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Monsanto

JAN 27 1977

SPECIALTY CHEMICALS DIVISION

MONSANTO INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS CO.
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
Phone: (314) 694-1000

January 26, 1977

Mr. George R. Menkart
Manager Power Capacitor Product Service
General Electric Company
John Street
Hudson Falls, New York 12839

Dear Mr. Menkart:

We were surprised to learn of a recent "rumor" in the power capacitor industry associating AROCLOR® 1016 quality with capacitor failure.

You will recall that when Monsanto introduced AROCLOR 1016 in 1970/71 to replace AROCLOR 1242, electrical and purity specifications were maintained. A small change occurred in certain physical parameters such as refractive index, specific gravity by virtue of the reduction in high boiling homologues to improve biodegradation.

Monsanto has manufactured and sold AROCLOR 1016 to a rigidly established product specification since August 1971 and has adhered to a quality control policy of shipping only product which is within these specifications. Also, it has been our practice to send our customers a certificate of quality for each AROCLOR 1016 shipment. Further, we understand that it is the procedure of our capacitor customers to sample incoming shipments and to compare their data against our specification and the certificate of quality provided by Monsanto.

In 1975 one power capacitor manufacturer speculated that since AROCLOR 1016 was used in common by all U.S. producers, that it should be considered as a possible variable in examining industry failure rates. However, review of control procedures seemed to satisfy them that variability of AROCLOR 1016 was not a factor. We have received no comment suggesting that there was any inherent property of AROCLOR 1016 which would promote capacitor failure.

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In the absence of industry reports to us over the past five years of problems associated with AROCLOR 1016 we are surprised and puzzled by current reported allegations concerning our product quality.

We would like to reassure you that we will continue, through our phaseout of PCB dielectrics, to manufacture and ship AROCLOR 1016 within our rigidly controlled specifications.

Sincerely,

D. Wood
Market Manager
Process and Specialties

tmc

cc: Mr. J. Bryant
Mr. D. Klingbiel

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