

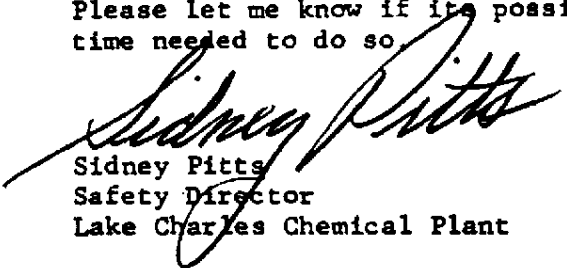
Interoffice Communication

To D. D. Zimmer
From S. F. Pitts
Date May 16, 1978
Subject Benzene Content - NPE Unit Streams

The proposed OSHA Benzene Exposure Standard, expected to become effective later this year excludes materials containing 0.1% or less benzene. This means only that parts of the anticipated standard such as labeling, routine exposure measurements, and parts of the medical surveillance will not apply.

In order to determine our ultimate obligation when the standard does become effective, we need to develop data on the benzene content of various streams in the Normal Paraffin Unit. Currently, we normally know the total aromatic content of these streams.

Please let me know if its possible to develop this data and the estimated time needed to do so.



Sidney Pitts
Safety Director
Lake Charles Chemical Plant

maa

cc: RDG-RHG-JLE

*Responsive to RPOD
11; 1 page*

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MCD 000011912

To: Plant Safety Directors
Benzene Coordinating Committee

From: D. K. H. 7/21/77

Subj: Benzene

This was published in "Occupational Safety and Health Reporter" 7-14-77 and is sent for your information.

Benzene

GAO WARNS OF POTENTIAL HAZARD IN USE OF RESIDUAL OIL FUEL, URGES OSHA ACTION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration should give "prompt attention" to a potential benzene hazard among workers in power generation and steam-heating plants, the General Accounting Office urged on July 5.

In a letter to Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, Gregory J. Ahart, director of the GAO human resources division, reported that a GAO investigation had found two leukemia-related deaths among workers at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va. Both workers had been employed at the facility's powerhouse, where a residual fuel oil called "number six fuel" is used.

Ahart noted that according to information supplied by the Defense Department's Defense Logistics Agency, the amount of benzene in a batch of number six fuel was "about one-half of one percent by weight."

"Although we are not concluding that there was a relationship between exposure to benzene or the other substances which may be found in number six fuel and the two leukemia-related deaths, we believe the evidence of adverse effects of benzene alone is enough to prompt attention to this matter," Ahart declared.

Both deceased Medical Center employees, Ahart noted, worked in the powerhouse for over 20 years. One died of an acute intracerebral hemorrhage, myelogenous leukemia, and the other from a hemorrhage resulting from the subacute myelogenous leukemia. Medical records indicated that traces of benzene were found in the latter employee's blood, according to a GAO official.

A 1973 survey by Medical Center industrial hygienists conducted after the death of the second employee, concluded that "the second employee's problem was not due to exposure to chemical vapors in the work environment," Ahart related. However, he noted, there apparently was no testing for benzene, or taking of air samples.

In January 1977, at GAO's request, an OSHA industrial hygienist surveyed the powerhouse, took air samples, and analyzed a sample of number six fuel for benzene. GAO found that:

- Air samples taken in the general working areas of the powerhouse showed that benzene vapor concentrations were less than one part per million, although samples taken at fuel filters indicated concentrations exceeding 60 ppm.

- Fuel oil samples indicated a benzene concentration of about one-tenth of one percent by weight.

- Employees who cleaned the fuel filters wore either no gloves or cloth gloves only, so that they "frequently" got the fuel on their hands, arms, and clothing.

- Powerhouse employees were not participating in any medical surveillance program, according to the powerhouse foreman.

Corrective Measures

In a subsequent discussion with Medical Center officials, Ahart stated that OSHA industrial hygienist recommended the use of synthetic material ation system, and prohibit overhouse.

GAO "observed that signs and cautioning employees to use protective equipment in use and in-quirements for protective equipment to Ahart.

occupational exposure to benzene which may be found in residual fuel oils, and which may be created by other residual fuel oils,

be included as a potential hazard for during OSHA's investigation," he added. Number six fuel by power generation plants its use "could cause if appropriate safeguards

Ahart noted that OSHA in April issued an emergency benzene standard that was to have become effective May 21. However, the standard was stayed temporarily by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, a stay, still in effect (Current Report, May 26, p. 1587). A permanent benzene standard was proposed on May 27, hearings on which are to begin July 19 in Washington, D.C. (Current Report, June 2, p. 3).

MCD 000011913

f - benzene

Responsive to RPOD
8 (Trade Documents
re: Benzene)

7 PG.

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FEB 22 1979

Interoffice Communication

To R. D. Gamblin
From R. E. Lehmkuhl
Date February 16, 1979
Subject CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

Please forward the following information as soon as possible, but no later than February 28.

1. How many regulated areas remain in plant?
2. When do you expect to deregulate the areas?
3. What kind of dosimetry functions are followed?
Type used, badge, bag, etc.
How often is personal dosimetry done?
How many personnel checks each time?
4. How is area monitoring accomplished?
How many points are checked?
Is monitoring continuous?
What is the maximum permissible level of methyl chloride/benzene at LCCP?
What is the action level TWA?
What is the OSHA or EPA standard?



R. E. Lehmkuhl

REL:dem

*Responsive to Art #
8 - Benzene Samples
(graph - last sheet)*

4 sheets

MCD 000011914