

Interoffice Communication

To J. H. McCulley - Ponca City

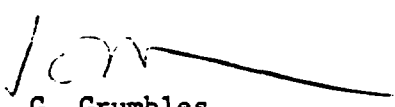
From T. G. Grumbles

Date March 20, 1980

Subject PVC DUST EXPOSURES

Recent health studies of PVC dust exposed workers indicate adverse pulmonary effects may be caused or accelerated by PVC dust inhalation. A summary of this report prepared by CMA is attached, as well as the SPI statement on the study results. As a result of this study and other published reports, OSHA has assigned a project officer to PVC dust. In the past this step has resulted in promulgation of a standard. PVC dust exposures currently fall under the OSHA respirable dust limit of 5 mg/m^3 for an 8-hour time-weighted average. A specific PVC dust standard if promulgated would result in a lower exposure limit.

We are now taking steps to evaluate worker exposures to PVC dust at Aberdeen and Oklahoma City under existing conditions. Once those results are obtained we will determine if existing controls are adequate to meet current exposure limits as well as anticipated lower exposure limits. If necessary, specific recommendations to reduce worker dust exposure will then be made, consistent with plant design philosophy. We will of course keep abreast of OSHA's activity in this area.


T. G. Grumbles

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Attachments

cc J. F. Alix ~
R. E. Baily
R. J. Ruesch
John Friend ~
R. D. Gamblin
J. A. DeBernardi ~
E. L. Kieschnick
Greg Hoenes