



INDUSTRIES

PPG INDUSTRIES, INC. CHEMICAL DIVISION - U.S. P. O. BOX 1000 LAKE CHARLES, LA. 70602

January 4, 1990

Ms. Diana Buck
U S Environmental Protection Agency (6W-E)
Water Enforcement Branch
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas TX 75202-2733

Dear Ms. Buck:

RE: NPDES Permit No. LA0000761

In accordance with the NPDES Permit #LA0000761 Part II Section D reporting requirements, PPG Industries, Inc., Lake Charles Plant is hereby submitting the attached report of a mercury permit limit violation which occurred at Outfall 101 on Dec. 27, 1989.

The phone report of a mercury violation occurring December 26, 1989, is to be voided as a flow measurement error has subsequently been found.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (318) 491-4450.

Sincerely,

Mark Wood
Associate Research Chemist

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Attachment

CERTIFIED MAIL (P105 355 996)

SL 026723

NPDES NON-COMPLIANCE REPORT

Company Name: PPG Industries, Inc.
Mailing Address: P O Box 1000
Lake Charles LA 70602
Company Location: Columbia Southern Road
Westlake LA 70669
Permit Number: LA 0000761
Outfall Number: 101
Outfall Parameter: Mercury
Date of Deviation: December 27, 1989
Time of Deviation: 24-hour Composites ending
December 28, 1989 at 7:00 am
Maximum Discharge Limit: 0.51 lbs/day
Limit Deviation: +0.21 lbs/day

Description of Incident:

The Mercury Cell Unit was down during this period due to emergency weather conditions (natural gas demand during extrem cold weather), but the wastewater treatment system was operating. Also, the combined Mercury Cell Sewer downstream of the monitoring locations was being relined. In order to accomplish relining while in use, a portable pump was used to route water around the segment under repair. A leaking storm valve allowed some untreated wastewater to enter the downstream segment under repair. This situation would normally be detected, but the downstream backup sample site was out of service due to repair. This mercury discharge was ultimately found when the portable pump lost prime several times, allowing the normally downstream flow to back up into the NPDES monitoring location.

Upon detection, the leaking valve was tightened, the line plugged, and closure verified with dye checks. Contaminated wastewater was transferred from segments of the sewer system by vacuum truck and portable pumps to treatment.

Although caused by a unique set of abnormal circumstances, recurrence will be prevented by confirming the storm valve is properly seated each time it is closed. This will be accomplished by collecting grab samples downstream.

Phone Notifications: December 28, 1989, by M. Wood

1. EPA, 2:17 pm, Marietta Mount
2. DEQ (Baton Rouge), 2:19 pm, S. Rothman SL 026724