

To: Virgil Weiss - R & D, Austin

From: P. L. Fetzner
Date: January 31, 1990

VISTA

Interoffice
Communication

Subject: Biodegradation Test at Pilot Level
in Lake Charles

The proposed pilot plant test as outlined in your letter dated January 30, 1990, was reviewed at the VCM Plant Environmental Update meeting held Thursday morning. The VCM Plant is very supportive of such a study. However, in view of the proposed starting date, it would be our recommendation that R & D schedule a meeting in Lake Charles immediately to discuss the study in more detail and resolve logistic, timing and resource allocation problems associated with the study.

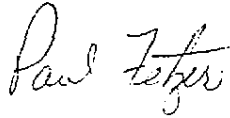
Several potential drawbacks to using the copper basin were raised in our meeting. These were: a remote site, logistics of feed material, disposal of waste material, availability of aerators, no electricity at the copper basin, potential environmental concerns using the basin to treat hazardous wastes.

The size of the open top frac tank given you was too low. We have used a 300 barrel tank, (12,400 gallons), in the plant. The use of such tanks may solve the logistic problems associated with feed and waste streams as the tank can be located by the lagoons. The tank would provide the opportunity for better controls. However, other problems may arise, i.e., aeration would be by a sparging system as an aerator would not fit easily in the tank. Such matters could be discussed in more detail at a Lake Charles meeting.

The VCM Plant laboratory would be able to provide assistance in the analytical area as we have the equipment on hand to conduct the testing. We are,

CWH 000010107

however, manpower limited and depending on the number of tests may need to rely on having outside help to complete the tests. Once the program is outlined and defined, the manpower needs can be assessed.



Paul Fetzner
Chief Chemist

lk

cc: J. Friend, M. Hayes - LCCP
R. Conrad, D. Booth - LCVCM
C. Watson - Houston