

Xerox copies to:

A. Vittone
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K. Greene
P. J. Weaver
R. B. Downey
E. M. G. Zwicker
G. Fox
J. Wilcox
W. Harrington
a. Waltemate
R. P. Kenney-A. L. Hatfield-C. R. Flynn

This afternoon our plant is releasing the following
statement to the news media:

"B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company today reported
that an employee of its Louisville plant has been diagnosed
as having angiosarcoma of the liver.

"The diagnosis is based on a surgical biopsy performed
this morning.

"The employee is the third now living with the disease.
Six former employees have died with this rare form of cancer.

"The worker, now 43, joined B. F. Goodrich in 1955 and
for most of his 19 years with the company, he has worked as a
reactor cleaner in PVC production."

November 6, 1974

Industrial Relations Department

PLEASE POST

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BFG02878



B. F. GOODRICH CHEMICAL COMPANY
a division of The B.F. Goodrich Company

The Pedricktown Communicator

In order to keep you fully informed of the latest developments in the vinyl chloride PVC situation, the following information is being made available.

A letter was received from the National Institute of Safety and Health by the B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company this past week. The letter from NIOSH made various recommendations to the B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company for reducing exposure at the Louisville Plant. They also asked the Manufacturing Chemists Association (MCA) to make similar recommendations to all other PVC manufacturers.

Although we feel that the levels of vinyl chloride in our working environment at this plant are very low, we still want to follow and implement the recommendations made by NIOSH to the Louisville Plant. In conjunction with this communicator, a list of procedures will be issued on Monday to be implemented as soon as possible. In addition to that, other recommendations made by NIOSH will be implemented as soon as practical. Some of these recommendations are as follows: (1) consumption of food should be permitted in lunchrooms or designated areas, only; (2) general housekeeping should be maintained at a high level; (3) protective clothing and gloves should be worn as appropriate in PVC operations where exposure justifies.

We are implementing as soon as practical the issuing of work clothing and insistence on personal hygiene. This may take the form of mandatory showers at the end of each work period. Some of these things, of course, will take a little time because of our limited shower room facilities. Work is underway to implement these facilities. It may be necessary to stagger starting times in order to eliminate shower room congestion. When new facilities are completed, we would then revert to the regular schedule.

We will continue to monitor the environment as we have been doing in the past and ask you to continue with the fine cooperation you have demonstrated in the reduction of vinyl chloride leaks and reduction of dust in the drying and bagging areas. We are all interested in working in a clean environment and I know your full cooperation will be forthcoming. These rules will apply to maintenance, as well as direct process, personnel.

A. R. Webber

nj
2/8/74

PRIDE
VISION
COMMUNICATIONS

BFG02879

20283001

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

Subject	<u>OSHA INSPECTION</u>	Date	11/8/74
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The Henry Plant was inspected on November 5th. and 6th. by three Federal Compliance Officers. Their main interest was VCl exposure. They were very complimentary about our Safety Program.

Citations are as follows:

- (a) An alpha methyl styrene drum on the third floor of the Poly Building did not have a ground strap on it.
- (b) One stack of skids in the PVC Warehouse was leaning excessively.
- (c) Housekeeping deficiency on the third floor of the Poly Building because hoses were left on the floor in walk ways.
- (d) When the sample analysis is complete we will know if a citation will be received on excessive VCl exposure.

(a, b and c above have been corrected)

Fifteen personal samples were taken with a Model SP-1 Sipin personal sampler pump and charcoal filters. We duplicated all samples exactly and will have our own results before we receive the OSHA report. Three samples each were taken on the following people: (a) two pearl charge operators, (b) one paste charge operator, (c) the PVC tank farm operator, (d) an operator doing housekeeping in the Dryer Building.

General discussion topics involving no citation are as follows:

- (a) Approximately ten PVC operators had private talks with Mr. Knarr. He was impressed favorably and commented on their good attitudes toward safety and thought they were well informed on things in general.
- (b) Any bulk PVC should be covered or removed from the area (Poly Building).
- (c) The PVC build-up which is being chipped from the valves

20284001

contains quite a lot of VCI. We will do personal monitoring on these people.

- (d) The inspectors were favorably impressed with our operating procedures in general but felt we needed to do a better job of implementing them.
- (e) Noise measurements were taken but no mention was made of this in the wrap-up session.

