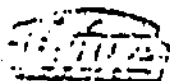


Heinz U. S. A.



Division of H. J. Heinz Company

P.O. Box 57  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230-0057  
Telephone 412-237-5757

November 19, 1992

Jane Shumaker  
RD 2, Box 141  
Mayport, PA 16240

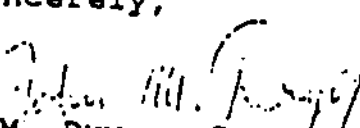
Dear Ms. Shumaker:

I am in receipt of your letter asking for clarification on H.J. Heinz Company's position on sewage sludge in regard to a soil fertilizer.

Please be advised that the Heinz Company feels the risk of utilizing municipal sludge, which is known to be high in heavy metals such as cadmium and lead, is not a health risk which we need to take. Root crops such as potatoes, carrots and other vegetables which are grown under the ground can take up unacceptable high levels of heavy metals and while they do not pose any imminent health risk, can be detrimental over a life time of exposure. Since we are in the business of producing infant food we do not feel that this is a risk our customers need to be subjected to. I can assure you that our stand on this is not a publicity statement since it is rigorously enforced and we have at times dropped suppliers who have used the municipal sludge on their crop land. It should be noted that once the lead levels are present in the soil they stay there for an indefinite period of time.

I trust this answers your questions in regard to the Heinz policy on the application of municipal sludge in ground used for growing crops which ultimately are processed into Heinz food products.

Sincerely,

  
J.M. Dryer, General Manager  
Food Technology & Quality Systems

nbu