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VCM Plant

Conoco Chemicals
Continental Oil Company
P.O. Box 605
Westlake, Louisiana 70669
(318) 491-5211

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July 15, 1977

John C. White
Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
First International Building
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, TX 75270

Dear Mr. White:

Schedule of NPDES Permit Compliance - Permit No. LA 0003476

The following is the CONOCO VCM Plant's "Report of Progress" on efforts to meet the 1977 NPDES permit limitations. The reporting period is January 1, 1977 - June 30, 1977.

1) Reduction of Chromate Discharge

The non-chromate cooling water treatment system continues to effectively control corrosion, however, phosphate deposition in heat exchangers remains a problem.

2) Secondary Waste Treatment System Optimization

Optimization Studies

Results from on-line pilot-scale bio-reactor simulation indicate that basin sizing is optimum for the existing waste load and that activated carbon, ferric chloride and alum addition to the system do not affect BOD or solids removal. However, based on the pilot reactor data, it was hypothesized that improved mixing in the ASU might improve its overall operation. On May 3, 1977, three additional aerators were placed in the ASU. These units will be operated for approximately four months to determine their affect on system efficiency.

Construction

Construction at the secondary waste treatment facility, as outlined in the January 14, 1977 "Report of Progress" (Page 2, Section D, Items 2 through 7), was completed by June 1, 1977 and put into operation. Since that time, the secondary treatment system has worked well with only a few minor mechanical problems.

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Installation of the closed process sewer system has been delayed due to revisions, late material delivery, and slower than anticipated field installation. Completion is expected by October 1, 1977. Delays in this project are not expected to affect the secondary waste system or the discharge parameters of the effluent.

Maintenance

On June 21, 1977 a 3-day turnaround was started on the clarifier. Routine maintenance and repairs were performed. Of the monitored effluent parameters only total suspended solids increased and that increase was within the permit limits.

Please contact the plant should your staff have any questions pertaining to this report.

Sincerely,

G. L. Foshee

G. L. Foshee
Chief Process Engineer

is

CC: Robert A. LaFleur, Executive Secretary
Louisiana Stream Control Commission
Drawer FC, University Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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