If anyone has any questions involving this inspection, please refer them to me.

Ray Ehle,
Safety Engineer

RE:blw

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BFG02881

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

*W. J. Wilcox
Plant Comm*

November 7, 1974

*** TOWELS ***

Following the decision to continue the work clothing program, it now seems appropriate that the furnishing of bath towels be resumed effective Friday, November 8th. Please use these towels with discretion and deposit them in containers provided.

C. B. Cooper

CBC:vck

20285001

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BFG02882

To J. Williams
152

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

November 1, 1974

- WORK CLOTHING -

Effective Monday, November 11, the policy of providing daily change of work clothing will be changed to allow a minimum of three changes per week for those employees presently being furnished clothing. Those employees whose job assignments may require four, five or six changes per week will be allowed this number of changes. Supervisors should inform Don Laible by Thursday, November 7, of any of their employees who do not wish to continue having clothing furnished.

A supply of shop coats will be available.

C. B. Cooper

CBC:vck

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20286001

To J. Winters file

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

October 28, 1974

**** WORK CLOTHING ****

The new permanent standard issued by OSHA neither requires nor recommends daily change of work clothing in industries using Vinyl Chloride.

Effective today the policy of requiring that sleeves be rolled down and buttoned will be changed to mean that sleeves must be rolled down and buttoned when working around dangerous moving equipment, uninsulated steam lines or when there would be a change of burns from chemicals. The plant policy of requiring shirt tails "tucked in" remains in effect. The necessity of requiring shop-coats is eliminated.

C. B. Cooper
C.B. Cooper

CBC:mm

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BFG02884

W. J. Wiley

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

October 3, 1974

Subject: GOODRICH STATEMENT ON OSHA STANDARD

AKRON, Oct. 2 -- The B.F. Goodrich Company said today the record of hearings conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not support the necessity nor the feasibility of the permanent standard for exposure to vinyl chloride (VC) in the work atmosphere of VC and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plants.

Goodrich said its comments are based on a preliminary analysis of the permanent standard which was announced Tuesday afternoon by OSHA.

The Company said it intends to continue all plant operations and also seek further reductions in the low levels of VC exposure achieved through intensive efforts over the past several months.

Goodrich said it will do whatever is required to sustain its operations, but the company intends to seek legal review of OSHA's final standard.

OSHA's standard, effective Oct. 4, has three phases. The current exposure limit of 50 parts-per-million (ppm) will continue until Jan. 1, 1975.

Thereafter, the standard will require that VC exposure levels be reduced to one ppm averaged over any eight-hour period and five ppm averaged over any period no longer than 15 minutes.

For higher exposure levels, the standard requires that employers provide certain respiratory devices for employees, but OSHA says the wearing of respirators, until Dec. 31, 1975, "shall be at the discretion of each employee for exposures not in excess of 25 ppm." The use of respirators will be mandatory after Jan. 1, 1976, whenever VC exposure exceeds the allowable levels of one and five ppm.

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Goodrich said these levels were established arbitrarily and are not supported by the record of OSHA hearings conducted in February and this summer.

Technology to attain these levels does not exist today, Goodrich said. Therefore, the full-time use of respirators by all employees would be required in 1976.

There was ample evidence submitted by industry and other expert witnesses at the OSHA hearings this summer, the company pointed out, on the impracticality of using respirators on this basis.

Goodrich said it has already lowered the average VC exposure levels in its plants from 35-40 ppm early this year to an average of 12-13 ppm. This is acknowledged in OSHA's review of its permanent standard.

The Company said it has reached the point where additional improvements come harder and take longer to achieve.

It is not a question of economics, Goodrich said. These efforts have the company's highest priority.

The challenge now, the company's statement continued, is to develop and prove out new technology which, of course, cannot be predicted nor scheduled according to an arbitrary timetable.

Efforts will continue, the company added, to enable Goodrich to meet the steadily growing demand for the numerous applications of PVC, many of which are vital to the national economy.

Goodrich is committed to achieving the lowest practicable exposure levels for vinyl chloride as quickly as this is technologically feasible.

20288002

W. J. Wilkey

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

May 24, 1974

PROGRESS IN REDUCING VCL EXPOSURE

As you can see from the attached chart, our efforts to reduce the Vinyl Chloride in the Henry Plant working atmosphere have been successful. The Vinyl Chloride in the air of the Poly Building is now less than one fifth what it was four months ago!!! That is a tremendous improvement and many people contributed to this accomplishment. But, we won't stop here.

