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SUBJECT: EPA Conducted Compliance Review

With regard to your memo of July 28, TCI has not received, to date, any letters from EPA concerning general compliance inspections. However, as part of the Agency's program to review the vinyl chloride standard, the Pasadena plant was asked to provide specific, VCM+ related information, and prepare for an on-site inspection by EPA representatives and their contractor TRW. Attempts to negotiate an appropriate confidentiality agreement are in progress.

This might be pure speculation on my part but, at the Government Institutes Master's Seminar held last year, an EPA attorney was describing an agency proposal to institute an Audit Program. As he described it, the Audit would be conducted by an outside consultant--

1. Licensed by EPA
2. Paid for by the company

The results of this Audit would be the basis of citation by the agency for non-compliance with any permit, environmental law or regulation, etc. The assumption of the agency is that, in general, because there are so few excursions/violations being reported by industry (primarily, under NPDES requirements), industry must be "cheating". The amount of data requested in EPA's letter suggests to me that this might be a trial run for this type of Audit/Inspection Program.

JPS
J. P. Sandstedt

JPS:cq