

To: Art Gellner

cc: R. T. Kelly

From: Joe Mastrogiovanni *JJM*

October 14, 1977

Re: Vinyl Chloride Safety Association Meeting

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I attended the last day of the session held at the Stouffer's Hotel in Valley Forge. The first speaker of the morning was a representative from a Norwegian PVC and VCM plant. He stated they had conducted laboratory experiments on the effects of VCM on chromosomes. He stated that in 1974 their exposure at the plant was well above 50 PPM. The first experiment was conducted June 1, 1975 through September 11, 1975. Three categories of employees were used as subjects; VCM workers, PVC workers, and a non-exposed group. Each employee was monitored for one week. VCM and PVC workers had as many as 20 years of service. The results indicated abnormality in chromosomes existed with exposure to VCM. The speaker indicated that their total plant PPM levels in 1977 were taken down to the 1 PPM standard. The same test was conducted, and consisted of 32 of the 39 original VCM workers. The results indicated normality returned to chromosome structure with a lack of VCM exposure. Final results of the second experiment will be released in the near future.

Second speaker - Mr. H. Waltemate of B. F. Goodrich : reported on a survey he has conducted over the past year gathering injury reports from the National Safety Conference from 1971-76. His statement was that off the job injuries among the working population is actually higher than on the job accidents. He has requested plants to submit to him, if they so desire, a form which he prepared so that he can put together the results of the Chemical Plants injury profile on and off the job.

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Third Speaker - Mr. J. Dan Winkler of Diamond Shamrock: Stressed the importance of planning for a disaster. He mentioned basically all the things that we conducted at our plant such as communications, drills, alarm systems, etc.

Fourth Speaker - Mr. A. Dixon of Goodyear: Reported on the handling of catalyst. One interesting point he brought out - of those companies represented at the meeting, eighteen use a walk-in type bunker (freezer). Of the eighteen, eight did not have a sprinkler system inside the bunker. Their fire protection was controlled from an outside method, and approved by their insurance company.

General comments were made stating that there may exist the possibility of companies being responsible for a 1 PPM level at their fencelines. Several States are currently trying to enforce this proposal. In addition, there is some talk of NIOSH reviewing VCM exposure to the possibility of .04 PPM.

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