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Environmental Control at the Berlin Plant

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

I have established, and would like to outline to you, a program for improving environmental control conditions both inside and outside the Berlin Plant.

A report was compiled by the Aetna Life and Casualty Company on industrial hygiene at the Berlin Plant. The survey was made on April 27, 1967 and reported by B. R. Roy, one of Aetna's Industrial Hygienists. The conclusion of this report was that we had an excessive dust condition in the flatware department, in the molded pipe stripping area, and in the batch house. Since that time there has been a great improvement in the dust collection efficiency in those areas. At this point, I do not feel this Aetna report is valid and for this reason, I have been following the program outlined below:

A. Overall Program

1. At the time of the Barrington Environmental Control Presentation, Sam Thomas agreed to come to Berlin and work with me to develop an overall approach to environmental control at our Plant. This was in July of this year.
2. In a phone conversation with John Vyverberg the week of August 12, he agreed to supply information on J-M's experience as well as our experience with applicators in the field. Also, we agreed to meet at some time in the near future to discuss this information. This phone discussion with Mr. Vyverberg was primarily directed toward asbestos and its effect on health.
3. Sam Thomas visited Berlin the week of August 12. He and I established the following program and timetable:
 - a. As soon as possible, Dr. Bennett would come to Berlin and sample the exhausts of the SID cylinders, evaluating the difference between oil and not-oiled molds and what particulate, if any, and excessive ph, if any, exists in the effluent exhausted from our SID process.

August 27, 1968

Environmental Control

- b. A meeting was set up for August 29 between Mr. Bradley of Bradley Associates, Dr. Konzen and Sam Thomas to review and outline a detailed program for analysis of environmental control of both inside and outside the Plant.
 - c. At the time of this meeting, we will establish when Bradley would make his preliminary investigation. Bradley's investigation with the resultant recommendations would be reviewed by Sam and myself to determine the overall program for corrective action.
 - d. Answering of community complaints will be handled by the Plant. We will investigate and record each complaint and review with the individuals the fact that there is a program in progress and Owens-Corning Fiberglas' attitude toward environmental control, citing Barrington as an example.
4. Dr. Bennett spent the week of August 19 sampling the SID stacks. The preliminary results look good, but it is necessary to improve the sampling procedure before any conclusive data can be collected and a formal report written.

B. Immediate Action Programs1. Housekeeping

The plan is to establish programs based on conclusive data from both Dr. Bennett's and Bradley Associates' surveys of both inside and outside the plant. In the interim, we have undertaken immediate correction in the areas we know to be a problem. They are as follows:

- a. The primary source of the general dust condition in the plant is the dirty floor condition. This results from waste material falling off the trains during handling. This past several months, we have established two programs to upgrade general floor sweeping, (1) we have had the vendor in to look at the equipment. Based on his operating and maintenance recommendations, the equipment is now doing an adequate job of removing the dust up from the floor. (2) We have established a program for training sweeper operators in the use of the equipment, and have restricted the use of the equipment to these trained operators. Also, we have established a schedule whereby the sweeping is done a certain number of hours every day, not on a hit or miss basis.

Further plans are to investigate a small push vacuum sweeper that can be used in cleaning corner areas.

Currently the main floor area has much improved, and as

August 27, 1968

Environmental Control

as a result, the fork lifts do not stir up as much dust in their tracking through the plant. It is necessary, though, to improve scrap and waste in the corner areas to further reduce the dust level.

It is also extremely important that thorough sweeping be done at least once in every twenty-four hour period. In order to assure this, we will recondition our second floor sweeper so that there is always one available in the Production area.

2. Under Evaluationa. Dust Collection

Currently we are using dry dust collectors. We will have a wet dust collection system on #3 Line which should give us direction on further equipment. (Is the scrubber route more effective than the current dry bag system?)

b. Flatware Finishing

The current dust collection system on the flatware finishing line is a great improvement and I feel further studies on this line will show that the dust collection is adequate.

c. Batch Mixing

We do have dust collection systems in this area. Additional bulk handling systems would greatly improve this area. We currently have two systems and a third one in the process of being ordered. We now handle cement and silica by these systems and will be handling lime. Further bulk systems should be installed even if the material cannot be bought in the bulk form. If the bags could be fed into a bulk system once a day, we could isolate the dust and control the atmosphere. Then the totally enclosed bulk systems would eliminate dust in the batch area. I have made plans to review this overall batch mixing area with Phil Klein and come up with a general overall recommendation.

d. Mold Stripping

In August we installed an air stripper to keep the wet mud from the sides of the molds. This will reduce the amount of scrap in this area and improve the house-keeping condition. This is the worst housekeeping area in the plant and needs a fresh look at the waste collection system.

August 27, 1968

Environmental Control

We will be working with General Engineering in the near future to establish a program to improve conditions in this area.

In conclusion, the program is broken into two parts, (1) Sam Thomas to define and locate the problem and the extent of the problem so that action can be taken in these areas: (2) upgrade, with help of General Engineering, the systems, particularly in batch mixing and mold stripping.

As concrete plans and timings develop in these two areas, I will cover you with any reports stating these timings and plans.

PHS/jmw