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EPA Sets Rules For Producers Of Vinyl Chloride

Air Emissions of Chemical Used in Cancer-Linked PVC Must be Cut 80%

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency adopted air-emission standards for plants making vinyl chloride and two related chemicals.

The agency said the standards, first proposed last December, would require an 80% cut in air emissions of the cancer-linked chemicals.

The standards would require the 58 existing makers of vinyl chloride and two sister compounds, ethylene dichloride and polyvinyl chloride, to install about \$198 million of pollution-control equipment, according to the EPA.

Vinyl-chloride gas is used primarily in the plastics industry to make polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, a plastic that is widely used in consumer products and construction. It has been linked to a rare form of liver cancer found among PVC workers. Also, studies have found that the wives of PVC workers have a higher-than-normal rate of miscarriages, and that birth defects of the central nervous system occurred more frequently in three Ohio communities where PVC is made.

Major PVC makers include a B. F. Goodrich Co. unit, which reported in January 1974 that several of its employees had died from liver cancer linked to exposure to the vinyl-chloride gas. Other major makers include Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Tenneco Inc.

The EPA said a total of 4.6 million people live within five miles of the 58 plants.

The Society of the Plastics Industry Inc., based in Washington, said the new standards are strict but that the industry "pledges its best efforts to comply."

The plants have 90 days to meet the new EPA standards, but can apply for an extension of up to two years.

The agency said concentrations of the chemicals in the air around the plants ranged from one part per million to three parts per million in 1974-75. The new standard would reduce that by 90%, or to around 0.1 to 0.3 parts per million.

There weren't any significant changes in the standard from the EPA's original December proposal.

Both Goodyear and Goodrich, headquartered in Akron, Ohio, and Diamond Shamrock Corp., a Cleveland-based oil and chemicals and gas concern, said they plan to comply with the EPA standards.

In Dallas, Robintech Inc., a maker of polyvinyl chloride pipe and fittings, said it already has begun adjustments to bring its facilities within the EPA standards and intends to carry out its previous plans. It said the cost of such adjustments has already been budgeted.

World Bank, Affiliate Set Loans to 2 Nations

Peking Television Expected to Focus

By ROBERT KEATLEY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WASHINGTON—China's new leaders apparently plan to explain themselves to the world tomorrow morning.

In an unusual move, Peking Television has notified Communications Satellite Corp., or Comsat, that "important TV programs are planned to be broadcast world-wide by Peking Television" tomorrow and Monday. The half-hour broadcasts will be transmitted from Peking's two ground stations to Comsat satellites and can be received by Comsat clients, which include American television networks.

In New York, officials of the three major television networks said they planned to receive the broadcasts, edit them and use them in regular news programs if they are newsworthy. Live broadcasts aren't planned.

U.S. officials believe the broadcasts will be the first official explanation from China of the recent purge of so-called leftist, or radical, politicians. They also expect Peking to announce its new Communist Party and government leaders following the ouster of Chiang Ching, the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, and other senior officials.

A party central committee meeting is under way in Peking, presumably to fill vacancies caused by this leftist purge and recent deaths of several aged leaders. Some diplomats don't expect the meeting to end before Monday or Tuesday, but the Peking telegram to Comsat—received here yesterday morning—indicates enough decisions have been made so that major announcements can be broadcast.

Announcement Anticipated

For several days, Chinese officials in Peking have been telling foreigners that an official explanation of the purge and the naming of new leaders would come soon.

The surprise purge, which became known last week, removed Chiang Ching plus the No. 2, 4 and 7 men from the Communist Party's ruling politburo. All were considered to be ideologically to the left of the survivors and were more concerned with political campaigns to remake human nature as prescribed by Chairman Mao than with orderly economic growth.

They gained high office during the 1960s' "great proletarian cultural revolution," a nationwide campaign against bureaucracy and elitism, which Chairman Mao thought threatened his visions of China's future. The campaign also brought much economic disruption, angering many ordinary citizens, and saw the humiliation of many established officeholders. These officials apparently sought both their old jobs back and revenge against the fast-rising "helicopters" who displaced them, and they have finally succeeded, now that Chairman Mao isn't around to protect the leftists.

Chiang Ching and her colleagues have been charged with plotting a coup against China's premier and new Communist Party chairman, Hua Kuo-feng. Poster campaigns in major cities and street demonstrators in Shanghai and Peking are demanding stern punishment for "the gang of four," as they have been dubbed. These four, plus lower-ranking leftist followers, are believed to be under arrest.

Only one new appointment, that of Mr. Hua to the senior party post replacing