vs Salesmen

~~CB~~ Spills of Transformer Askarel

The following data is extracted from a real situation but the names are changed. I believe it is worthwhile to present this case history to give some flavor of the potential consequences of ~~a seemingly~~ what superficially may seem a minor incident. It underscores the need to keep transformer manufacturers advised of any such incident involving their units and to ~~underscore~~ highlight one factor which will we believe ~~to~~ affect the danger from acceptance of askarel transformers unless some clearer regulatory policies emerge easing the economic impact of such occurrences.

In Jan 1973 Ace Contractors were working at the plant of Beta manufacturing. They damaged the cooling fins on a transformer releasing 200 gallons of PCB into the drainage system.

Material flowed through a drainage swale, a storm sewer and into two water settling basins. The settling basins (~~basins~~ tank sheaves) were concrete and serve as separators before water discharge to a local river.

Nothing was done for about six months. There was some ~~intrigue~~ delay between insurance companies and sub contractors but the sequence of events is unclear except that from the one incident probably 5 or 6 organizations involved with askarel specification became disenchanted with PCB's.

Samples of sludge from the basins analyzed 200 - 3000 ppm PCB. EPA felt 5 ppm was reasonable maximum but since water samples from basin to river analyzed at 1 ppb were not overly concerned about the sludge content.

Beta Co however envisage potential problems from the background sludge levels and insist that Ace Contractors remove the sludge at their (Ace) expense. The current estimate for removal of ~~of sludge~~ 5,400 drums (1.4 million lbs of sludge) from the settling basin and haulage to an approved land fill is $360,000

MONS 040438

The current sales value of the 200 gallons is approximately $1000. The transformer installed cost was probably $5-10,000

To put this incident into perspective the electrical failure rate on askarel units is about .5% per annum if those in service and faults related to tank rupture is probably less than 1 in 100. Thus fault spills are not likely to be more than 50 per million per year. Currently units into service per year is approx 2 to 3 thousand so that over 20 years about 50,000 askarel transformers have gone into service in America. So effectively less than 1 per year fails with spillage.

In the last 12 months there have been 3 reported cases of accidental handling damage such as fin or bushing rupture. Each has cost about $3-500,000.

100,000 (2 per year)

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