



CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

January 7, 1988

Mr. Peter L. de la Cruz
Keller and Heckman
1150 17th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. de la Cruz:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 30 regarding the Vinyl Chloride Mutual Aid Assistance program.

We recognize this program was never formalized, and that it was more of a "gentlemen's" agreement among the producers involved. However, during the years it was active, the program was one of the better tools CHEMTREC was able to use to the industry's advantage. Quite often during a train derailment actual shipper identification is impossible to obtain at the time of initial call to CHEMTREC. It was quite valuable to have this resource for VCM response available during such instances.

During the later part of 1986, an attempt was made by us to revive the program. Each listed member was approached and asked to indicate his preference to one of three options. They were: 1) continue and reorganize the VCM plan to reflect the SPI withdrawal from sponsorship of the plan; 2) incorporate the VCM plan into the CHEMNET program; and 3) disband the VCM mutual aid plan without additional action. The majority preferred to disband.

Although our records were modified to indicate that the VCM plan no longer existed, some references remained in our operations manual and thus a recent attempt was made to activate the system.

Please be assured all files and references to this voluntary program have been removed from our operational files.

Sincerely,



Joe J. Mayhew
Director, National Chemical
Response and Information
Center (NCRIC)

JJM/ejf