The present OSHA standard allows a maximum of 50 parts per million of Vinyl Chloride in the working atmosphere. The proposed OSHA standard required "no detectable level". Our Plant immediate goal is 10 ppm with further reduction as fast as we can improve techniques and equipment. Hearings are planned and BFG will participate in providing the facts to establish a reasonable permanent standard.

I am attaching for your information a News Release on this subject.

C. B. Cooper

CBC:vck

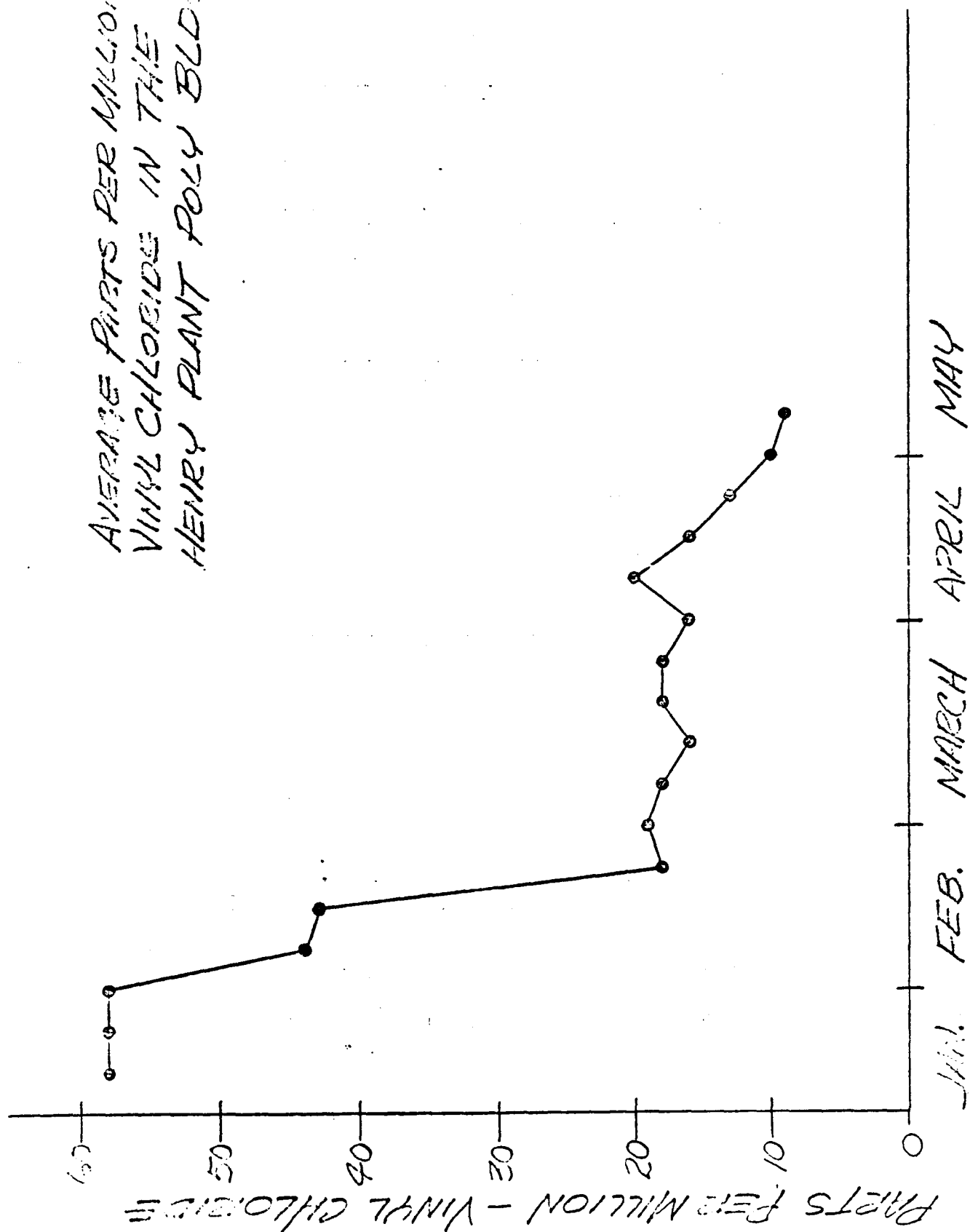
Attach - 2

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AVERAGE PARTS PER MILLION
VINYL CHLORIDE IN THE
HENRY PLANT POLY BLDG.



1974

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NEWS RELEASE FROM B.F.GOODRICH, DATED 5/23/74.

Akron. --The most intensive research and development program in its history, a multimillion dollar program in which more than 100 scientists, engineers and technicians are working to develop new technology, was announced today by B.F.Goodrich. Aim of the program is to reduce to the lowest possible level losses of vinyl chloride and thus, reduce exposure in manufacturing operations.

"Time is required to break technological barriers, to engineer, build and install new equipment", Anton Vittone, President of the Company's Chemical Division, said, "but incremental improvements can be expected on a continuing basis as our research and development efforts identify improvements that can be made in our plant operations".

"We are working on several programs on a six day and even seven day per week basis with our most capable, dedicated and highly skilled people".

"These programs include moving toward a more automated 'closed' system, which we believe will substantially reduce vinyl chloride losses and exposure".

A careful, in-depth analysis of the proposed permanent Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard relating to worker exposure to vinyl chloride is being made by the company. According to Vittone, "The proposed standard of no detectable level of exposure does not appear to be possible with the current state of technology and, if imposed, could displace not only the 6,500 vinyl chloride monomer and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) production workers, but also hundreds of thousands of other employees in the companies which use FVC.

"Industry, labor, government and the scientific community must continue to cooperate to make the most of our time and resources. All of us have a stake in the outcome of these efforts to assure the safety and well-being and continued employment of hundreds of thousands of workers".

"Given time we are confident we can develop the technology to assure safe limits without an undue disruption of jobs", Vittone concluded.

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B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company
A DIVISION OF THE B. F. GOODRICH COMPANY
GENERAL CHEMICALS PLANT

R. R. 1, Box 15

Henry, Illinois 61537

February 24, 1974

To: All Henry Plant Employees -

Many of you and your families are already aware of recently instituted and continuing testing of plant facilities and people with regard to exposure of our employees to chemicals.

I feel that it is proper to more thoroughly explain the various considerations that have been taken in recent weeks.

Only a few weeks ago the B.F. Goodrich Company voluntarily advised Governmental Agencies of their concern over an unusual number of cases of antiosarcoma. This is a rare type of liver cancer, presently involving only long time employees of the Louisville Plant.

In an effort to check upon the general health of employees at all BFG plants involved in similar operations, our Company decided to institute voluntary blood tests of all employees. This test is known as an Admitting Chemistry Profile (testing 14 constituents of one sample of blood). This is similar to that given prior to hospital admittance. Results of these tests will be made known to each individual tested.

Other recommendations of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are in process of being instituted in our other BFG Chemical Plants. As a part of this activity, on a trial basis we will soon begin to provide work uniforms to all of our plant operational people and their direct supervisors. Each employee involved will be issued several sets of trousers and shirts, and it will be required that these be worn in plant operating facilities. This will involve daily changing to this clothing, and require the taking of showers at the conclusion of the work day for most of our people.

Let me emphasize that this is on a trial basis at the present time, but it is being done to enable us to better provide clean and safe working conditions for all employees.

We will continue to keep you informed.

C. B. Cooper
C. B. Cooper

CBC:vck

... in pursuit of excellence

BFG02890

20290001

W. J. Wilkey

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

February 20, 1974

I received the following information this morning from our Cleveland headquarters:

"The Company has temporarily reassigned 15 Louisville plant employees to jobs without exposure to Vinyl Chloride or other chemicals associated with the polymerization of Vinyl Chloride. This was done upon the recommendation of medical authorities after blood retesting continued to show abnormal liver function results, and is precautionary in the interest of health protection".

The blood tests run so far have not indicated any serious problems at this plant. I will give you information when they are all completed.

Charlie Cooper

CBC:vck

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Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

February 19, 1974

We wish to inform our people that as soon as arrangements can be completed we will institute a "Trial Period" of furnishing work uniforms and requiring mandatory showers for all of our wage employees and all of their immediate supervisors. This is being provided in an effort to comply with recommendations of The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) made recently to other PVC Plants.

