

file

Exposure to vinyl chloride cited

Goodrich workers file claims

By DENNIS POLITE
Louisville Times Staff Writer

At least a dozen workers at the B.F. Goodrich Co. Bell's Lane plant have filed workmen's compensation claims against the company because of their exposure to vinyl chloride.

Two of the claims were dismissed by the compensation board and have been appealed to Jefferson Circuit Court. The others are still being considered, according to John Frith Stewart, attorney for the men.

Stewart said he also has filed a death claim with the board, linking a worker's death to his employment.

B.F. Goodrich said it would have no comment.

Goodrich uses vinyl chloride in the

manufacture of polyvinyl chloride, a major ingredient in plastic.

Six former Goodrich workers have died of a rare cancer, liver angiosarcoma. The cancer is suspected of being caused by exposure to vinyl chloride over long periods of time.

Workers John Steven Sharp, 24, and Samuel T. Gose, 48 filed a claim with the compensation board asking \$84 a week for the rest of their lives and medical expenses and dependent benefits.

The workers' claim, according to officials at the board, said they had an occupational disease caused by their work.

The company filed a motion asking that the case either be dismissed or that the workers file medical reports with their claims, as required by law.

Stewart said he filed such records. A board spokesman said they were not filed, and the case was dismissed.

A motion for reconsideration also was overruled by the board.

The workers also claimed they were under the care of the plant doctor.

Stewart said Gose had worked at the plant 23 years as a chemical operator. He said Sharp was a chemical helper.

The suit in Circuit Court asks that the dismissal action of the board be reversed and the claim be heard on its merits. The case has been assigned to Judge E. Skiles Jones.

The suit alleges the dismissal was an "abuse of discretion" on the part of the board by its failure to grant the men a hearing.

Stewart said Gose had abnormal blood tests and was removed from his regular job for a time by the company. He has been returned to that job now, Stewart said.

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Vinyl workers contest ruling

Two employees who say they have contracted "an occupational disease" from exposure to polyvinyl chloride are challenging the dismissal of a claim they submitted to the Kentucky Workmen's Compensation Board.

The men, Samuel T. Gose and John Steven Sharp, have filed separate suits in Jefferson Circuit Court, saying that they got the disease while working at B. F. Goodrich Co.

The suits do not specify the nature or the extent of the disease.

The suits say Gose and Sharp submitted claims for \$84 per week for the rest of their lives, and for medical expenses and some benefits for their dependents, but that the claims were dismissed by the compensation board without a hearing.

Both men ask that the court reverse the board's order and send the case back to the board for a trial.

The cases were assigned to Judge E. Skiles Jones.

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