

ARCO Chemical Company

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Telephone 610 359 4876

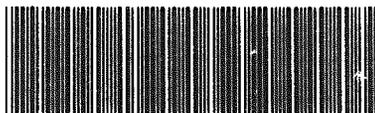
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ORIGINAL



L. S. Andrews, Manager
Health Sciences and Regulatory Programs

May 21, 1996



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Office of Pollution Prevention & Toxics
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

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Attention: 8(e) Coordinator

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act, ARCO Chemical Company (ACC) is submitting the following information on ethyl-tert-butyl ether (ETBE), CAS #637-92-3.

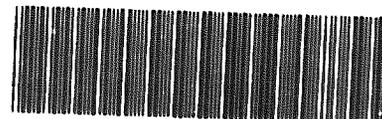
ARCO Chemical Company has received information on preliminary results from a 90-day vapor inhalation toxicity study on ETBE with neurotoxicity evaluations in Fischer 344 rats. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the toxic effects resulting from repeated vapor inhalation exposure to ETBE. Neurotoxicological effects and cell replication also are being investigated. From the preliminary findings, the study pathologist has identified a degenerative change of the seminiferous tubules from testes of each of the 11 male rats examined after exposure to 5000 ppm ETBE for 13 weeks.

The study consists of three exposure groups and an air-exposed control group. The effect was found in the high dose group. The laboratory plans to examine the rats exposed at the low (500 ppm) and medium (1750 ppm) doses for the presence of the alteration described above. All exposure groups that have the testicular alteration then will be semiquantitatively scored as to which of the 14 stages of sperm development are most affected.

A copy of the final report will be submitted to your office when available.

Sincerely,

L. S. Andrews, Ph.D.



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