

Robert L. Lembke, M.D.

Oran D. Staffey

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES - APRIL, 1977

As a member of the Research and Development Isotope Committee, reviews were made for four proposals for use of radioactive materials. All four were found to be safe and with no health problems and were signed as approved.

A rather detailed review was held with Mr. B. J. Williams, R & D Radiation Safety Officer, regarding contracted radiotracer jobs proposed for Production in California. Many relative questions have to do with the integrity of knowledge of the contracting company in the various areas of radiological health and safety and the assumed responsibilities after any initial injection of active materials.

Both the Lake Charles Refinery and the Chemical Plant were advised of radioactive materials leak test due dates. These tests are required on the Cobalt-60 sources and radium sources used by the refinery and the Plutonium-238 sources used by the Chemical Plant at Lake Charles.

Time was spent in talking to employees who work at the Transportation Rail Tank Car Repair Shop concerning the toxicity of a number of materials and the proper handling, industrial hygiene, and safety practices which should be followed.

Trips were made to the Billings and Denver refineries during the week of April 4, 1977, and to the Lake Charles Refinery on April 4 and 5, 1977, for the purpose of making Medical/Industrial Hygiene inspections of these facilities.

Aid has been given to Dr. Massad in reviewing the potential medical needs for Consolidation Coal Mining Research in the use of radioactive sources. A survey sheet will be issued to the various locations which will be used to supply information needed to make valid judgments for these areas of operation.

Discussion has been held with Mr. W. Dean Leslie, R & D Department, relative to medical surveillance of some of the research personnel who are potentially exposed to vinyl chloride. A copy of the vinyl chloride standard was sent to his office and specific areas were pointed out in the standard which have to do with triggering medical surveillance and monitoring.

Aid was given Mr. J. Uptain, Aberdeen Chemical Plant, in regard to an emergency situation where hydrogen sulfide was present in a laboratory.

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The condition had been created by a laboratory worker pouring sulfuric acid down a sink drain allowing reaction within the plumbing and evolution of H_2S into the laboratory and adjacent rooms.

Attention has been brought to an excessive number of medical cases dealing with hydrogen fluoride exposures for employees in the Ponca City Refinery. Mr. O. R. Barresi has been made aware of this condition and aid has been offered for whatever corrective measures might be needed to solve the problem.

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