2100 Second Street, SNR, 469 Washington, DC 20593-0001 Staff Symbol: (G-MSO-3) Phone: (202) 267-1217

16703/46-153

Mr. J. Fritz Cory Applications Engineer Thermoseal, Inc. 2350 Campbell Road Sidney, OH 45365-9573 MAR | 8 1998

Dear Mr. Cory:

We have reviewed your letter of January 23, 1998, which requested our acceptance of KLINGERtop-chem 2000 for applications in accordance with 46 CFR 153.530. We will accept that gasket material for pipe flanges and similar openings.

The seal material is PTFE with silicon carbide added to improve creep resistance. PTFE is already an accepted material for alkylene oxide cargo containment systems. During our research into the properties of silicon carbide, we found nothing to indicate that it would be unsuitable for alkylene oxide service.

Please understand that research into silicon carbide's properties took significant time and resources. If you have further inquiries, you should contact Mr. Tom Felleisen of my staff at 202-267-0085.

Sincerely,

S. COOK

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard

Chief, Hazardous Materials Standards Division

By direction of the Commandant

Copy: Marine Safety Center (G-MSC-3)