



CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Office of the President

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March 24, 1995

Ms. Alice Gallagher
Holt & Ross
The Far Hills Center
P.O. Box 127
Far Hills, NJ 07931

Dear Ms. Gallagher:

Thank you for your interest in our sludge policy. We are always interested in the comments and ideas of our consumers and appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions.

Del Monte's long standing position has been to avoid using raw agricultural products grown on soils treated with municipal sludge. It is important for you to understand that we developed this policy many years ago when a lot less was known about using municipal sludge than is known today. It was the prudent position to take, even though we believe that a rigid municipal sludge usage program that would not jeopardize food products ultimately should be developed.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has now issued guidelines for the use of sludge. However, following these guidelines offers no guarantee that the raw agricultural crops will meet all other health and safety standards. The EPA has asked the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an extensive study of the outstanding safety issues. Del Monte is an active supporter of this study, which we hope will facilitate sludge use in the future.

In the meantime, we will hold to our more conservative and prudent position, one which also is held by the National Food Processors Association and the American Frozen Food Institute. As this matter evolves, I can assure you that safety (affecting both the raw product and the environment) will remain our primary concern.

March 24, 1995

Thank you for the opportunity to give you the above explanation. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to write.

Yours truly,

Chris Meyers

Chris Meyers
Representative
Consumer Affairs

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