

Law Group
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
Telephone (610) 481-7351
Fax: Law (610) 481-8223
Patent (610) 431-7C83

Via Facsimile (1 page)

September 18, 2001

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual
Property and Director of the
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Attn: Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer


Re: Don't Remove Paper Files Yet from the Search Room

Dear Mr. Hack:

Please do not remove the paper search files in the public search room yet. Removal at this time, before the present computer search system becomes complete and user-friendly, presents a real hardship to out-of-town searchers and occasional users.

It is my personal view that the changeover to an exclusively computer-based public search system should come only when the computer search system can retrieve all information currently accessible by manual search, and only after the system becomes user-friendly and requires minimal training.

Very truly yours,



John M. Fernbacher
Patent Agent
Registration No. 32,895

JMF:cap

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