

BLOOMINGTON WORKS

Mr. Don McClain
Capacitor Unit Engineering Manager

From : Bloomington Works
WM
Date : May 19, 1970
Subject: Inerteen Fluid

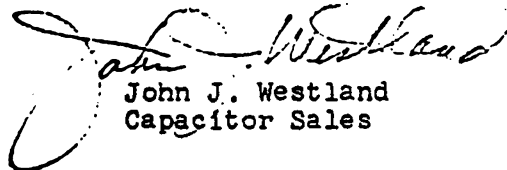
cc: Bloomington Works - Mr. Gene L. Miller
Capacitor Marketing Manager

I am attaching a copy of a letter circulated by General Electric to their various customers concerning the subject of Askarel liquid dielectric.

I was at Inductotherm just outside of Philadelphia last week, and the buyer asked the question on what we were doing regarding the disposal of any excess inerteen fluid that had to be disposed of here at the plant.

It is his understanding that the government has a program to exert greater pressure on industry to control the disposal of this chemical compound on a far more restrictive basis. No greater details could be found out other than the fact that the government was going to get in on the act.

Based on these two bits of information, some thought should be given to advising our customers of a procedure for disposal similar to the one arranged by General Electric.


John J. Westland
Capacitor Sales

JJW:mmm

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**GENERAL ELECTRIC
COMPANY**

3000 BLDG., EASTGATE CENTER
CHICAGO, ILL. 60641

INDUSTRIAL
SALES
DIVISION

Open Letter to Industrial Customers:

We are not able to be certain from our records whether or not you have in the past purchased from us electrical apparatus containing Pyranol, an askarel liquid dielectric. If you have not, there is no need for you to be further concerned with the contents of this letter, but if you have, you will find the following to be of importance. In the event you have purchased such equipment from us and have resold it, you may wish to bring this information to the attention of your customers.

As you are well aware, the public concern with pollution is rapidly escalating. As time goes on, it can be expected to reach out to affect more and more materials that are even suspect of being potential pollutants and contaminants of the environment. Recently there have been indications that polychlorobiphenyls have been found at some points in marine, aquatic, and wildlife environments. While quantities are relatively small, it is a matter of growing concern as to their effect on some species of wildlife. Monsanto Chemical Company is the sole supplier to the industry of various grades of chlorinated biphenyls for use as a liquid dielectric in electrical apparatus. These materials are known as askarels or by various trademarks, including General Electric's registered trademark, Pyranol.

Monsanto has been reviewing procedures to be sure that these materials do not find their way into land or water environment. General Electric is in receipt of a letter from Monsanto expressing its concern, and a copy is attached for your information.

Although this material is sealed in electrical apparatus, there may be occasions when disposal may become necessary and the problem of environmental control arises. In order to aid you in solving the problem of disposal, we have made arrangements with Monsanto to dispose of scrap Pyranol. Should you have scrap Pyranol, it should be placed in closed drums and shipped, at your expense, to Monsanto's W. G. Krummrich Plant at Senget, Illinois, attention Supervisor, Dept. 246. Monsanto has initially established a charge of 2¢ for each pound of scrap material returned by you.

Material which is saturated with Pyranol such as filler's earth, sand, paper, solid insulation taken from apparatus, etc., should be contained

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and stored by you pending a better solution. We intend to bring the whole disposal problem to the attention of an appropriate body in the industry with an aim to working out a long-range solution for the industry.

The industry has used askarel in apparatus for over thirty years. In our experience they have produced no ill effect on workmen in close contact with them except for temporary skin irritation in certain individuals, as noted in our instruction books.

We plan to continue the use of this excellent liquid dielectric and because it is used in sealed apparatus, we foresee no difficulties provided good judgment is exercised in handling and disposal procedures.

Very truly yours,

J. M. Murray

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MEMORANDUM

TO: File
FROM: Deborah Mailander
RE: Attached documents
DATE: February 17, 1993

During the deposition of Gene Miller, Monsanto introduced these documents, apparently to show they told GE to Warn the buyers. Paul Merrell got Gene Miller to agree that Westinghouse knew by 1971 that PCB were hazardous to lifeforms and the environment.

DNM:bms