

June 7, 1965

Dr. Will W. Ward
506 Fincastle Building
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Dear Doctor Ward:

Re: Mr. Earl Parks
E.F. Goodrich employee
Louisville, Kentucky

By this time you have received a copy of the May 28 letter of Mr. R.W. McDrell of our Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology Department, in which he advised you that the E.F. Goodrich medical records of Mr. Parks would be reviewed by me.

First of all, the Louisville Plant of The E.F. Goodrich Company is aware of Mr. Parks' illness as it has been reported through the local Medical Department.

Mr. Parks is a first class chemical operator, working in the polymerization area. He routinely handles vinyl chloride and vinylidene chloride. He has worked here eight to ten years and joined the Company on July 26, 1949. Liver function tests were initiated on Mr. Parks on August 5, 1963 because of his working with the above named chemicals. This is routine for all operators handling these materials. The results of the tests that have been made are as follows:

Date Sample Received	Cephalin Flocculation		Thymol Turbidity	Total Bilirubin
	24 hrs.	48 hrs.		
8-9-63	Neg.	Neg.	1.6	0.56
1-29-64	"	"	2.3	0.21
7-15-64 ¹	+	+	12.5	0.4
8-17-64	Neg.	Neg.	16.4	0.4
9-8-64	"	"	9.1 (very chylous)	0.3
2-19-65	"	1+	5.5 (sl. chylous)	0.3 (sl. hemol.)

The results of July 15, 1964 were noted as abnormal and a repeat sample was requested by our testing laboratory. This repeat sample which was received on August 17,

23092001

Dr. Will W. Ward
Re: Mr. Karl Parks
Page 2.

1964, showed improvement of the cephalin flocculation but an elevation in the thymol turbidity. I understand that it was about this time that he was removed from exposure to these chemicals.

On September 8, 1964 the serum was noted as being very chylous and it was thought that perhaps this was because Mr. Parks was on an ulcer diet. Because of the decided drop in his thymol turbidity, it was decided to wait until the time for the next specimen to make a further check which, as you will note, was practically within the normal range. Our tests are such that I must agree with you that this is indeed an obscure case. Certainly, if the liver function tests had remained abnormal, it would be well to consider the possibility that he was receiving some toxic absorption from chemicals with which he was working. Inasmuch as they did not remain abnormal and inasmuch as his liver at operation, did not show any particular abnormalities, the question of cause is certainly not clear.

In answer to your question regarding the toxicity of vinyl chloride and vinylidene, it has been our experience that they are hepatotoxins when exposure is prolonged and high in amount. This is particularly true in the individual who is an alcoholic or who has had a hepatitis from some source.

The reason that The B.F. Goodrich Company does liver function tests on these individuals is that knowing the possible toxicity of the materials with which they are working, every effort is made industrially hygiene-wise to keep the exposures within acceptable amounts. In reality, the tests are made to check the efficiency of the protective equipment. To the best of my knowledge, in this area we have not had any other particularly abnormal findings. On occasions we have removed individuals from possible exposure because of having abnormal liver function tests resulting from other causes. Of course, this is a protective measure for the individual.

May I suggest that for further information, you discuss this matter with Dr. John Creech, the principal B.F. Goodrich physician at our Louisville Plant.

This is an interesting case. Thank you very much for calling it to our attention. I hope that Mr. Parks will progress satisfactorily under your care.

Sincerely yours,

M. D.

Rex H. Wilson, M. D.

cc: Dr. John Creech
Mr. L.C. Crunkelton

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