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Interoffice Communication

To R. D. Gamblin
From Douglas Michels
Date September 16, 1974
Subject Tank Car Dip Tube Emission Reduction at Shell

The following information was obtained through a conversation with Mr. John Gognatz of Shell Chemical Company's Norco VCM Plant.

1. Shell does not own any of their own VCM tank cars. The tank cars are supplied either by rental or from customers.
2. Because of the above, Shell has not considered modifications to the tank cars themselves. The only modifications they are considering are external to the tank car.
3. Shell uses turbine type totalizing flow meters for tank car loading. They do not have full confidence in these meters and the final tank car volume is always checked with the dip tube.
4. They have tried and probably will adopt use of a liquid-vapor type sensing device which is attached directly to the dip tube itself.
5. Testing for these devices has been done in Deer Park. The Norco plant is now installing a system at one of the spots for testing.
6. They are using a "Sensoll" vapor-liquid detector manufactured by Magnatrol.
7. The vapors and liquids from the sensing device will be sent to a refrigerated vapor recovery unit.
8. They feel direct modification of the tank cars would be far more costly. Unless the industry as a whole adopts this approach Shell will not consider these systems.
9. Shell is requiring use of fresh air at all times for the employees involved in tank car loading.

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