Detroit, Michigan

October 14, 1969

Water Pollution

R. A. Garcia - Akron
D. A. Hall - St. Louis
D. F. Smith - St. Louis
Elmer Wheeler - St. Louis
J. W. Newcombe - Detroit

N. T. Johnson
St. Louis

Norm, confirming our recent conversation, there have been some serious rumblings in Detroit lately on water pollution.

A Mr. F. E. Frost, Chief Engineer of the Water Resources Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, sent a letter to the environmental control departments of Ford and Chrysler and I assume General Motors. The letter states that the commission has been in contact with a "large chemical manufacturing firm" regarding the high toxicity to aquatic life of chlorinated biphenyls "which they manufacture".

The letter goes on to say that Monsanto manufactures a hydraulic fluid brand named "Aroclor" which the commission is now studying with regard to water pollution hazards. Frost requests that the companies report back on how much of this product they are presently using.

Bill Hunt of Ford called and asked that I give him a ball park percentage of PCB in Pydraul 312 and Therminol FR-2 which they use. He said the letter is causing no problems at Ford since they realize many produots they use are under study by water pollution authorities.

Nick Graham at Chrysler, however, called and reported that he has been forced to deny all shop trials of any Pydraul fluids until they are reformulated to contain no PCB's. This order was handed down from Al Baulden, Chrysler Department of Environmental Control.

Thus, at this moment, we are completely out at Chrysler, affecting Kokomo, Huber Avenue Foundry and Indianapolis. With time, things could get worse at Ford, too. My recommendation is that we visit the Michigan Natural Rsources Department immediately to inform them of the impact their letter made on Chrysler and to make them aware of some of our toxicological studies in this area. A visit to Chrysler's Mr. Baulden should follow. In fact, a meeting with Baulden, Elmer Wheeler and Don Eschelbach of Chrylser's Industrial Hygiene Department should be arranged.

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Norm, the Huber Avenue shop trial request will reach Nick Graham's desk shortly. I'd hate to see it turned down when they've gone through all the pains to change pump seals and specs to accomodate Hydraul 312.

Please get in touch with me ASAP to let me know what we are going to do about this situation.

Regards

G. F. Payne

CFP:ep