

54
Versar INC.

December 14, 1983

Ms. Denise Keehner
Chemical Regulations Division
Office of Toxic Substances
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Room 341, East Tower
Waterside Mall
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: PCB Capacitor Explosion in Finland

Dear Denise:

I am enclosing several writeups of the events surrounding an explosion of PCB capacitors that occurred in Finland on August 2, 1982. I just received these from Dr. Dingler of Zurich Insurance in Zurich, Switzerland. Items of major interest include:

Analytical results indicating that about 10% of the TCDFs were 2,3,7,8-TCDF.

Cleanup methods used and protective clothing for workers.

Reoccupancy criteria: 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PCBs
100 ng/m^3 total furans
10 ng/m^3 2,3,7,8-TCDF

Medical surveillance program and results.

I do not see anything in these reports that is surprising in light of what we have seen and experienced in One Market Plaza and Binghamton. Apparently, banks of capacitors can act just like transformers. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning these reports.

Very truly yours,

Bob Westin

Robert A. Westin
Senior Chemical Engineer

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Encl: Ruohio, V. "On the Brink of Catastrophe." Industrial Insurance.
1983. Pp. 8-13.

Elo, O.A. and P. Vuojolahti. "Capacitor Fire in a Paper Mill at Imatra, Finland." undated manuscript.

NEV 036931

