

Tenneco Chemicals
A Tenneco Company



P.O. Box 849
Pasadena Texas 77501
(713) 479-3411

December 12, 1978
(JWK-94-78)

Texas Air Control Board
8520 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78758

Gentlemen:

Attached is the Rule 7 form required by your office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at
713/479-3411, Ext. 427.

Sincerely,


James W. Kachtick
Asst. Manager, Environmental
Engineering

JWK/cjm
Attachment

cc: Mr. C. E. Farnum - TACB (Region 7)
Harris County Pollution Control Dept.
City of Houston Dept. of Public Health,
Air Pollution Control Program
Mr. C. E. Crain
Mr. C. S. Stutts
Mr. R. L. Churchwell
Mr. L. L. Bird

TEN 1450

REPORT FORM FOR NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR MAJOR U. S. PLANT (RULE 7), PLANNED MAINTENANCE (RULE 8), START-UP OR SHUTDOWN

MSL Account No. _____ Region _____ (This line for State use only)

Company Name Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.

Plant Location 4403 La Porte Road

Mailing Address P. O. Box 849 City Pasadena State Texas Zip 77501

Owner, Operator or Responsible Management C. E. Crain/L. L. Bird

Telephone Number 713/479-3411

Nature of Unit or Process Affected (and Other Processes Affected, if any) PVC Unit

Inclusive Dates if for Shutdown and Start-up _____

Time and Expected Duration of Excessive Emissions 11:00 p.m. 12/2/78 - 8:00 a.m. 12/3/78

Reason or Cause: Maintenance ☐

Major Upset ☒

Explanation _____

See attached sheet

Level of Emissions (give basis for estimate): Physical and Chemical Composition, Rate, Concentration, and Duration

Approximately 1,100 lbs of VCM, which evaporated in the flare knockout drum and

were burned over a nine hour period.

Measures (to be) Taken to Minimize Quantity and Duration of Emissions: The automatic pressure control valve

closed when the pressure in the reactor dropped below its set point.

Measures (to be) Taken to Prevent Recurrence (if not determined yet, give date when measures will be submitted)

A major investigation has been initiated to determine the cause of the power failure

and the reasons why the emergency backup power system did not function properly.

Appropriate action will be taken on the basis of the findings of this investigation.

Date, Time, and Means of Notification (letter, telephone, etc):

Executive Secretary _____

Regional Office December 2, 1978 11:45 p.m. telephone

Local Program Same as above

Date

Dec 12, 1978

Signed

C. E. Crain

REPORT FORM FOR NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Explanation of Excessive Emissions:

A power failure occurred in the PVC plant at 8:52 p.m. on December 2, 1978. Because some of the emergency backup power systems failed to function properly, the controls as well as an accurate monitoring of the PVC plant operating conditions were lost.

As a result, it was necessary to inject polymerization terminator into one PVC reactor manually to stop the reaction when it began to develop high pressure and temperature.

At about 11:00 p.m., the pressure in this reactor increased to the set point of an automatic pressure control valve, designed to prevent overpressuring of the reactor. This valve opened, releasing VCM to the flare system. It remained open for approximately ten minutes.