

GENERAL ELECTRIC

CORPORATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1979

J. F. BROWN JR.

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SCHEMELSTADY, N. Y.

DIAL COMM 8'235

Building K-1, Room 3B35
January 30, 1979

J.S. Nelson
FAIRFIELD

Subject: Latest Tidings from McKinney (NIEHS)

Dear Jim,

I told you yesterday I had just received another missive from McKinney, and here it is. Salient points to note are:

1. The highly defensive tone of the letter, and references to communication failures, strongly suggest that Selikoff sent him a copy of my January 15 letter, as well as my earlier one.
2. McKinney isn't budging a bit on his position that there must be PCDF's in the sample, even though he can't find them.
3. He has apparently done a perchlorination since he last wrote; claims to have seen a perchlorodiphenyl ether; and now claims chlorinated diphenyl ethers to constitute 11% of the used transformer fluid sample, not 0.2%.
4. His attached reference to "known PCDF formation under model conditions" consists of a preprint of a paper by Morita, which gives an excellent, concise review of the formation of PCDF's from PCB's via either photochemical or thermal oxidation, and states specifically that no PCDF formation occurred below 270°C.

I would appreciate advice from you or any of the coaddressees as to whether we'd be better off to go down and talk to the guy, smooth out the rough edges, and possibly build him back into the program, or whether we should simply leave him ranting and raving over his big fat pile of unpublishable data on that mixed transformer oil that we sent him.

Sincerely,

783203

John Brown

John F. Brown, Jr.
Mgr - Life Sciences Branch
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

cc: M Aven - CRD
WC Ligon - CRD
JT Coe - Fairfield
RC Osthoff - Pittsfield
RA Stenger - Hudson Falls

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