



Lake Charles VCM Plant

CERTIFIED MAIL #657133

CERTIFIED MAIL #657133

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 31, 1980
October 31, 1980

Conoco Chemicals Company
Conoco Chemicals Company

A Division of Conoco Inc.

P.O. Box 605

Westlake, Louisiana 70669

(318) 491-5211

(318) 491-5211

Ms. Adlene Harrison, Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, TX 75270

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The following is a report of two relief valve discharges to the atmosphere at the Conoco VCM Plant in Westlake, Louisiana as required by Section 61.65, Part 61 of the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants, Standard for Vinyl Chloride. Two relief valve discharges occurred during a plant startup: the first discharge was on October 24, 1980 and the second discharge was on October 26, 1980. At approximately 5:45 a.m., October 24, a Caustic Decanter overpressured due to a valve misalignment and its relief valve discharged for not more than three minutes. At approximately 1:30 a.m., October 26, the Quench Column overpressured due to an emergency shutdown on a cracking furnace and its relief valve discharged for not more than one minute. There was no employee exposure from either discharge.

The Caustic Decanter relief valve discharge was from a 3x4 Consolidated Type 1905-30LC relief valve with a set pressure of 115 psig. The Quench Column relief valve discharge was from a 6x10 Consolidated Type 1910-30RC relief valve with a set pressure of 150 psig. The Consolidated Relief Valve Catalog No. 19003, Page 47, was used as the reference for determining the amount of the discharge. The Caustic Decanter relief valve discharged approximately 2,500 pounds of vinyl chloride to the atmosphere during a 3-minute period. The Quench Column relief valve discharged approximately 5,475 pounds of vapor including 1,990 pounds of vinyl chloride to the atmosphere during a one minute period.

Corrective action was immediately taken to remove the cause of the Caustic Decanter overpressure by opening a block valve to correct the valve misalignment.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this report or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

J. A. DeBernardi
Plant Manager

is

CC: Gus VonBodungen - DOW

BCC: REL-CRH-JHN-VAM-GLF-PLF-DLD-JWW-JCL-JGC

CCR 000023598