

095-C-10

Mr. E. S. Weiner

April 4, 1950

River Contaminants, and
Your Memo of March 31st

Mr. J. Burton

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CONFIDENTIAL

cc: E. Griswold
L. P. Scoville
R. C. Sutter

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Y

The complete story of our various effluents and our disposal history is pretty long and complicated, but I will give you a rough outline below as a starter. To get more accurate measurement and composition data on these, will require some time and engineering and lab work. Please keep me posted as to the amount of this which you may wish to do.

Until approximately 1956, we disposed of all our plant effluents into the Passaic River. Approximately 1956, the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission (PVSC) officially objected to our polluting the river, and we spent approximately \$15,000 for a sewer connection to the Newark city sewer. Since that time, we run some of our effluents to each of these outlets. The ruling on the Passaic River is that no materials should be put in it which are not as pure as the river itself. PVSC does the spot inspection approximately once a month. The New York Harbor Commission also was interested in keeping it free from strong acids as a safeguard to shipping. I believe the Coast Guard is the official inspecting agency on this. Approximately once a year we get a very fast check by them, looking for acids only. The Passaic River is seriously contaminated at present by other industries, particularly in regard to oil effluents. In the past year or two, PVSC has apparently been making more efforts to clear these up.

As I recollect, the official rules by the Sewer Department of Newark are that no material be put into the city sewer unless it is neutral and pretty free of chemicals. We checked our particular Lister Avenue branch before we connected to it, however, and found a variety of acids and chemicals which were actually being put in it. I believe this is fairly common throughout Newark, although I have had the feeling that we might at some time have to separate out or neutralize our strong acids and perhaps the bulk of our phenolic materials. My impression is that the city sewer is a pretty good bet for getting rid of modest amounts of chlorophenols which otherwise would be serious contaminants in rivers, etc.

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