PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
DUP-1148

PETROCHEMICALS OPERATIONS
BEAUMONT WORKS

cc: T. A. Mills
T. M. Buckley
J. S. Evans
L. A. Putzier
S. A. Williams
M. J. Wirth
L. L. Brumfield
E. B. Martin
R. L. Schweitzer
D. J. Hall
C. E. Watkins
J. A. Davenport
[redacted]
File: 071-AR-100-13a

August 29, 1983

TO: C. R. FERGUSON

FROM: R. B. BURNS RBB

AETONITRILE AZEOTROPE COLUMN REPAIRS

Metallurgical inspection of this column earlier this year at five locations found external stress corrosion cracks in the stainless steel column. This cracking is serious but is less severe than that found on the columns in Methanol. These cracks are caused by chloride from the insulation attacking the stainless steel column. Deteriorated insulation seals allowed water to enter the insulation and leach the chlorides from the insulation. As you will recall, this column was not in use from plant startup in mid-1970 until we began the acetonitrile venture in mid-1975.

C. R. Fersuon will head up the program to repair the acetonitrile azeotrope column.

Corrective action will require that scaffolding be erected, the column stripped of insulation, the insulation residue wet blasted off the column, the column grit blasted, the column inspected to determine the magnitude of cracking, the column repaired, the column reinsulated, and the scaffolding removed. The magnitude of the cracking will determine the repair techniques and timing involved.

The insulation also contains asbestos which required more care during insulation removal. Before removal of the insulation, the Texas Air Control Board will be notified (done 8/22/83) of the quantity and type of insulation to be removed. The insulators will wear appropriate protective clothing (dust mask, throwaway coveralls, gloves and rubber boots) which must be left in the work area when the workers leave the work area. Air monitoring for asbestos will be done and the insulation will be wetted down before removal. As the insulation is removed, it will be bagged and then placed in the asbestos insulation dumpster. After the insulation is removed, the column will be wet blasted to

remove any traces of insulation adhereing to the column. The water involved in the wetting down of the insulation, area wash downs, and the column blasting will be disposed of through our area deepwell waste system. Any asbestos fibers will be retained on the solids in the catalyst settling basins, retained on the packing in the Baker filters at the waste tank, or be injected in the deepwell.

The length of the outage will be dependent on product demand, costs, degree of repairs, ability to run the column uninsulated and manpower availability. We presently are campaigning this column to keep our acetonitrile azeotrope storage tank and our storage cars full of azeotrope while Dixie keeps their product storage tanks full. We should have about 25% free time on the column for the next several months until the acetonitrile business takes off. If we are able to operate the column without reinsulation or with minimal covering of temporary insulation, we can work this job Monday through Friday on days (or nights if preferable temperature wise). The capability and costs associated with interior column operation is being defined by Technical and the Engineering Department.

Detailed inspection and assessment of repairs cannot be made until the column is bare and clean. Substantial surface preparation may be required before the detailed metallurgical inspection can be made. This preparation as well as inspection may need to be done by an outside contractor in Maintenance if ESD cannot do it. Repairs may range from nothing to column replacement. [illegible] Casper, Design - Louviers, has determined that inserts of 24" x [illegible] can be utilized and still maintain vessel integrity. I prefer to not utilize coverplates since they are deemed to be only a temporary repair. After the column will need to be given a protective coating and reinsulated.

Attached is a schedule showing the plant outages and holidays for the remainder of the year. After the column capabilities have been determined, please issue a detailed schedule.

RBB/ldp
Attachment
8.27

R.B.B. 8/30/83

DUP 0507873

bcc: J. M. Stallings, PPD, M-5625
L. T. Freeland, #42
J. J. Haladyna, #42
E. J. Leysath, #82
C. C. Regenbrecht, #42
R. L. Schweitzer, #4

9158 8/25/83 @ 0945

9729
left message
Call Friday want
to conduct Arbeiter
Sampling
L. T.

8/29/83
@ 0910
message to call
me Lita called me.
Plans are to
start Tuesday or
Wednesday 8/30-8/31
will call me late 8/29 if
date becomes firm.

8/29/83 - 1200
Reviewed column set-up w/ B. Cassidy
Downwind area samples
Pointed on dumpster on NW corner of project.
May require 3 area samples
Plans are to complete removal in one day

DUP 0507874

DU 003980