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## Emissions decrease vastly at Vista Chemical Company

Vista Chemical Company's Aberdeen operations' emissions reported under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) decreased 44 percent from 1987 until 1992.

And while plant production increased 13 million pounds from 1991 to 1992, total emissions held steady during the same period.

Under SARA, chemical companies tell federal and local governments about any of a list of 300 chemicals they emit to the air, land or water. Vista's Aberdeen plant uses eight of the listed chemicals.

"Since 1987, we have targeted lead and vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) for emissions reductions because they comprise the majority of our hazardous emissions," said Bob Seymour, plant manager.

In 1991, the plant installed a \$60,000 lead handling system. Instead of arriving in 50-pound, single use bags, some of the lead now arrives at the plant in 2,000-pound supersacks that are returned to the supplier to be refilled. Residues in the 50-pound bags represented a large source of lead

emissions.

To decrease the plant's VCM emissions, the plant uses a system that removes or "strips" the VCM from the polyvinyl chloride in the reactor before the reactor can be opened to transfer the PVC slurry to the dryer area.

It takes months to calculate the numbers that must be reported under SARA. Results for a given calendar year are not reported to the Environmental Protection Agency until July of the following year, so 1992 numbers are the most current.

"We'll continue to work to reduce the impact we have on the environment," Seymour said. "Taking care of the environment is one of our top priorities."

Vista's Aberdeen plant began operation in 1963. Its main products, recyclable polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins and flexible compounds are used to make a wide variety of consumer and industrial products including wire and cable coatings, vinyl house siding, pipe and pipe fittings and window and door frames.