

GENERAL ELECTRIC

DATE

September 23, 1968

TO

CR Austin

BH Bradbeer

IHH Hoffnagle

GA Smith

DEPT. Ind. & Power Capacitor Department

ADDRESS Hudson Falls, New York

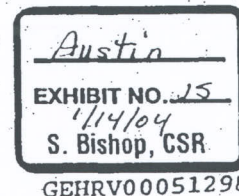
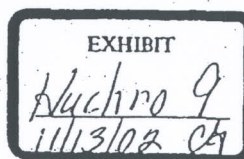
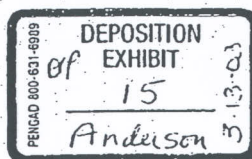
SUBJECT

MEMORANDUM

On Friday, September 20, Messrs. Andrew M. Weist-Sanitary Engineer for the State of New York Department of Health; Lawrence N. Nadler-Industrial Waste Specialist-Health Department-Albany Office; Daniel V. Cotter-Sanitary Engineer-Glens Falls District State of New York Health Department; Dr. Steven Anderson-Consultant Environmental Pollution Control-Real Estate and Construction Operation-Schenectady; George Smith and I met to review our manufacturing processes for the purpose of determining the source of contamination of the Hudson River, due to discharges of our industrial wastes. George Smith did a fine job of explaining our process, together with the chemicals which are used in carrying out these processes. We visited both plants and later in the afternoon met with Mr. Bradbeer to explain the purpose of the visit and to give him some idea of the status of the matter.

In 1966, Rist-Frost Associates of Glens Falls were hired by the State of New York Department of Health to study the problem of municipal and industrial waste for the area, made up of the Town of Queensbury, City of Glens Falls, the Village of South Glens Falls, the Town of Moreau, the Villages of Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, and the Town of Kingsbury. The purpose of the study was to determine the feasibility of a central plant to treat these various wastes. During the course of the study, a representative of Rist-Frost found that we were discharging tin plating effluent as carry-over, only, to drains which ultimately discharge into the river. This was, of course, reported to the Regional Office of the Department of Health in Albany and as a result we were informed that we had to furnish secondary treatment. Mr. K.S. Watson reviewed the problem with us and requested of the Department of Health a stay of this request in order to study the entire waste problems for both plants. Dr. Steven Anderson outlined a program for us and directed the Laboratory activities required. He had this information put into the form of a report, which eventually was the basis for our reply to the Department of Health, made by me on August 16.

We intentionally omitted some information from this report which would have greatly compounded the problem in the eyes of the regulatory people; namely, the State Department of Health authorities. This information was COD and BOD₅ and hardness values, principally for the discharge from Building #1 and the Fort Edward discharge. The smaller values are expressed in terms of oxygen demand for a certain population, which in these instances happen to be 20,500 and 4,600 respectively. The significance of these values to us, as laymen, is that these oxygen demanding contaminants require oxygen from the water, which tend to deprive fish of this much needed ingredient.



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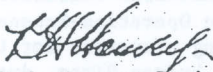
MEMORANDUM

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The condition which causes these high COD and BOD₅ values is the presence of oil and/or solvents of some nature. We must immediately start out to determine where the source of these contaminants are and take remedial measures to correct it. It is very possible that the men who were here on Friday, can deduce that we have left out certain bits of information and request that they take further samples which then would uncover these unfavorable values.

When Mr. Weist left here on Friday, it was his intension that he document his understanding of our processes and after consultation with others, determine the seriousness of any conditions that we have that they know about. A report from him should be forthcoming in about a week or ten days.


K.H. Harvey, Engineer
Buildings & Grounds
Bldg. 10-2 Ext. 400

KHH/bjc

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