



ESCAMBIA PLANT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: E. A. Primeau

Date: August 6, 1974

From: J. P. Hesler

Copies: ~~R. E. Jones~~
J. E. Greasel

Re: PVC Time & Motion Studies

Attached are 10 copies of my report covering recent time and motion studies on operators in the PVC department. I am sending you all the copies so that you may make distribution to interested parties.

Recommendations which would lead to lower VCI exposure levels to employees are made in the report as well as recommendations regarding labor saving steps or improved procedures.

As you know it was decided not to cover the 11 - 7 shift in view of the fact that the 7 - 3 and 3 - 11 shifts furnished basically the information sought.

The individual time and motion studies appear at the back of this report.

Jack
J. P. Hesler

JPH:aw

attachments

AP00034719

R. E. Steigwalt
F. J. [unclear]

Vinyl Chloride Air-Pollution Limits To Be Established by Environmental Unit

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter
WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency said it will establish air-pollution standards for vinyl chloride, but an agency official said a formal proposal on the cancer-linked gas still is six to eight months off.

Although the standards under consideration are still tentative, they would add 4¢, or one cent a pound, to the price of polyvinyl chloride, the white resin produced from vinyl chloride that is used in thousands of plastic products, the EPA estimated.

EPA administrator Russell Train announced the decision to limit vinyl-chloride emissions into the atmosphere after an EPA task force found that industrial sources may be releasing over 200 million pounds of the gas into the atmosphere each year. The task force concluded that emissions from the nation's 15 vinyl chloride monomer plants can be cut 80% and from the 37 plants that use the gas to make the polyvinyl chloride resin, by 75%.

Whether to regulate emissions from the

8,000 facilities that fabricate polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, into a wide range of plastic products hasn't been decided yet, the EPA added. These fabricating plants account for only about 5% of the total vinyl chloride released into the air.

Vinyl chloride has been under government scrutiny since last January when B. F. Goodrich Co., the nation's largest producer of PVC resin, reported that four workers at its Louisville, Ky., plant apparently had died of a rare liver cancer. Reports of other worker deaths and the high incidence of cancer in laboratory rats exposed to vinyl chloride has strengthened medical suspicion that the gas can cause cancer. Independently of the EPA action, the Labor Department's Occupational Health and Safety Administration currently is considering toughening its vinyl-chloride standards to protect workers inside plants.

When the EPA sampled the atmosphere around selected vinyl-chloride and PVC plants earlier this year, none of the vinyl chloride concentrations detected were as high as the 50 parts per million considered dangerous to health. However, agency officials believe some of the levels measured left too narrow a safety margin for persons living close to the plants.

Bernard Steigwalt, the EPA deputy assistant administrator in charge of developing air-quality standards, said industry, in

addition to meeting vinyl chloride ceilings, would be required to undertake additional maintenance, adopt new processing practices and install additional equipment. Assessment of the needed requirements and other technical questions will take six to eight months, Mr. Steigwalt said.

According to the EPA's preliminary calculations, compliance with control requirements will require vinyl chloride and PVC producers to make capital investments totaling about \$80 million and spend \$10 million in annual control costs. Some of these outlays already are underway, though, either by companies acting voluntarily or to meet the Labor Department requirements already in force, the EPA said.

R. E. Steigwalt

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