

Kullman, Greg J.

From: Andrew Miller [Andrew.Miller@popweaver.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 11:49 AM
To: Kullman, Greg J.
Subject: RE: WEAVER POPCORN

As long as it's only shared with the review committee and is not outside that process, we are OK with it.

Andy Miller
P: 317-915-4087
C: 317-496-7941

-----Original Message-----
From: Kullman, Greg J. [mailto:GJK1@CDC.GOV]
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 10:13 AM
To: Andrew Miller
Subject: RE: WEAVER POPCORN

Andy,

As part of the research proposal review process, there is a section for letters of support. However, I noticed that your letter had a designation that it was confidential and not to be copied or distributed for public review. I wanted to see if it be OK to include your letter with our proposal to be shared with the review committee and not distributed outside of this process? Thanks -

Greg Kullman,
NIOSH
304-285-5959



October 14, 2004

Dr. Richard Kanwal
Medical Officer
NIOSH, DRDS
Field Studies Branch
1095 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Dr. Kanwal,

On behalf of Weaver Popcorn, I would like to thank you for your efforts to help the smaller microwave popcorn manufacturers define good oil mixing processes. Weaver has always placed a high priority on maintaining state-of-the-art facilities. Thus, we believe we can offer guidance in defining these solutions, and we look forward to collaborating.

As you requested, this letter serves as our commitment to collaborate on the effort proposed by you and Dr. Kullman, which is entitled "Control Technology for the Microwave Popcorn Flavoring Industries". Our collaboration will be pursuant to the following restrictions. We have already completed extensive research and design pertaining to this area. To that end, we will provide you with as much of this research as possible upon a written request outlining the specific areas you wish to study. We would, however, like to limit or avoid ad-hoc analyses and/or reviews in our facility. We ask that you exhaust our existing data first. Then, if you still deem a plant visit necessary, we ask that you submit that request in writing along with a detailed explanation of exactly what research you plan to conduct, on what timing, and with what methodology. Given issues of safety and confidentiality, we may not be in a position to accommodate these requests.

In the spirit of cooperation, we would also appreciate you sharing your results and findings as your study progresses.

Again, we look forward to working with you on this study, and we will await your request for specific data.

Sincerely,

Andrew Miller
Vice President of R&D

*Strictly Confidential.
Not to be copied or distributed.
Not for public review.*

AMERICAN POP CORN COMPANY

information vacuum and felt exceedingly fortunate that we had no "problems" given the outcome in the Missouri plant. That quickly changed.

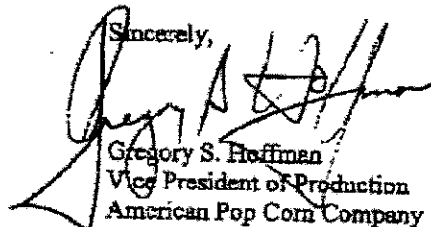
One of our employees that had been working in the mixing room since 1994 was the exception. Our annual PFT tests indicated a steady decline in his lung function and he had significant lost work time due to several respiratory problems. We decided to send this employee to a well respected pulmonary specialist and included an extensive information packet on the Missouri Cluster as well as a complete job description and job function summary for mixing our microwave products. Within two weeks of his exam, our employee was diagnosed as having medical findings consistent with bronchiolitis obliterans. NIOSH was immediately notified.

Without question, that diagnosis and the ensuing medical surveys, industrial hygiene testing and airborne particulate tests changed American Pop Corn Company dramatically. Our leap of faith to cooperate fully and comprehensively with NIOSH did not come easily. Many industry peers were reluctant to participate in a cooperative solution thus shared resources were very limited. Nonetheless, American Pop Corn Company opted to keep an open line of communication with NIOSH which allowed us to become proactive on all worker safety issues within our facility as well as within our industry.

