

SUN-DEMOCRAT, PADUCAH, KY.

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Emergency Rules Set For Vinyl Chloride

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The Labor Department's Occupational Health and Safety Administration was asked at an inquiry Friday to put emergency standards into effect to protect workers involved with vinyl chloride.

Officials of labor and medical researchers pointed out that 6,500 laborers are now working in the production of vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride.

Chemical industry representatives said there was only circumstantial proof that there is a cancer-link with exposure to vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride.

They urged a slower regulatory approach in dealing with the situation.

The hearing in Washington

was called following last month's disclosure that at least four former workers at Louisville's B.F. Goodrich Co. plant had died of a rare form of cancer. The four had been exposed to vinyl chloride over an average of 13 years each.

After the disclosures at the Louisville firm, federal medical officials declared angiosarcoma a new occupational disease. They tagged vinyl chloride as the probable cause.

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Fifth Goodrich Employee May Be Cancer Victim

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Angiosarcoma, a rare liver cancer, may have killed a fifth employe of the B. F. Goodrich Co., the Louisville Times reported Friday.

The copyrighted story said a 1964 death certificate showed a man had succumbed to "cardiac tamponade and massive left hemothorax (a heart condition) due to widely metastatic angiosarcoma of the liver."

A Goodrich spokesman said records show the employe died of a heart condition but he said the company is making a further check.

Goodrich already has acknowledged the deaths here of four other workers from liver cancer between 1963 and last December. All had worked at one

time in the vinyl-chloride operations.

In the latest case, the man was 52 and had worked for 20 years as a chemical operator.

Goodrich has tested 270 employes who worked in the vinyl-chloride operations and said 55 turned up with liver abnormalities and would be retested.