Monsanto

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bcc: G.F. Fague - Detroit
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T.L. Gossage - St. L[redacted]

February 18, 1971

Mr. D.J. Flynn
Modular Iron Foundry
G.M. Chevy
Veterans Memorial Highway
Saginaw, Michigan

Dear Mr. Flynn:

On January 26, we discussed the issue raised by Chevy Tonawanda on the possible generation of phosgene gases from Pydraul 135 decomposition products. As we agreed, we met with Tonawanda personnel to discuss their report. Present for Monsanto were Elmer Wheeler from our Medical Department, John Heilala, our local sales representative, and myself. Present for Tonawanda (at separate meetings) were Mr. Hughes, Mr. Gaffney, and Mr. Swift. Mr. Walker was ill in the hospital. The results of our meeting were as follows:

A. Our medical people agree in principle with Mr. Hughes' report that when synthetic fire resistant fluids are exposed to a fire the decomposition fumes from polychlorinated biphenyls or phosphate esters can be hazardous. Plant personnel should avoid exposure to these fumes for long periods of time such as would be the case with any burning of organic materials.

B. According to Mr. Hughes the presence of phosgene was meant to be only a general opinion of what might occur in the thermal decomposition of a number of chlorinated biphenyl products and these comments were based primarily upon a library search. There was no analytical identification of phosgene by the Tonawanda metallurgy department nor did they intend to imply that any had been made. Monsanto reviewed a number of impartial studies with Tonawanda personnel which pointed out that the generation of phosgene from these synthetic fluids was highly remote and certainly would not add significantly to

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the hazards from other decomposition products under any industrial conditions.

C. And, finally that the determination and opinion of what should be classified as hazardous or toxic for G.M. plants will be referred to the G.M. Industrial Hygiene and Medical Departments.

Should you like to discuss this subject and our visit to Tonawanda further please feel free to contact myself in Akron or Elmer Wheeler in St. Louis

We are, of course, always interested in providing whatever information is necessary to build your confidence and trust in our products and service. Thank you for extending to us the opportunity to clarify this matter. We hope it has been to everyone's satisfaction. I look forward to meeting you again.

Yours truly,

Raleigh A. Garcia
Regional Sales Manager
Specialty Products

cc: Dan Shaw
Chevy Grey Iron Foundry

William Gaffney
Chevy Foundries - Tonawanda

Merle Hughes
Chevy Foundries - Tonawanda

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