

B.F. Goodrich

from

PUBLIC RELATIONS

B.F. Goodrich

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 am
Monday
FACIT 405 672-0505
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AKRON, Jan. 23 -- The B.F. Goodrich Company today reported that it informed Kentucky health officials and the Federal National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health that the Company is investigating whether the cancer deaths of three employees in the polyvinyl chloride operations at its Louisville, Ky. plant were related to occupational causes.

Dr. Maurice N. Johnson, the Company's director of environmental health, said he had recently received medical reports concerning the death of an employee late in December. A review of medical records uncovered that two other employees had apparently died from the same cause -- one in September, 1971 and one in March, 1973. The reported causes of death are subject to verification, he added.

"Awareness of this grouping," said Dr. Johnson, "warranted a thorough investigation and prompt notification of the two government agencies most directly concerned."

The B.F. Goodrich Company has been conducting programs to reduce exposures to hydrocarbons, particularly vinyl chloride, throughout its operations. While all plants were operating at levels well below those prescribed by Federal government standards, a successful effort has been made to reduce levels in these plants to approximately one-tenth those specified.

(more)

VVC 000004244

48 sheds at Fairville, oldest plant -
ventilation not as good as other, exposure greater than other plants.
No evidence in other plants.

Door take plant - live function tests.

PVC, copolymer, ethyl methacrylate, vinylidene chloride.
the ABS, etc.

May be the 1st & 2nd oldest plant in US.

Keegan Full plant's shut down several yrs. ago, now looking at records.

Reporting 55 abnormal, will run 270 from BD-Park area.

(All abnormal in 4 right hand cell, Betty's room most, for
No routine examination at Plant.

Stopped tracking EDC.

Employees at Fairville
As much detail as possible.

Other plants
Houdout release, then hold out. Go with as much detail
as needed. Employees told by R. May not do it. Come
Fairville with notes etc.

Customers - have no info, too much speculation. Will get release.

Water problem not product problem.

Epidemiology Study - how far, etc. - NIOSH and Comm Society.

Systemic effect, not verified. - Did not get down 100+ cases.

No lung effects.

If detoxify, in liver, etc.; could be metabolic product of VC. Problem not due to polymerization
in liver - lung could not handle. PVC in rat liver in Europe.

VCN usually stored in waste and effluent. Not all accounted for.

How do you exclude people with minor liver problems, which is normal.

Keep people out and VC in. EPA will not allow to put it in air as solution.

Century very good weapon.

Century not fully accepted by WHO, Insurance, Conditionally accepted. How to change that.

Carbon monoxide, pumps unavoidable.

Looking for color reaction with VC or reagents, etc.

In Fairville, TWA 15-20 ppm. Some specimens above 50 ppm. Varies by temp floor
level, etc. Much lower in summer (windows open) higher in winter. Based level 6 in Tennessee.
Emergency level 20. How to hold in Fairville, getting there.

Accountability at Graham near 90%, when going. WA 5-6% low, 77% is still a lot.

Prevent emission, do not let out of slurry. Old plants difficult. New valves, better pipes, other way
to purge rather than H_2 .

Final Report - mention Feb report on 2/20.

VVC 000004245

These efforts have included development of the most sophisticated monitoring systems now known; strict rules on procedures where exposure might be increased; a complete checking of all pipes, valves and similar equipment to prevent leaks, and extensive improvements in ventilation systems.

"The death in December, considered in relation to the two previous similar cases, has caused us to initiate intensive investigations throughout the vinyl products operations of the Company," Dr. Johnson said.

"To be sure we get the best independent evaluation and guidance, the Company has engaged Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc. of Berkeley, Calif. Dr. Irving R. Tabershaw, one of the country's foremost experts in the field of public and occupational health and safety, is supervising the work of this consultant firm," Dr. Johnson said.

The Company has instituted a program of explaining the new information and steps the Company is taking to all employees involved in vinyl products production. In addition, the Company has put into action a program to reduce exposures to vinyl chloride and other hydrocarbons to the minimum possible in all vinyl operations. Operations of the plants are continuing under the program of minimum exposure levels.

"We are providing medical examinations to all employees involved in any phase of vinyl chloride or polyvinyl chloride production and reviewing available medical records of any deceased former or retired employees," Dr. Johnson said.

"We have assured officials of NIOSH and the state of Kentucky that we will continue to provide them with any significant new information as it develops," he said.

Dr. Tabernash -

To confirm Goodrich story -

This study does not show anything yet.

As of 1/4 4400, 1600-1800 near 10% in Voss plant.

12 deaths, 102 d. certificates furnished. Expect 30-40 more deaths. At this time still do not see a trend that needs to be refined. Simple cases & some unusual things. Cardiac, cancer, etc.

5-6 cases have not had autopsies. May be difficult to say anything -

Jensen's carcinomas vs liver damages

3 angiosarcoma in 2 yrs is of supreme indicator. 2200 live cases death, less than 1% of this type. Would expect 21-22.

Expect. Answer is 40% to angiosarcoma. Is very rare.

Two major groups. Thrombotic -

Heavy metals - As mentioned. In Portugal, only ones seen in thrombotic.

Really a tumor of the lining of blood vessels, not of liver. Can appear in other organs there.

Clinical description - survivors early, then massive change, die 5-6 mos.

No good ways to diagnose. Could do liver biopsy. Can do scans. SMT-12 might help.

Epidemiology will not be equivalent to findings to date.

Toxicology - indicates Voss common denominator -

Issue of relating Jensen - slow acting, time element, av. is 75 yr. exposure.

