

Phosphate Update

Phosphate bans were the subject of a February 26th *Wall Street Journal* article headlined 'What is Illegal, a White Powder and Makes Colors Look Brighter?' The article told of shoppers crossing state lines to buy phosphate-containing detergents, which currently are banned in six states—Indiana, New York, Minnesota, Michigan, Vermont and Wisconsin. Four areas of four other states have partial bans.

A seventh state, Montana, is considering banning phosphate-containing detergents. However, Edwin A. Matzner, a scientist for Monsanto Company, told the Natural Resources Committee of the Montana state legislature that the proposed bill was incorrect in its assessment of the impact that phosphate detergents have on Montana's waterways. The actual amount of phosphorus from detergents entering the state's waterways is quite unsubstantial, according to Matzner. "We believe that detergent phosphate bans do not address the issue of phosphorus control in our waterways. Bans by themselves don't achieve clean water, but often delay effective measures," Matzner said. He also testified that proper sewage treatment can remove essentially 100% of the phosphorus from waste water.

In Florida's Dade County, new sewage disposal practices were behind the repeal January 8 of its 11-year-old phosphate ban. Laundry detergents in Florida can now contain up to 8.7% phosphate, a level higher than that typically found in products sold in non-ban areas.

Greyhound eyes Purex unit

The Greyhound Corporation has contracted to purchase the consumer products division of Purex Industries for \$264 million. The division, which manufactures and markets household products, is headquartered in Lakewood, California. It employs 2,800 people at 24 manufacturing facilities around the country. Its 1984 revenues were approximately \$500 million.

The consumer products division markets a broad range of products under a number of well-known labels, including Purex bleach and laundry detergent, Dutch detergent, Brillo soap pads, Sweetheart soap, Trend detergent, Hilex bleach and Toss 'n Soft, Sta-Puf and Fleecy fabric softeners. In addition, it has a large private label business in bleach, detergent and fabric softener. Greyhound officials have said the division will be combined with the company's Armour-Dial subsidiary, which manufactures a broad line of soaps, shelf-stable canned meats, household products and toiletries.

Stepan expands Joliet plant

Stepan Company has expanded the sulfonation capacity of its Millsdale surfactant manufacturing facilities in Joliet, Illinois, by 144 million pounds a year. According to the company, the additional unit was added to insure capacity for growing customer markets. It brings the company's capacity to 690 million pounds a year. The unit will produce anionic surfactants for the detergent, personal care,

agricultural, polymer and building construction markets.

Meanwhile, Stepan Company has promoted Edward H. Buening Jr. to business manager of detergents, Jeffrey S. Nelson to business manager of distributors, and Ralph N. Davies to Midwest regional sales manager.

IFSCC call for papers

Persons who wish to submit an original paper for the 14th Congress of the International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists, to be held Sept. 16-19, 1986, in Barcelona, Spain, have until Nov. 30 to submit their abstracts.

Abstract forms are available from the General Secretary's Office, 14th Congress of IFSCC, 18-26 Jorge Girona Salgado Str., Edificio Juna de la Cierva, 08034 Barcelona, Spain. Registration forms for those wishing to attend may be requested from the same office.

Topics for the meeting will include analytical methodology, cosmetic science and technology, surfactants, and cutaneous biological approaches. Official conference languages will be Spanish and English.

News briefs

PQ Corporation has named Paul T. Roberts as distributor sales manager and Michael A. Todd as national account sales manager for the firm's industrial chemicals division.

Gerald M. Fischhoff has been appointed business manager for surfactants and detergent intermediates at the Ethylene Oxide/Glycol Division of Union Carbide Corporation.

Schering AG, West Germany, is enlarging the fermentation capacity for manufacturing steroids at its Bergkamen plant in West Germany. The raw materials, mainly natural steroids, are byproducts of oleochemical processes. They will be partially furnished by Schering's industry chemical division.

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