Work uniforms will consist of trousers without cuffs and long-sleeve shirts and enough sets shall be provided to allow the use of a newly-laundered uniform daily. Locked compartments for the storage of clean and dirty uniforms in the plant shower facilities will allow the issuance of individualized uniforms with different color combinations to most departments.

These uniforms will remain the property of the Henry Plant and shall not be removed from the premises. Exceptions to this requirement are employees leaving the plant for direct plant business or in event of injury or emergency.

Plant policies will soon be finalized to set forth the various considerations of these conditions of plant employment.

An explanatory letter shall be mailed to employees homes to explain these and other recent developments concerning our efforts to safeguard our employees health.

Representatives from the Chas. Todd Company will be in the plant Wednesday morning and Thursday to measure employees.

C. B. Cooper

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20292001

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

February 18, 1974

VINYL CHLORIDE EXPOSURE

Saturday afternoon I learned of another case of liver cancer at the Louisville Plant. This makes five known cases.

The new case was a man who died of other causes in 1964 and an autopsy showed some liver cancer. There are other investigations underway which may lead to further information which I will pass on to you as it develops.

All of the cases have been people working at the Louisville Plant and people who have worked in "cold rooms" where Vinyl Chloride levels are normally a thousand or more times greater than the normal exposure in our Plant.

Charlie Cooper

CBC:vck

20293001

Management COMMUNICATOR

Henry Plant

February 15, 1974

The Following was Released to the Press Today:

Washington, Feb 15--B.F. Goodrich recommended today that new safety standards and work practices for the greater protection of employees in Polyvinyl Chloride production operations should be developed through regular rule-making under Section 6/B / of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Anton Vittone, Jr., President of B.F. Goodrich Chemical, a Division of The B.F. Goodrich Company, detailed the firm's views in a statement prepared for a fact-finding hearing conducted here today by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The hearing was called following the Company's reports last month that it had discovered and was investigating the possible occupational relationship of the death of four former Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) production employees from a rare type of liver cancer, angiosarcoma.

"Our discovery of four deaths from a rare type of liver cancer among employees at our Louisville plant was, to our knowledge, the first evidence indicating a possible relationship between human angiosarcoma and hydrocarbons used in the production of Polyvinyl Chloride resins" Vittone added.

The four men were employed at the Company's Louisville, Ky., PVC operations. They were long-service employees with an average exposure of 19 years to Vinyl Chloride and other secondary chemicals in PVC production.

Vittone emphasized that the Company's efforts to maintain a safe working environment over the years have "resulted in decreasing levels of exposure with time".

He said the Company independently and through the Manufacturing Chemists Association had stepped up its precautionary safety activities and research after European studies indicated that tumors could be produced in rats at exposure levels far above those prescribed for PVC plant working conditions.

Through these and other safety efforts Vittone added the Company has reduced exposure levels in all its PVC operations below 50 parts-per-million, equivalent to five one-thousandths of one percent weight in the air, on a time-weighted average.

He said this improvement was made through the use of new equipment, safety education for employees and the Company's development of advanced monitoring systems.

Upon discovery of the four deaths of angiosarcoma of the liver, Vittone said he and other top Corporate Officers "inspected the Louisville plant to observe current work practices and exposure levels".

As a result of these inspections and consultation with medical advisors he added the Company concluded that "the existing situation warranted continued operation of the Polyvinyl Chloride facility".

The current situation was also discussed with plant employees, Union representatives and Government officials he added.

The veteran chemical manufacturing executive said Goodrich "will do all it can to protect the health and safety of its employees".

He said the Company has reliable monitoring procedures which are being improved and that most interim work practices recommended recently by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health are being implemented at the firm's five PVC plants and one Vinyl Chloride production facility.

Vittone also said the Company's medical representatives are working closely with Government and other medical authorities to specify the best possible medical screening and testing procedures for PVC production workers.

He also reported that the Company and its medical consultants are analyzing the results of an extensive liver function testing program among all its PVC workers.

Vittone said it would be premature to report specific results or to provide any statistical analysis of the correlation with chemical exposures until a medical review is completed.

Vittone said the Company has found no other cases of angiosarcoma in its preliminary review of available medical records of deceased employees and retirees from the Louisville plant and the company's other Polyvinyl Chloride and Vinyl Chloride monomer production facilities. This review is continuing.

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