's in the UK and Ireland and my companies have been successful in preventing major pollution problems in a lot of these incidents. However, the situation overseas is substantially different and I have no objections to this matter being passed, through you, to the representatives of Monsanto to obtain their comments.

I feel sure that there isn't any substantial proof showing PCB's are not harmful but if there is I will be delighted to see this information. At the present time though I can produce a lot of information which is proving that PCB's are harmful one way or another and it appears to me that Monsanto are, for some unknown reason, trying to give an entirely diffsrent view showing that PCB's are not harmful and I cannot understand the reasons for this and I will be delighted to see a full explanation of the reasons for their comments.

I would close in asking why, now that Pyrocolor has been withdrawn, Monsanto go to such great trouble to try and give it a clean bill of health.

Yours sincerely,
per.pro. R. F. WINDER LIMITED

D.L.W. Rowers