



B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company

A DIVISION OF THE B. F. GOODRICH COMPANY

CITY OF CARSON • 2104 EAST 223RD STREET • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90810

A. W. CLEMENTS
PLANT MANAGER

April 23, 1974

Dr. Maurice N. Johnson
Director of Environmental Health
Building 5-H Dept. 0020
Akron.

Dear Dr. Johnson,

We appreciate very much your efforts on behalf of our people to explain and to discuss the medical problem at the Louisville Plant. Your comments were most helpful in allaying their anxieties and apprehensions of such an occurrence at the Long Beach Plant. During the past several months we have held numerous meetings where many medical type questions were asked concerning this situation - questions which we could not answer. As a direct result of your talks with our group these were answered, and many of their fears have been relieved.

It was also fortunate that Dr. Tabershaw was able to attend two of our meetings. This helped to impress on our people the seriousness with which we have been working to solve this problem and to ensure a safe working atmosphere within our plant.

Another important result of your visit was to help ensure the full cooperation of our people with the implementation of the final stages of the NIOSH recommendations. Our staff people were particularly impressed that you were able to take time from your busy schedule to visit Long Beach before going to all of the larger plants such as Avon Lake and Henry.

Again many thanks, and I am looking forward to seeing you in Cleveland at our next get-together.

April 26, 1974

(CHEMICAL COMPANY: A. Vittone

cc: E.W. Harrington
J.L. Nelson
E.B. Osborne
B.M. Zwicker
P.J. Weaver
R.D. Downey)

To: Management Committee
Briefing Group

From: W. T. Duke

The attached news release concerning public exposure to vinyl chloride moved on the UPI wire late yesterday and in an altered version this afternoon.

One query from a newspaper has resulted from the wire story. Ben Zinser, who is science editor for the Long Beach Independent Press Telegraph, called the Long Beach plant and inquired about the report. The Long Beach plant referred the call to me.

I returned the call to Mr. Zinser and told him that we had just seen the story and that for further information he should check with the Environmental Protection Agency. I gave him background information about the Long Beach plant in regard to number of employees and products manufactured, stressing the fact that it is an extremely small plant which was started in 1960. I then gave him previously released information on the current PVC situation.

Mr. Zinser has not used any of the PVC stories in his newspaper up to this point and will point out in a short story in the Long Beach paper that there have been no employee fatalities at the Long Beach plant. Mr. Zinser mentioned to me that he felt the report was most inaccurate from a scientific standpoint.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest is located at 1779 Church Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, Tel. 202-332-6000. It was organized in 1971 as a Ralph Nader operation but apparently operates independently with support from some foundations and the public. It's a non-profit organization and has investigated lead and other gasoline additives, aerosols, asbestos and food additives, among others. Its principals include Albert Fritsch, a Jesuit priest with a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from MIT; and James Sullivan, with a Ph.D. in meteorology and oceanography from MIT.

W. T. Duke

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:plh
Attachment

23120001

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A RESEARCH GROUP TOLD THE GOVERNMENT TODAY THERE IS A "FEARFUL POSSIBILITY" THAT PEOPLE LIVING IN AT LEAST THREE INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF THE NATION ARE BEING EXPOSED TO AIRBORNE DOSES OF VINYL CHLORIDE, A CHEMICAL LINKED TO LIVER CANCER.

THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST URGED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO HAVE STATE AGENCIES MAKE MEASUREMENTS NEAR FACTORIES IMMEDIATELY TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THE HAZARD.

"WE REGARD THIS AS A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM," IT SAID. "AND WORTHY OF IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION. OUR RESEARCH INDICATES THAT CERTAIN TOWNS AND CITIES MAY BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY VINYL CHLORIDE POLLUTION."

IT SINGLED OUT THE HOUSTON, TEXAS, AREA, SOUTHERN LOUISIANA AND WESTERN KENTUCKY, AS THE THREE PRIME AREAS WHERE FACTORIES PRODUCE SO MUCH VINYL CHLORIDE THAT SMOKESTACKS ARE VENTING THE CHEMICAL. HIGH HUMIDITY AND OTHER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN THOSE REGIONS, IT ADDED, COULD MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE.

IT ALSO SAID THERE MAY BE A SIMILAR PROBLEM IN THE PAINSVILLE, OHIO, AREA AND AROUND LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

THE CENTER SAID IT HAD LEARNED THAT EPA'S OWN MEASUREMENTS SHOWED 0.87 PARTS PER MILLION VINYL CHLORIDE ALONG ROUTE 225 IN PASADENA, TEXAS, "IN THE HEART OF THE LARGEST VINYL CHLORIDE PRODUCING REGION IN THE UNITED STATES."

IT CALCULATED THAT AT THE END OF EACH BATCH OF POLYVINYL CHLORIDE MADE IN A 10,000-GALLON REACTOR THERE IS A STACK EMISSION OF 9,000 GRAMS OF VINYL CHLORIDE GAS. "A PERSON UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE DOWNWIND 100 METERS FROM THE EMISSION WOULD BE EXPOSED TO 200 PARTS PER MILLION," IT ADDED.

23120002