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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES - FEBRUARY, 1979

A three and one half day Conoco Chemicals Industrial Hygiene Seminar, held in Houston, January 23-25, was attended. The primary objective of the seminar was an attempt to answer questions such as: How many samples are necessary; how should the results be interpreted; and how should the data be retained? Speakers included: Dr. Charles Billings, Professor of Occupational Health, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, who spoke on 1) "Perspective: Occupational Safety and Health Act," 2) "Perspective: Toxic Substances Control Act," and 3) "Academic Approach to Sampling Strategy"; Frank M. Parker, Manager of Industrial Hygiene, Tenneco, Inc., Houston, Texas, who spoke on 1) "The I.H. Program," 2) "Transition from NIOSH Model to the Real World," and 3) "Data Collection"; and William D. Broddle, Senior Toxicologist, Continental Oil Company, who spoke on "Industrial Toxicology in CONOCO."

Information relative to Asbestos in Air Monitoring for the various refineries has been supplied to Mr. O. R. Barresi. This covers the dates of the technical service reports which summarize the results of personal sampling data.

Toxicological information relative to n-dibutyl ether has been furnished to Mr. Richard Milling, Process Engineering Department. This included the Properties; Hazardous Potentials of Flammability and Toxicity; First Aid for Inhalation, Eye Contact, Skin Contact, and Ingestion; Spillage and Disposal; and Fire Protection.

A complete up to date summary covering vinyl chloride monitoring of the Ponca City Rail Repair Shops has been presented to Mr. C. B. Cleaver, Transportation. This summary covers a period extending from May, 1976, to August, 1978. In light of the summary, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) A complete monitoring survey should be done every six months to assure that the levels of VCM in air remain safe as indicated by original monitoring reports.
- 2) Gasbadges should be appropriately worn by all workers for monitoring them for the possible presence of VCM in the workplace.
- 3) A copy of the results of all monitoring for VCM in the workplace air and for all personnel should be sent to the Corporate Medical Industrial Hygiene Office in Ponca City.

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Aid was given to Mr. Jess Sodowsky, Safety Director, Ponca City Refinery, regarding the control of bird population in manufacturing units of the refinery. Interest was to use a feed which is pretreated with a substance having a neurological effect. This type of material is furnished through the Avitrol Company and requires a licensed individual to administer the program. Mr. Sodowsky was given names and phone numbers of persons with whom he could consult concerning this problem.

The information supplied in the CONOCO Product Compounding Notebook has been brought up to date with correct and proper insert sheets. In addition, we have obtained the Fuels Specification Sheets for each refinery.

A meeting of the ORC Occupational Safety and Health Group held in Arlington, Virginia was attended February 7 and 8, 1979. The various subjects covered were: NIOSH Criteria Document Evaluation Program by B. G. Bonner, Tenneco; Refinery and Chemical Plant Major Maintenance Shut-Downs and OSHA by J. Rivard, Shell; Enforcement Update by D. K. Mattheis, ORC; The Regulatory Council-How is it Working? by Henry Deal, Division Director, Regulatory Council for Standards and Regulatory Evaluation; The Implementation of OSHA's Lead Standard: Some Problems Associated With It by G. A. Sattelmeier, Chrysler. An Update Report on Current OSHA Health Standards was given by Darrell K. Mattheis, ORC. From this report it was apparent that the Standards Completion Project is still in a very unsettled state. The thought now seems to be to write a broad base type standard with appendixes.

A request has been made to the Louisiana Nuclear Regulatory Board for the amendment to a Radioactive Material License held by the Lake Charles Chemical Plant. This request has been granted and allows the Chemical Plant to obtain and use a 1.5 Curie Cesium-137 sealed source for the purpose of density measurements in processing materials.

The Billings Refinery has been aided in the payment of adjusted fees due for a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Radioactive Material License Amendment. A previous payment had been made at the time an application for Amendment to a Radioactive Material License had been presented to the NRC, however, the category was defined by NRC in a different manner than had been our original understanding.

The Carbon Black Industrial Hygiene Subcommittee meeting held at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marina Hotel, February 20, was attended. The purpose of the meeting was to furnish the Carbon Black Industrial Committee a Personnel Particulate Monitoring Procedure which can be used by the industry to gather data relative to the potential exposure of workers to particulate carbon black.

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Results of the monitoring will be pooled and placed in the hands of a contracted epidemiologist for study.

The seven members present at the meeting were able to complete a monitoring procedure for presentation to the CB Industrial Committee which is to meet on February 21 and 22.

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