ATTN: MR. WILLIAM STEVENS

SUBJECT: FOAM SYSTEMS TESTING, BEALE A.F.B. CALIFORNIA.

IN ALL LITERATURE AND DOCUMENTATION THAT IS PUBLISHED BY THE MAJOR MANUFACTURERS OF A.F.F. CONCENTRATE, IT IS CLAIMED THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE BIODEGRADABLE. FURTHERMORE, VERBAL PRESENTATIONS MADE BY VARIOUS MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE BIODEGRADABLE. THERE IS ALSO AN ARTICLE PREPARED BY MASSELLI ET AL. WHICH WITH SOME DEGREE OF ACCURACY, INDICATED THAT MATERIALS WITH A B.O.D. 20/CO.D. RELATIONSHIP GREATER THAT 0.5 ARE READILY BIODEGRADABLE. SINCE THE U.S. MILITARY SPECIFICATION CALLS FOR A MINIMUM RELATIONSHIP OF 0.65 (MIL-F-24385D (DRAFT)) AND DATA PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT INDICATES THIS RELATIONSHIP TO BE 0.7 - 0.9, WE COULD ASSUME THE PRODUCTS ARE BIODEGRADABLE.

IMAGINE THE SURPRISE AND TOTAL SHOCK WHEN THE BOOTS AND COOTS OFFICE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA RECEIVES A TELEPHONE CALL FROM GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA TELLING US THAT 3M 3% A.F.F. CONCENTRATE IS NOT BIODEGRADABLE. THIS INFORMATION, THEY CLAIM, WAS GIVEN TO THEM DURING A ONE HOUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BY A "PH.D. SCIENTIST, CHEMIST" BY THE NAME OF ERIC REIMER AT THE 3M COMPANY.

IMAGINE FURTHER, OUR EMBARRASSMENT AND CREDIBILITY LOSS SINCE WE HAD BEEN TELLING GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION, THE SACRAMENTO CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR THAT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE BASED UPON MANUFACTURERS DATA, THAT 3M 3% A.F.F. CONCENTRATE WAS BIODEGRADABLE. THIS INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED IN ORDER THAT WE MAY CONDUCT A ONE (1) MINUTE TEST OF AN A.F.F. SYSTEM AT BEALE A.F.B.

SUBSEQUENTLY, AS A RESULT OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE 3M COMPANY, GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION WAS INCONVENIENCED AND DAMAGED, IN THAT, THEY HAD TO HIRE A SUCTION PUMP AND HOLDING TANK FOR IN EXCESS OF $10,000.00. BOOTS & COOTS ALONG WITH THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR WERE INCONVENIENCED AND DAMAGED, SINCE THE TEST PROGRAM HAD TO BE RESCHEDULED, WHICH COMPOUNDED THE LIQUIDATED DAMAGES ALREADY IN EFFECT.
Fluorad™ Fluorochemical Surfactants & Fluorochemical Intermediates

6/7/88

Eric -

I just received the FAX this morning and that was the first I had heard of it. There obviously have been some misunderstandings which need some serious reconsideration. What's your view on the situation? Need a hold till we can work it out.

Thanks.

Products Information (612) 733-1883

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3M
AS A RESULT OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN OUT BY ERIC REIMER THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT OFFICE, REQUIRED BOOTS AND COOTS INDIVIDUALS FILLING THE FOAM TANK TO BE FULLY PROTECTED WITH HARD HAT, SAFETY GLASSES, AND GLOVES, SINCE THE 3M 3% A.F.F.E. IS (I QUOTE) "A DANGEROUS HARMFUL LIQUID." THIS STATEMENT WAS BASED UPON INFORMATION GIVEN BY ERIC REIMER AND DATA SHEETS SUPPLIED BY THE 3M COMPANY TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS DISCLOSURE MAY BE FELT AT OTHER JOB-SITES CONTROLLED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO OFFICE. IN ADDITION, THEY MAY DECIDE TO FORWARD THIS DATA TO OTHER CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICES.

BY COPY OF THIS LETTER BOOTS & COOTS REQUESTS A FULL AND COMPLETE DISCLOSURE OF THE TOXIC, CHEMICAL AND BIODEGRADABILITY EFFECTS OF THE 3M A.F.F.E. CONCENTRATES. WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT PRIOR TO ERIC REIMER OFFERING INFORMATION TO COMPANIES CONTRACTED WITH BOOTS & COOTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS, HE COMMUNICATE WITH US FIRST.

YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

JIM DEVONSHIRE/BILL WALTON

CC: LES WILLIAMS
    JOHN SCHUSTER
    JOHN YOUNG
    STEVE WARD (FOR INFO)

JD\US\2161

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