bcc 1010 D. L. Mellom
1010 W. H. Slowikowski
B2SC C. Paton

July 11, 1973

Mr. Douglas Schaedler
General Safety Advisor
Consumers Power Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Dear Mr. Schaedler:

We appreciate your seeking our opinion about possible toxic problems from the askarel transformers in your storeroom.

Presumably these units are hermetically sealed. Accordingly under normal operation there should be no leakage, of liquid or vapors.

Incident of askarel transformer failure is very rare. However, in event of rupture, as result of strong arcing, you would need to remove fumes,from your work room (storeroom) area, using an exhaust fan. The arc-formed gas would be primarily hydrogen chloride. At elevated temperature some askarel fumes would also be emitted.

These vapors should not be breathed. Any harmful amount would be detectable and irritating to personnel in the area. As askarel is used for its safety from fire, the assumption is that personnel would be able to leave the area and avoid a harmful amount of askarel vapors.

Thought you would be interested in reviewing the enclosed "Final Environmental Impact Statement" about PCBs by the Food & Drug Administration. Reference to askarel transformers and capacitors are found on page 9, item 3; page 14, item 4; page15, item 3; page 16, item 3; page 20, item C.

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I notice that your address is the same as that of Bob Johnson who participates in the activities of our askarel committee at ASTM. I mention this as you may wish to discuss the nature of askarel with him. Please let us know whether you feel that additional information is needed to answer your question.

Very truly yours,

P. G. Benignus
Market Manager
Dielectric Fluids

cs
Enclosure