



Baldur farm  
N7659 950th Street (Cady Lane)  
River Falls, WI 54022

**RECEIVED**

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8 April 1999

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY  
& SAFETY SERVICES

Dr. David A. Sonstegard  
Building 42-2E-26  
St. Paul, MN 55133-3331

Dear Dr. Sonstegard,

My husband Richard Purdy is returning to work very much against my wishes. I don't expect or even want a response from you, but I feel compelled to let you know how very disgusted I am with this turn of events.

I'm well aware that we own our home and farm due, in large part, to the compensation Richard received from 3M. The benefits of employment have made our lives healthier and better. I am ready to give this up, however, if Richard wishes to resign, because for the past several years his job has been in some ways unsatisfying and has more recently caused him to question his ethics and moral standards.

Richard is genuinely touched by the gestures of goodwill made toward him in the past few days by various co-workers. He is, I can see, quietly flattered that 3M management has asked him to stay. And I am fuming because year after year has passed without his receiving a promotion. He has poor communication skills, he is told. If he is so poor at communicating, why is he always flying off to participate in conferences and present papers and be on advisory boards? I'm very much aware of his clumsy phrasing and execrable spelling. If you wanted good communication skills, you should have hired me. What I know about chemistry would fit in a teacup but by God I can spell it.

Richard's skills as an environmental toxicologist seem to be more than adequate. He has taken several courses to improve his knowledge, he has traveled a great deal to attend meetings at which he meets people and works to create a network with other eco-toxicologists in other companies and areas. On behalf of 3M he has been gone from his family much more than we have wished.

In the past year he's been deeply troubled by this PFOS problem. And when he hasn't been troubled, he's been angry at the delay and procrastination exercised by 3M management on behalf of 3M stockholders. In the meantime, the possibility exists that sea mammals--the most thrilling and intelligent and beloved of all sea life--are being harmed by a chemical he knows about and has been restrained from testing. It is not hard at all to imagine how the public will react when this information is made known. I am a regular contributor to a children's science magazine. An upcoming issue has ocean life as its theme. Sea mammals are predominantly featured. Did you know that whales not only sing, but their songs are sung in a sequence, and if they are interrupted, they will resume the song where they left off? How can my family continue to be a part of something that harms such creatures? Maybe I am making too much of this--no doubt it has to do with my poor knowledge of science and those vaunted good communication skills.

Richard's decision to resign was made after a long, hard struggle with himself and after many talks with me. I don't look forward to another bout of this. He returns to 3M with my most grudging support.

*Marianne Ash*

Exhibit  
1571  
State of Minnesota v. 3M Co.,  
Court File No. 27-CV-10-28862

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Dr. David A. Soustegard  
Staff Vice President

3M Environmental Technology  
and Safety Services

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Building 42-2E-26  
PO Box 33331  
St. Paul, MN 55133-3331  
651 778 4331



April 21, 1999

Ms. Maureen Ash  
Baldur Farm  
N7659 950<sup>th</sup> Street (Cady Lane)  
River Falls, WI 54022

Dear Maureen:

I appreciate the thoughtfulness and honest expression of sentiments in your letter to me regarding Rich's decision to stay at 3M. Like Rich's letter, yours shows the strength and courage of your convictions. I also can appreciate how trying it must have been for you and Rich as you deliberated whether to leave and then whether to stay at 3M.

We respect Rich's expertise, judgment and point of view. He may have told you that we have had productive discussions since his letter was received. We were able to augment the information he had about all the scientific work that has been undertaken to address the PFOS issue and give him a broader perspective of the company's plan. In saying this, I don't mean in any way to suggest that the company's plan is perfect, or that reasonable, well-informed and well-intentioned people could not differ on various aspects of these undertakings, including priorities. We all recognize that our course must be adjusted and corrected as we go, and Rich's input to that is welcome and important.

We are very happy that Rich has decided to remain at 3M to continue to work on the PFOS issues. Rich has already been a contributor to the management of the environmental issues and will have many additional opportunities to contribute to the studies that will answer and resolve the issues presented, including effects on sea mammals.

Please know that you and Rich are welcome to contact me at any time to discuss these issues more fully.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Soustegard'.

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