

"It is our firm opinion, backed by experience with problems faced by many municipal waste treatment plants, that these chemical treatment methods can be of value in producing a better quality effluent. Therefore, no single contaminant should be the sole factor for determining which plants will qualify for grants.

"We also believe that subsection I should be clarified in regard to the 25 per cent ceiling placed on such grants. Is the grant to be 25 per cent of the total operating costs including the cost of the 'proven chemical means of effluent treatment'? Or is it to be 25 per cent of the plant operating costs for the aforementioned chemical treatment only?

"We believe it should be qualified so as to leave little or no doubt as to which operating cost shall serve as the base figure in computing the 25 per cent grant."

AMERICAN CHEMSCIENCE, INC.,
April 11, 1968.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BLATNIK: About a year and a half ago, while visiting Washington, I had the pleasure of meeting with your Legislative Assistant, Mr. Maurice B. Tobin. We discussed, in depth for several hours, various factors relating to pollution and the deterioration of our environment. Since 1938, I have been involved in practically every phase of work relating to the water cycle.

For more than 15 years we have been concerned with the pollution impact of both produced crude oil and refined petroleum products as they find their way into our lakes and rivers and tidal estuaries. As a result of this effort, our work has developed into different technical directions but with the same overall objectives: to maintain our waterways as close to their natural state as possible. For the past 15 years, we have made desiccated custom cultures that have been used in a variety of treatments for industrial waste problems. This development is now timely as a result of the world wide transportation of oil and oil spills. The problem was recently highlighted by the loss of the Torrey Canyon off the coast of Great Britain last year. Oil spill catastrophes as a recurring problem was again brought to public attention by the sinking of another tanker off the coast of Puerto Rico several months ago. Our associated company, Conservation Processes, Inc. has developed a continuous process to recover non-saleable emulsified crude oil ("slop-oil") and convert it into pipeline grade oil. "Slop Oil" is also a source of pollution.

The world wide traffic of petroleum in tankers takes on a new significance because of the increase in the size of the tankers now being built. Many of these will be two and three times larger than the size of some of the ships now in use. During World War II, numerous American tankers were torpedoed not far from shore all along the Eastern Atlantic seaboard as well as the Gulf Coast. There are no exact figures for the number which are now lying close enough to our shores for a period of almost 25 years. The time is not too far distant when these ships will start breaking up and creating severe economic losses in recreation and fisheries caused by the oil that will be released.

While there may have been some immediate use and effectiveness of detergents for the clearing of beaches of oil, there is no sound scientific basis for the use of detergents and/or wetting agents to disperse oil spills in oceanic waters. In fact, Dr. J. E. Smith, Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Plymouth, England, has reported that all marine life around the Cornish Coast has been largely destroyed by detergents used to treat the spills from the Torrey Canyon.

It is apparent, that in some instances, oil spills may be rendered more toxic to marine life because the wetting agents can change membrane potential in both microscopic and macroscopic oceanic life thus permitting the crude oil entrance into the life system involved.

We believe, that a more effective method of approach to this problem would be treatment of the oil spills by specially prepared HYDEC cultures (Hydrocarbon Decomposition). It requires research and special studies on how these may be applied.

We have been making hydrocarbon utilizing cultures for over 15 years, the following is a synopsis of our experience and background in the treatment of Hydrocarbon waste: