



ESCAMBIA PLANT

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1974

To: Mr. E. A. Ray

Date: 12 March 1974

From: W. C. Wilde

Copies: J. T. Barr

T. L. Carey

R. Fleming

Re: Personal Monitoring for VCM
Exposure at Pace Plant

J. D. Kramer

A. K. McMillan

E. A. Primeau

G. B. H. Speed

R. R. Spiegelhalter

M. Sterman

Three portable sampling systems have been received and are now being used for personal monitoring of VCM levels at the Pace Plant. After an initial period of debugging, it was found that the battery life was only 3 to 4 hours before a 16 to 20 hour recharge was needed. This is the same battery life experienced at Calvert City with identical equipment. To increase the utilization of these instruments a purchase order has been placed for 6 more batteries and 3 more chargers.

It was expected that the operators exposed to the highest VCM levels would be the utility, recovery and solutions operators. The utility operators clean reactors, blind and unblind them, and do most of the washing out; therefore, we expected them to experience higher exposure levels than other operators. The initial round of samples showed:

Utility Operator

27 ppm VCM

Solutions Operator

8 ppm VCM

Recovery Operator

6 ppm VCM

This data confirmed our expectations, and it was decided that the initial testing program should concentrate on the utility operators.

The next two samples taken on the utility operators showed 14 ppm and 180 ppm. The 180 ppm reading was taken during a three-hour reactor cleaning period. As a result of this unexpected high reading, the following steps were taken:

- 1) The man's supervisor was questioned and he said that normal entry procedure was followed.
- 2) It was impossible to contact the employee directly, he walked off the job without giving notice. His final paycheck is being withheld until he is questioned about possible unusual conditions.

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- 3) Based on this one high (180 ppm) analysis, our entry procedures were modified to require the shift supervisor to check each reactor prior to entry with the Century portable analyzer. We have been reluctant to require this since the Century has not yet received UL approval for use in hazardous areas.

The monitoring of utility operators has continued and the results have ranged from 5 to 88 ppm. The average for all utility operators to date (including the 180 ppm) is 51 ppm.

Our program is to continue to monitor the exposure levels of the reactor cleaners to the exclusion of the other operators. We expect to have a good set of base data for the cleaners within one week. At that time our monitoring program will be extended to include the other operators.

W. C. Wilde
W. C. Wilde.

WCW:bp

Enclosure

AP00005865

Telecopy To: Mr. J. T. BARR

Personal Monitoring
for VCM Exposure

Operator's Job Title	Operator's Name	Date	Sampling Time		Shift Taking Sample	TWA VCM level
			Start	Stop		
Solutions	J. Sumnerlin	3/6/74	10:30 AM	1:30 PM	7-3/"D"	8 ppm
Recovery	A. Collins	3/6/74	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	3-11/"A"	6 ppm
Utility	F. Henderson	3/6/74	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	3-11/"A"	27 ppm
Utility *	F. Henderson	3/7/74	4:30 PM	7:00 PM	3-11/"A"	14 ppm
Utility *	Martin Carroll	3/8/74	12:00 AM	3:00 AM	11-7/"B"	180 ppm
Utility	Henderson	3/8/74	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	3-11/"A"	17 ppm
Utility *	Berry	3/9/74	10:30 AM	1:30 PM	7-3/"C"	14 ppm
Utility *	Henderson	3/9/74	3:30 PM	6:30 PM	3-11/"A"	69 ppm
Utility *	Henderson	3/10/74	1:30 AM	4:30 AM	11-7/"B"	88 ppm
Utility *	Berry	3/10/74	10:45 AM	1:30 PM	7-3/"C"	74 ppm
Utility *	Henderson	3/10/74	4:30 PM	7:30 PM	3-11/"A"	5 ppm
Utility *	Watson	3/11/74	2:00 AM	5:40 AM	11-7/"B"	23 ppm

* Operator was in reactor cleaning during sampling period