W. E. Papageorge - General Offices - B2NK

March 23, 1972

W. R. Corey - B2SL
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R. A. Stohr - B2SA

F I L E

Met with Mr. George W. Whitesides, President, George W. Whitesides Company, Inc., 3040 Michigan Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40212, phone 502 778-4492, on Wednesday, March 22, 1972. Mr. Whitesides' company formulates and markets concrete curing compounds and coatings. Sales to the silo coating applications are relatively small.

Mr. Whitesides is a member of the National Silo Association. He stated that the Association has only taken interest in the PCB-silo coating situation. He expects to be appointed chairman of a committee which will study the silo-PCB problem. He believes nothing will really be accomplished and plans to resign the chairmanship within six months.

The current president of the Association is Mr. Robert Johnson, First Colony, Inc., Marietta, Ohio.

Mr. Whitesides believes the best source of information regarding the development and use of "Cumar" coatings in silos is the Bloomfield Silo Company, Bloomfield, Indiana. He believes the coating was definitely inferior, did not last for more than two seasons, and that Bloomfield Silo is not a very efficient, sophisticated company. Mr. Whitesides mentioned his acquaintance with the late Mr. Walter Brassard, developer of the "Cumar" coating and with Mr. Ted Myers who succeeded Mr. Brassard for a short period of time. Mr. Myers' whereabouts are not known to him at this time but he believes Mr. Myers is located somewhere in the South and if needed he can be found.

Whitesides believes that sandblasting and replastering is the only practical corrective action. He estimates the cost at about $1,000 per silo, varying with size. Although he sells coatings he does not believe they are necessary if the plastering results in a good dense, low porosity surface. He also stated that the period during which silos are available for repair is being shortened because many dairy farmers are now using the silo to store grass silage during the summer months and corn silage during the winter.

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Whiteside informed me that PCB contamination was found in silos near Somerset, Kentucky (southern part of state). These silos were constructed by the Long Silo Company, now defunct, which was located in Northeast Tennessee, near Kentaagle. The source of the contamination is believed to be a vinyl acetate emulsion which contained PCB as an enzyme inhibitor. This emulsion was used as an additive in the mortar used to seal the concrete stone joints. The emulsion was a formulation marketed by Rohm and Haas.

Whiteside claims he was involved in the sandblasting and re-plastering of four of these silos in 1970. It appears that PCB contamination has not been detected in these silos since then.

Whiteside would be interested in conducting coatings studies for Monsanto but he believes ample time is not available now to generate data for use this summer. He is very interested in arranging for the sandblasting and plastering work since many of his acquaintances in the concrete business are desperate for work.

W. B. Papageorge

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