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B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company

a division of The B.F. Goodrich Company

LONG BEACH PLANT
P. O. BOX 9077 • 2104 E. 223RD STREET
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90810

November 1, 1974

629-4711 4300 105
974-7411
Air Pollution Control Districts
County of Los Angeles
434 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

Attention: Mr. Ralph E. George, Director of Enforcement

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with your letter of October 18, 1974, we have called your office about an abnormal discharge of vinyl chloride which occurred yesterday, October 31, 1974 at about 11:15 AM. The discharge lasted about fifteen minutes, a full report of which follows.

Because of a series of improper communications, one of our polymerization vessels was allowed to overheat. Abnormal pressure was thus created inside the vessel so that the relief hardware was activated and an estimated 2,000 pounds of vinyl chloride was discharged through the vent stack into the atmosphere over the building about 40 feet above ground level.

The vessel was immediately put on vapor recovery and as much vinyl chloride as possible was routed through recovery equipment. In this way, a maximum amount of the VCl was prevented from being released. Stationary monitors in the area of release showed the maximum concentration on the roof to be 18 ppm VCl during the incident.

Better communication means between operators and maintenance people have been instituted as a result of this incident. It is believed that a recurrence of this type will not happen.

Equipment is being designed to be installed at our plant so that even abnormal venting as occurred in this instance can be fully contained. Also equipment is being purchased to warn of higher than normal pressure so that action can be taken before venting occurs.

Please let us know if there is any other information you desire.

Very truly yours,

B.F. GOODRICH CHEMICAL COMPANY

W. D. Robb

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Technical Manager

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