3/28/72

RALSTON-PURINA COMPANY

Maine Incident - There are five chicken producers in Maine. Ralston feed from its Thorndike, Maine feed facility goes to two of these -- Fort Halifax (which Ralston sold on 2/5/72) and to Penobscot. On February 13, 1972, Ralston became aware of PCB problem -- noticed a high level of chicken mortality. Up to 500 ppm of PCB was found in feed.

Offals are the by-products from chicken processing (head, feet, intestines, feathers, etc.). They are sent to Pine State Rendering Company in Maine for processing. Processing consists of cooking to drive off moisture and fat. The residue is ground up into poultry meal and the fat is salvaged. The poultry meal and the fat is then returned to Ralston for adding to its chicken feed in proportions of 5% each. Pine State handles animal by-products (from meat packers in a similar manner) -- these are also added to checken feed in ~~almost~~ about the same 5% proportions. Pine State also manufactures fish meal from domestic sources -- Ralston does not purchase any of it, however.

Trucks delivering the offals to Pine State are emptied into a pit through the use of a hydraulic lift which raises the front end of the truck, dumping the offals from the rear.

Ralston has thus far found only 1242 in its feed. They were able to save approximately 100 pounds of the feed; it contains unaltered 1242. The FDA, ~~however,~~ has also found 1242; however, it has also noted 1248 and 1254.

The FDA believes the problem was caused by fish meal. Ralston

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believes that the source was Pine State Rendering Company. Ralston has hired a private investigator who reports that Pine State has been having difficulties with losing fluid from its hydraulic truck lift. Ralston thus suspects hydraulic fluid as being the source.

Pine State has a financial interest in two of the five chicken processers. Those two have reported no PCB difficulties. The fifth processer has found up to 7 ppm.

Addition Information Requested by Ralston. In order to trace the source of the PCB contamination, Ralston needs information regarding the makeup of hydraulic fluids and transformer fluids containing 1242. Ralston suggested three alternate methods for us to provide such information:

1. Monsanto provide a chemical breakdown of each 1242 material.
2. Monsanto analyze some of the feed and provide results to Ralston.
3. Monsanto provide Ralston with samples of each 1242 material for Ralston to analyze.

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