

March 23, 1987

DRAFT

Document Control Officer
Information Management Division
Office of Toxic Substances (WH-557)
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

Gentlemen:

This notice is being submitted by Vista Chemical Company in accordance with Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Vista Chemical has recently discovered a previously unsuspected extent of ethylene dichloride contamination (1,2 Dichloroethane, CAS No. 107-06-2) in the groundwater underneath it's vinyl chloride monomer manufacturing plant located in Westlake, Louisiana. A groundwater investigation is currently underway at the plant in accordance with a Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) compliance order, dated March 31, 1986. On March 13, soil samples taken from a boring hole located on the western fence line of the plant property indicated levels of ethylene dichloride in the 0.3 - 1.0 ppm range. Subsequent water samples taken from that boring indicated EDC levels of approximately 0.3 ppm. These results indicate previously unknown lateral migration of contamination at the site.

Vista is continuing to investigate potential off-site migration and potential for human exposure from the groundwater contamination in

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this aquifer. This information will be communicated to the LDEQ as part of the ongoing investigation.

Please contact the undersigned at 713/531-3445 if you have questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Grumbles, C.I.H.
Environmental Quality Manager

ajo

cc W. L. McClain
R. T. Ferrell
J. A. DeBernardi
M. G. Hayes
R. A. Conrad

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TO: D. A. Kuhn

FROM: T. G. Grumbles

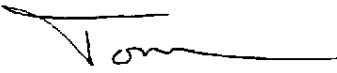
DATE: March 20, 1987

Interoffice
Communication

SUBJ: Progress Report - Biomedical and Environmental Affairs

VIST

1. I visited the Mansfield plant this week to assist in workplace lead sampling and noise dosimetry. TSCA and OSHA compliance programs were also discussed. Lead sampling results should be back in 3-4 weeks.
2. Air sampling results for VCM taken at Greenwood Industries, a Premiere customer, were all below detectable limits. These results, and the PVC safety and health informational material sent to the plant, should help resolve the employee complaints and concerns at that plant.
3. An environmental audit of the methyl chloride, ethoxylation, and N-paraffins units at the LCCP, was completed.
4. A meeting was held with Engineering, the PVC plants, and the VCM plant to coordinate TCLP testing of PVC to be done in the VCM plant laboratory.
5. Joe Ledvina attended the Vinyl Institute Safety, Health and Environmental committee meeting in San Antonio.
6. A meeting was held to review environmental justification for several Baltimore plant capital projects.


T. G. Grumbles

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