February 14, 1950

Dr. Louis W. Spolyar, Director
Division of Industrial Hygiene
Indiana State Board of Health
1098 West Michigan Street
Indianapolis 7, Indiana

Dear Dr. Spolyar:

I enclose an application bulletin on our Aroclors. On page 19, there is a summary of almost all our toxicology information on this compound.

If the case you refer to is in Brazil, Indiana, our company has had some contact with the problem. This particular installation used a temporary heat transfer system, and thus did not make the installation air tight. This is contrary to our expressed instructions when Aroclor is to be used at elevated temperatures. Upon hearing of the illness, one of our development engineers went to the plant and gave his recommendations, and then I called the plant physician to try to obtain some idea of what the illnesses were. As far as I could determine, two men suffered from gastrointestinal upset. I suspected the possibility that the Aroclor fumes might have caused liver damage, but was unable to obtain this information over the phone. I was also unable to contact the employee's physician.

The toxicology of Aroclors is somewhat confused. The experimental work was done by Dr. Drinker at Harvard about 12 years ago, and was done in connection with chlorinated naphthylene, chlorinated diphenyl, and chlorinated diphenyl high boiler. Both of these last two are Aroclors. In the particular work at Harvard, Dr. Drinker found that Aroclor 1268, which means diphenyl chlorinated to 68%, was of low toxicity. The confusion existed in his findings that Aroclor 1254, which is the diphenyl chlorinated to only 54%, was considerably more toxic on inhalation. We did not supply him with this material, and I was never convinced that some error might not have been made in the sample.

At any rate, we have advised protection against all Aroclor fumes when an elevated temperature is used. I will appreciate it if you will let me know the result of your investigation, if one is to be made.

Very truly yours

R. Emmet Kelly, M.D.
Medical Director

RFK:rg

B CC: Mr. Paul Benignus
St. Louis

Transmaterium
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