This brings us to the primary purpose of this letter. Our initial focus has been on respiratory protection and testing as well as administrative changes. However we also recognize that the long term solution lies in effective engineering solutions. We would welcome the opportunity to share in that process as well. We have been working with an engineering firm that typically handles the manufacturing of pesticides as well as vendors from the pharmaceutical industry. Ideas ranging from vacuumed tanks and "lock and load" methods to place ingredients into the oil blend are being evaluated. Our long term goals are to create an environment that is closed looped with minimal to no worker exposure to the process. We recognize from experience that shared information from experts of many disciplines results in creative and positive change.

American Pop Corn Company is open to cooperate and share our findings with NIOSH in the search for engineering solutions to this challenge. Any consideration of additional funding for the development and implementation of engineering standards and practices that NIOSH is eligible for should be given high priority. The research and comprehensive knowledge that has been harvested over the last four years plus by NIOSH must be allowed to become translated into positive and effective engineering solutions for our industry.

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Hoffman
Vice President of Production
American Pop Corn Company

B.K. Heuermann
PRESIDENT

BKH Popcorn, Inc.
MICROWAVE & POPPING CORN

Originator of the **EXCLUSIVE**
Microwave Popcorn

504 West Highway 34 • Phillips, Nebraska 68865 • Phone 402-886-2911 • Fax 402-886-2411

October 1, 2004

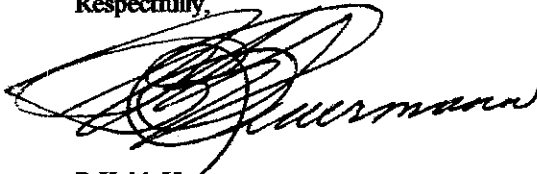
Greg Kullman, PhD, CIH
NIOSH, DRDS, FSB, M/S 2800
1095 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Greg Kullman,

Thank you for calling me and responding to my request for further testing of air quality in our microwave popcorn packaging facility. Since our original testing in 2001-2002, we have made significant changes in our popcorn flavoring handling and packaging. We feel it is important to the health of our workers to monitor our air quality again.

We support and will use your assistance in your research to assist not only the popcorn industry but also other related industries, to prevent lung diseases in plant workers. We will keep in contact with you to work out a schedule that will be mutually beneficial.

Respectfully,



B Keith Heuermann
BKH Popcorn, Inc.



Specializing in Private Label Food Manufacturing

P.O. Box 227 1037 State Street
Chester, Illinois 62233

Thomas B. Welge - Vice President of Technical Sales
Phone: 618-826-2361
Fax: 618-826-1050
twelge@gilstermarylee.com

October 14, 2004

Dr. Greg Kullman, PhD, CIH
NIOSH, DRDS, FSB, M/S 2800
1095 Willowdale Rd.
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

In Re: Microwave Popcorn Exposure Controls

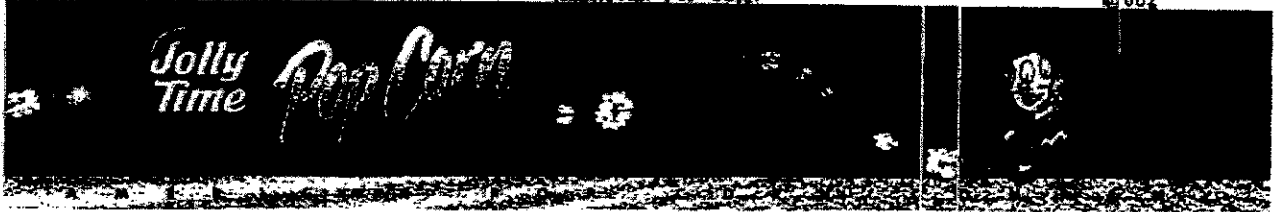
Dear Dr. Kullman:

We wish to express our support of your continued research into practical, cost-effective, evidence-based exposure control methods for the microwave popcorn industry. We appreciate the assistance your organization has provided us to date, and we will do our best to assist you should this project go forward.

