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From: Dr. A. B. Steele      Subject: Vinyl Resin Operations  
Flash Report

Vinyl Chloride Monomer

OSHA Standard

Since the Court of Appeals did not respond to the Government's Motion of a clarification of the language of the Stay of the effective date of the OSHA Standard nor to our statement in opposition by January 1st, it now seems unlikely that the Court will make any special effort to rule on the motion in the near future. Since all parties agreed that the Emergency Temporary Standard remains in effect, the only issue is the matter of the 90 day lead time following the Court's decision on the Petition for Review.

The fact that a Federal Register Notice, scheduled to issue concerning the interim variance procedure, was never published would seem to indicate that the Department of Labor silently agrees that the matter of temporary variances is now a dead issue.

EPA

EPA must at some point commit itself to utilize one or another of the various provisions in the law which give it authority to regulate vinyl chloride emissions. The choice appears to be narrowed either to Section 111 or 112 of the Clean Air Act. The choice is an EPA policy decision and SPI via Keller and Heckman is attempting to determine what industry might do to aid EPA in formulating a proper decision. Once the policy and legal parameters are drawn, the EPA Committee of the VCM and PVC Producers group will be able to address the technical aspects within the context of the approach EPA decides to employ.

Training of personnel at 514, as required by the VCM Standard, continued with completion scheduled for next week.

Canister gas masks, manufactured by MSA and Scott Aviation, have been approved by NIOSH. Thirty masks and 400 canisters have been ordered.

Suspension/Non-Solvent Resins

December production was 13.4 million pounds of suspension resin and 1.8 million pounds of non-solvent. Monomer efficiency was a record breaking 95.2 percent. It is premature to say that this is now par for the course but it may well be that all of the measures taken to improve efficiency and reduce personnel exposure to VCM have come together and the operation is now actually seeing this as expressed by a significantly improved monomer efficiency.

UCC 095347

January 16, 1975

Specialty Resins

Chewing gum base resin production was 109% of plan. L. A. Dreyfus has delayed shipment of all orders for January.

The Conversion Agreement with Cellofilm to make PVAc Solutions for Border will be allowed to expire at the end of the first quarter and manufacture will be resumed at Charleston.

Solutions production was 28% of plan.

A. B. Steele

ABS:ml

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