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Lake Charles VCM Plant

CERTIFIED MAIL #8090987
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTEDConoco Chemicals Company
A Division of Conoco Inc.
P.O. Box 605
Westlake, LA 70669
(318) 491-5211

ROUTE TO:	_____
COPIES TO:	_____
FILE:	LCVCM

May 31, 1983

Gus VonBodungen
Air Quality Div.
Office of Env. Affairs
Dept. of Natural Resources
P O Box 44066
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. VonBodungen:

A variance was granted to the Conoco Chemicals' VCM Plant in Westlake, Louisiana from the control requirements of Section 22.8 of the Air Quality Regulations for the period of five days beginning May 7, 1983 and ending May 12, 1983. The variance was for the initial startup activities (mixer tests and initial startups) associated with the commissioning and initial operation of the Conoco VCM Plant's Oxygen-based Oxychlorination Unit.

A total of five sets of mixer tests were performed with total miscellaneous hydrocarbon emissions (ethylene) being 17.43 tons. There were four attempts to start-up the new reactor system. An automatic shutdown occurred during each of the first three attempts. On the fourth start-up attempt the unit remained in operation with all systems operating properly with the exception of the purge gas dryer system. The purge gas stream from the Oxygen-based Oxychlorination Unit must be dried before it is processed in our Direct Chlorinator. The purge gas was therefore vented through our vent scrubber until the drier system problem was resolved and then the gas was routed to the direct chlorinator. The unanticipated dryer system difficulties caused the fourth startup to account for 90.5% of our total 34.87 tons of emissions that occurred during the initial start-ups.

Table I shows a summary of the actual emissions. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Bryan at (318) 491-5062.

Sincerely,


J. A. DeBernardi
Plant Manager

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cc: Joe Withers - DNR

bcc: ESW-BIR-JCL-JWW-MLA-RB-DLD-MGH-MWC

VVC 000014070

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF EMISSIONS

<u>Components</u>	<u>Mixer Tests(1)</u> <u>(Tons)</u>	<u>Initial Oxy (2)</u> <u>Startups</u> <u>(Tons)</u>
Miscellaneous Hydrocarbons	17.43	33.23
Vinyl Chloride	0	.02
Miscellaneous Chlorinated Hydrocarbons	0	.46
Carbon Monoxide	<u>0</u>	<u>1.16</u>
Total	17.43	34.87 (3)

Notes

- 1) Five sets of mixer tests were required.
- 2) The unit was operating properly after the fourth attempted start-up.
- 3) The fourth (final) start-up accounted for 90.5% of the total startup emissions.

VVC 000014071