Clinical cases suspected by Johnson also 72-25 yr.

There is one man who has only 7 years (Geach's clinical impression is damn this path). Liver poly operator.

Must face issue of reaminations.

Johnson - Harriet ICI did share MOST the European data. Without European data, epidemiology, and Goodrich data, would have been "hysteria." There could be a co-factor, but no evidence. Clear - not something developed.

271 implant Tumors 400 (Tabernash team has not yet included in study).

Barker deaths not related -

November report has everything.

Johnson - 2, 3 & 4 under suspicion. Another case, transferred to another part of plant.

All had worked in polymerization section at one time. 4 Bldg., 10 yr. in Bldg, then in Air Bldg.

Was a frequent end. Amount of exposure quite variable. No hard cases in this group.

Did have AOL at this plant. 48, 38, 58, 43 death age. 24, 10, 29, 19 yrs of service.

Could occur in liver, brain, the longer it goes, the more diffuse.

Forming to liver, multi foci, lead to some problem.

None of present suspects have AOL.

Out of 55 only 1 had AOL problem. Two upper GI bleeding. Clinical description is common.

AOL - long exposure 15 yr. Occasional very short time, brown.

VERBAL STATEMENT RELEASED UPON REQUEST -- 1/23/74

A team of experts from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the Center for Disease Control will visit a Louisville, Ky., plant of The B.F. Goodrich Company tomorrow to begin an investigation of health hazards involved in the polymerization of vinyl chloride.

The team will begin its work in response to an alert from the company which reported one case of liver cancer and three cases of angiosarcoma, a rare type of liver cancer, among polymerization workers at the plant.

Dr. Marcus M. Key, director of NIOSH, said the Institute also will step up its effort to determine the extent of the disease in the United States and in foreign countries with similar manufacturing processes.

At a later date, Dr. Key said, NIOSH will transmit criteria for a health standard to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the Department of Labor.

Under a 1970 law, NIOSH is responsible for health effects research and criteria used by OSHA to set and enforce standards for protecting health and safety at the workplace.

In the interim, Key added, NIOSH will work with OSHA and the key Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the industry and involved workers to develop stringent work practices for use in the polymerization processes.

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VVC 000004248

Goodrich

Primary exposure near VCM.

D.M. Johnson - Lammell - summer '73, indications of higher incidence of liver problems. Suggested liver function testing. Took survey exposure to VCM. 271 people. SMA12 tests. Collected results - some 55 had abnormalities (least bit out of normal). 4 deviations + liver function late November.

Def. & Mas. Dr. said two had angiosarcoma in spring '73 and '71. Greatly concerned. Rechecked everything, slides, exposure, etc. - having of European results, very concerned. Hired Taberham - began to do much more in-depth study. Industrial hygiene, third party. Talked to Gov. agreed to much more detail. in 1/15. On 4/6, got med. results of autopsy, 500 ppm. Sunday, Monday he checked plant. Must report to state, 48 hr, and NIOSH. McNeill, Kay, Bass, Fairchild, etc.; they want solid scientific results. Kay told state, don't jump!

Had to tell People. Prepared for sit. mgt to sit down and explain situation. Prepared press release to make sure facts weren't distorted.

15 yr, 20 yr, 25 yr. Another primary liver tumor in '68. Not confirmed as angiosarcoma. NIOSH will setup committee. Release indicates work-practice procedure.

June '73 - 500 ppm VCM standard 200 AEGH. Could go to 50.

Must reduce to below 50 ppm. Recommended ambient & continuous monitoring - Now has Standards group for design. D. Switzer - plan to visit '73 - had been monitoring plant on periodic basis (Bill McCormick). Ben got member below 500 ppm. No cause for concern, Cancer or EDC. Used GLE in grab sample. FCC, low for VCM + others. After various sampling program in '73, noted high degree of variability, including excursions into high levels. Increased act. in industrial hygiene. Got complete audit of available equipment.

Write Switzer for Ben. Week 7/4 6100 Oak Park Blvd Cleveland, Ohio 44131, Odo level 250 ppm dependent on 1000 ppm B.F. Goodrich.

VCM does not diffuse rapidly once released. If leak adherent fan, it goes down toward path to fan. Ambient sample no good. Now testing everywhere in all plants with portable unit. Identify each trouble spot for permanent location. Will continue to use portable. TWA would be less than 50 ppm. Are running now 50 ppm on TWA basis in all plants, after buttoning up. Believe have good now, when properly maintained & calibrated, can get to levels. Valve glands, reactor gaskets, etc. where were expected leaks. Quite good. If other HC in area, must use GC to make correction. Have couple of plants now running in 20 ppm on TWA.

Someone will do Epidemiology Study. NIOSH, etc. Costs for Comm. Disease more looking, FDA, Case Inst. C.T.C. Nelson Ind.

FDA & film, etc. Sec. Standards, DOE very interested - Mammal set for temporary standard.

Work Practice Standard & Environmental Standard. Problem of air pollution, plant pollution etc. Must set a limit.

Must have profound scientific approach to what is a carcinogen.

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POSITION STATEMENT

CONOCO CHEMICALS

We are aware of a meeting recently between NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) and MCA regarding vinyl chloride. Animal tests are in progress to determine effects of long term exposure to vinyl chloride vapor. There is also an epidemiological study in progress to determine any health effect upon people who have worked with vinyl chloride. Both studies are followed diligently by Conoco Chemicals. It is premature to reach any conclusions since the data are very preliminary at this time.

VVC 000004250