

Complaint Log # 55-74

340 Clematis St.
Pensacola, Florida
32503
February 28, 1974

Mr. William Gordon
Area Director for OSHA
Occupational Safety & Hazard Administration
200 West Museum Dr.
Suite 4
Art Museum Plaza
Jacksonville, Florida

RE: AIR PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL CO.
Pace, Florida

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Calhoun County

I feel that past and current conditions at the Air Products and Chemical Plant at Pace, Florida, warrant a thorough investigation by a professional industrial hygienist from OSHA. I base my opinion on the following facts as I know them and also in light of the recent medical reports from B. F. Goodrich Co., in Louisville, Kentucky, which have made me more determined than ever to write to OSHA. The delay in my calling this to your attention was due to the gathering of information which I felt would serve to convince you that my request is justifiable. I now feel, however, that time is of the essence.

My husband was employed with this company as Design Supervisor for nine years during which time he gradually acquired periodontal difficulties leading to upper teeth extraction in February, 1973. He also started to have some hair loss. My recent study has pointed out that certain chemicals contribute to this condition. My husband died July 16, 1973 from carcinoma of the lung.

Ray Jackson

There have been two other deaths of employees from lung cancer - November, 1973 and January, 1974. There have been deaths of employees from cancer of the brain, intestines, and stomach. There was at least one case of toxic poisoning of the liver with the patient surviving. These I know about -- there may be others of which I am not aware. The Company increased the duration between chest X-rays for their employees from annually to every other year, therefore lowering their medical requirements. My husband was not "due" to have an X-ray until this past November.

The nature of the chemicals produced at this plant are carcinogen causing and without proper controls and pollution-controlling facilities can place the lives of employees in jeopardy. I have a plant description of the Nitric Acid Plant and it does not have a catalytic abatement facility (decolor-

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izer only). They operate an Amines, PVC, Ammonia, Ammonia Nitrite, Nitric Acid and a Urea Plant. Their Methanol Plant has been reactivated.

I hope that you will deem it justifiable to inspect this plant thoroughly for toxic materials being emitted in excess of OSHA's specifications. If necessary, I can request the widows of these men to join with me in asking for a complete inspection.

So, Mr. Gordon, on behalf of my late husband who said to me, "Honey, you don't suppose something at the plant got to me, do you?"

Did it?

Sincerely,

William T. Vance

Mrs. William T. Vance
(Tel: 904-433-2513)

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29 January 1974

Occupational Safety & Health Admin.
Labor Department
Washington, D. C. 20210

Gentlemen:

Please mail us a copy of BLS Report No. 412,
"What Every Employer Needs to Know About Record
Keeping". This report refers to OSHA record
keeping.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

J. F. Odom
Personnel Manager

/JFO:jsr

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