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Mr. A. Vittone

P. J. Weaver

12-20-73

Our Answers to Questions on PVC by the National Commission
on Fire Prevention and Control

As you no doubt are aware, this Presidential Commission is preparing its final report to the White House and Congress. Through a Commission member, we have learned that the members of the Commission and staff have been given much very negative testimony about plastics.

SPI recently was requested to answer a number of specific questions on specific plastics, including PVC. SPI asked us to prepare the information on this material. It is being put together with information from other plastics companies to reply to the Commission's questions.

While much of this information will be used in the SPI reply, we have been advised to supplement the SPI report by filing our complete statement. Therefore, we have made arrangements to supply copies of our report directly to the Commission. These will be delivered on December 22.

This report is one of the most complete compilations of data on PVC in relation to fire we have yet prepared. The information comes from work previously done at Avon Lake and Brecksville and from numerous recognized outside sources. The report was organized and written by Dan Kent, Lin Crider and Cleveland Lane, with contributions from Mike O'Mara, Gerry Cohan and Bob Wilging.

Because the subject of plastics in fire is heading for extensive publicity beginning early in 1973, we have arranged to distribute this report widely in the company to all people who may be asked questions on this subject.

P. J. Weaver
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...in pursuit of excellence

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B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company

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EDWARD S. OSBORNE
Vice President, Marketing

December 15, 1972

National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
1730 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Commissioners:

Through the Society of the Plastics Industry, we have been requested to prepare for the Commission a comprehensive summary of present knowledge of the performance of polyvinyl chloride plastic materials in fire situations. Our summary is attached.

We welcome this opportunity for several reasons:

First, while probably more progress has been made in improving fire safety in the past 25 years than in any time in history, we believe the Commission has both the opportunity and capability to achieve further improvement. We hope we can make a contribution to this improvement.

Second, The B.F. Goodrich Company has had a strong commitment to fire safety since its founding more than 100 years ago. Its first product was the first fabric reinforced rubber fire hose. A tradition like this is a strong force within the company.

Third, we have been producing and selling vinyl materials for more than 35 years and are now one of the leading producers. Our records show that over these years we have spent literally millions of dollars and thousands of manhours in investigating the fire performance of these materials in various applications; developing improvements; participation with government, industry, code agency, and university programs, and in communicating our information to users and other producers.

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