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European Chemical News, September 25, 1971
marketing information

BP names Italy in hdPE dumping application

BP Chemicals has now included Italy in its anti-dumping application on high-density polyethylene imports currently before the UK Department of Trade and Industry.

BP's initial application mentioned only the USA and Japan as sources of the low-priced material. Exclusion of Italy from the original application is believed to have been largely a matter of pre-EEC entry protocol, the delay being caused by a DTI notification to the EEC Commission in Brussels on the dumping charge.

Japan de-toxicates PCBs with U-V

Two Japanese research bodies have announced successful attempts to almost completely de-toxicate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) by means of ultra-violet rays.

One of the bodies, the semi-governmental Institute of Physical and Chemical Research, dissolved 0.2 grammes of PCB and 0.07 of a metallic sodium in 10 millilitres of 2-propyl alcohol, then bombarded the solution with ultra-violet

The company has had little to say on the prices and levels of Italian material currently entering the UK, but reports from Italy maintain that all the Italian producers have been active exporters to the UK.

BP is still believed to consider US material as the most disruptive of the three in its UK markets, and claims to be selling at the rate of only around 25,000 ton/year, to a potential UK market of 65,000 ton/year due to heavy imports. Representations to the DTI on the case must be made by October 6.

rays from a 6-watt mercury lamp. All chlorine was precipitated as sodium chloride and a near-complete result was obtained in six hours and 40 minutes of operation.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Technology Centre conducted its research on a larger scale and obtained an almost complete result on 1.96 grammes of PCB with a 100-watt mercury lamp in 15 minutes.

OECD area output drops sharply

The OECD chemical industry continued to show expansion rates more rapid than industrial output in general in 1970, but production rose by 5 per cent compared with 10 per cent in 1968/69. The US where production rose by only 1.7 per cent, was the main influence in bringing the overall average growth rate down.

This is one of the points in the OECD report on the chemical industry 1970/71.

The report, which is 188 pages long, notes the supremacy of oil-based feedstock. It reports that the trend of greater expansion in the output of aromatics rather than the aliphatic hydrocarbons continues. Inorganic chemicals showed a fall-off in growth rate, although in general the alkali industry made reasonable progress in 1970. For example, production of chlorine/caustic soda rose by 18 per cent in Japan and rather less than half that in Western Europe.

The fertilizer industry was particularly sluggish during 1970; production of nitrogenous fertilizers in Western Europe fell by 1 per cent, and there was a marginal fall in the production of potash fertilizers. On the other hand,

utilizers rose by 7 per cent and in Canada by 27 per cent. OECD, *Publishers' Office, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775, Paris, Cedex 16.*

Shell commissions phenol unit

SHELL Chemicals has commissioned its new phenol plant at Stanlow, Cheshire, UK.

Capable of producing 100,000 ton/year of phenol and 60,000 ton/year of acetone, the plant was constructed by Kellon. A BP Chemicals process based on cumene oxidation is used.

Some months after his announcement of the phenol plant in 1970, Shell Française stated its intention to construct a 100,000 ton/year cumene unit at its Pauillac refinery, near Bordeaux, France.

Due on-stream in mid-1972, the French cumene unit is scheduled to supply cumene to Stanlow for phenol production. At the time of going to press, it was not known if the French unit was yet in production, but Shell is likely to have secured alternative sources of cumene for some months.

Japanese to make PVC sheet in UK

TAKIRON Chemical and two other Japanese companies are to set up a joint venture near Cardiff, Wales, UK, to manufacture PVC sheets.

A new company, Takiron UK, is to be established in Cardiff with an initial capital of £150,000, owned 60 per cent by Takiron and 40 per cent by Itoh and Chugai Boeki. The facilities, which will be completed by end-1973, will use PVC resin supplied by ICI.

Major markets for the products will be sought within the EEC.

Another Canadian plea for polyester quotas

The Canadian Textile Institute has again asked the Ottawa Government to urgently impose quotas on polyester filament yarn imports.

Yarn prices in Canada have fallen to 82 cents/lb, down from \$1.75/lb in 1967. Textured yarn prices are only 30 cents more, although the institute says that its costs are 45 cents/lb.

The Institute has asked Ottawa to restrict imports to 13m, lb./year, half from Europe and half from the "low cost countries."

Steelley and NL agree holdings in Abbey Chemical

AGREEMENT has been reached between Steelley and NL Industries on new arrangements for their joint venture, Abbey Chemicals Ltd., which manufactures a range of *Bentone Gellants* used by the paint, plastics, inks and adhesive industries.

Steelley's holding in UK-based Abbey Chemicals will be reduced from 48 to 30 per cent and Steelley will acquire a 30 per cent holding in the West German company, Bentone Chemie GmbH, which has recently built a new plant at Nordenham, near Bremerhaven, to manufacture a similar range of products to meet higher German demand.

In addition to the UK and West German plants, Steelley and NL Industries, through Abbey Chemicals, holds a 48 per cent interest in the French company, Bentone-Sud SA.

No more Dutch natural-gas export contracts

The Netherlands has decided to conclude no further contracts for the export of natural gas, according to a statement by Mr. Langman, the Dutch Minister for Economic Affairs, contained in his introduction of the draft