Sincerely,
GILSTER-MARY LEE CORP.


Tom Welge

Cc: John Pinks
Eric Asselmeier
Ron Trotter
Don Welge



10/18/2004

Greg Kullman, PhD, CIH
NIOSH, DRDS, FSB, M/S 2800
1095 Willowdale Rd.,
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Greg:

This letter is intended to highlight and underscore the cooperative relationship that has matured and resulted in a mutually beneficial outcome between American Pop Corn Company and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

On September 26th of 2001 a team of scientists and doctors from NIOSEI and a representative from the Iowa Department of Public Health arrived at our facility. This was our first introduction to the Health Hazard Evaluation Program (HHEP) and quite frankly we were somewhat intimidated by the process. During a roundtable discussion, the NIOSH team you spearheaded spent a considerable amount of time explaining the process as well as relating the background of a cluster of severe fixed or restrictive lung disease that had been investigated by NIOSH at a popcorn plant in Missouri in 2000. We learned that the primary focus was centered on butter flavoring (specifically diacetyl) used in the microwave production process. After our discussion, a walkthrough of the microwave facility was performed and some industrial hygiene air sampling was performed. The NIOSH team was very complimentary of the engineering controls that were in place and later reported the air concentrations of diacetyl were very low compared to the levels that were associated with abnormal lung function at the Missouri plant. This visit left us feeling very good about our process and the controls that had been implemented in our microwave production facility since its inception 1988.

Your 2001 NIOSH visit prompted us to evaluate our total microwave production process from top to bottom. We began asking ourselves and employees (current and past) that had any contact with the mixing process to assess their personal health as well as the safeguards that had been in place during their tenure. MSDS's were revisited, our respiratory protection program was evaluated from a totally different perspective, the series of additional ventilation improvements were noted and any other positive (or negative) impacts on this process were considered. What we found to be most impressive, was the lack of information regarding the exposure to diacetyl: Exposure limits, HVAC and ventilation recommendations, little to no cautions or warnings on the MSDS sheets, industry alerts or concerns. We found ourselves in somewhat of an

Kullman, Greg J.

From: HondoBear@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2004 11:37 AM
To: Kullman, Greg J.
Subject: Control technologies

Dear Greg:

Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate with NIOSH on your control technologies project on microwave popcorn manufacture. We would be pleased to collaborate with you on this project by reviewing appropriate sections of your draft report, and would appreciate receiving a copy of the report when it is available.

Sincerely,
John Hallagan
FEMA
1620 I St., N.W.
Suite 925
Washington, D.C. 20006

10/15/2004

Kullman, Greg J.

From: Deirdre Flynn [dflynn@nafem.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2004 4:35 PM
To: Kullman, Greg J.
Cc: gbertalmio@sba.com
Subject: RE: Control Technology Proposal

Hi Greg:

Thank you for sharing a copy of the proposal. As we discussed on our call last week, the Popcorn Institute will not sign-on to the project directly, but is happy to be a conduit for you to communicate with popcorn processors so that industry can offer feedback and assistance with your research. We are happy to include updates about the study in regular communication we have with Popcorn Institute members and the popcorn processing industry at large. We also would be happy to help host a workshop where information can be shared.

We wish you much success in your efforts. Please let me know if we can provide additional information.

Best regards.

Deirdre Flynn
The Popcorn Institute
+1.312.821.0209
dflynn@nafem.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Kullman, Greg J. [mailto:GJK1@CDC.GOV]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2004 12:17 PM
To: Bertalmio, Genny; Deirdre.flynn@sba.com; Deirdre Flynn
Subject: Control Technology Proposal

Genny and Deirdre,

I wanted to follow-up to check about potential collaboration with The Popcorn Institute on our control technology work. I will need to submit the proposal for review and wondered if you would be able to work with us in this effort? An E-mail reply would be fine. Thank you -

Greg Kullman,
NIOSH
304-285-5959

10/20/2004
