

HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP
2000 P STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
872-0320

VRD 0002007654

February 21, 1974

Dr. Alexander M. Schmidt, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Dr. Schmidt:

As you know, a rapidly rising number of cases of liver cancer (angiosarcoma) are being discovered in workers exposed to vinyl chloride. Combined with other human evidence of liver disease, an earlier study showing cancer in animals, and a recent study in animals demonstrating carcinogenicity with exposures as low as 250 parts per million, it appears that another common chemical has joined the growing list of environmental carcinogens.

Although the major use of vinyl chloride monomer is to make polyvinyl chloride (PVC), several percent of the billions of pounds of vinyl chloride manufactured each year goes into the production of other goods.

We have learned that a significant amount of vinyl chloride is used as an aerosol propellant in consumer products including hair sprays. According to one published report (Aerosol Age, April 1964, p. 47), the levels of vinyl chloride, under conditions where hair spray was being used, can exceed 250 parts per million. (See petition, p. 2)

Several requests for action are detailed in the attached petition. In addition, we request that you make public the brand names of all aerosol cosmetic products presently marketed or marketed at any time in the past which contain vinyl chloride as a propellant. When matters of health and grave danger are at stake, the public has the right to be fully informed about the dangers it faces or has faced from using particular brand name products--regardless of the public relations damage that certain companies may suffer. All those people who have been exposed at any time to products containing vinyl chloride should be made aware of this so that they can inform their physicians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Andrea M. Hricko Sidney C. Wolfe, M.D.

Andrea M. Hricko Sidney C. Wolfe, M.D.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Further information: 872-832.

February 21, 1974

Andrea Bricko
Sidney Wolfe, M.D.

PUBLIC CITIZEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH GROUPS ASKS FOR
BAN ON VINYL CHLORIDE AS A PROPELLANT IN AEROSOLS

The Health Research Group today petitioned the Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the use of vinyl chloride in aerosolized cosmetics, including hairsprays, in aerosolized household products, and in pesticide products, since there is substantial evidence that vinyl chloride is a carcinogen.

Vinyl chloride is known to be used as a propellant for aerosols. The chronic toxicity and evidence of carcinogenicity of vinyl chloride monomer for humans has been documented by scientific studies and clinical reports. Immediate action is necessary to regulate the use of the chemical since there is no evidence to show that human beings can be safely exposed to the chemical.

Vinyl chloride monomer, which is used in making polyvinyl chloride (PVC), has received much attention in the past few weeks since it has been linked with a rapidly rising number of liver cancer deaths among vinyl chloride workers at a single B.F. Goodrich plant in Louisville, Kentucky. In the past few days the sixth case of the rare and invariably fatal cancer--angiosarcoma of the liver--has been diagnosed in a worker at that plant.

Experimental studies have found production of the same type of liver cancer in rats after inhalation of vinyl chloride at doses as low as 250 ppm [for 127 weeks], according to an Italian study presented at a Department of Labor hearing on the chemical last Friday.

According to a published report, the levels of vinyl chloride--under conditions where hair spray is being used--can exceed 250 ppm (Aerosol Age, April 1964, p. 47). Most industries--including B.F. Goodrich--say that it has been their practice in recent years to try to keep industrial exposures down to 50 ppm over an 8 hour day. [The Federal occupational health standard is currently 500 ppm.]

The Health Research Group also requested that the Food and Drug Administration immediately prohibit the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) containers to package any cosmetic product which is capable of leaching detectable amounts of vinyl chloride from its plastic container. In 1973 FDA and industry tests of alcoholic beverages packaged in PVC bottles determined that between 10-20 ppm of vinyl chloride had migrated out of the plastic bottles into the distilled spirits or wine they contained. To the Group's knowledge, no tests have been conducted to determine whether other alcohol-containing or organic solvent-containing liquids (e.g. bath lotion or perfume) can also leach detectable amounts of vinyl chloride from their PVC containers. Moreover, although the FDA proposed banning the use of PVC whiskey bottles in May 1973 because of the potential toxicity of vinyl chloride, the agency has failed to finalize the action.

In letters to the heads of all three agencies, the Group requested that the agency make public the brand names of all aerosol consumer products and cosmetics presently marketed--or marketed at any time in the past--which contain vinyl chloride as a propellant so that exposed people can inform their physicians. The public has the right to be fully informed about the dangers it faces or has faced--regardless of the public relations damage that certain companies may suffer.

VRB 0002007655

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210



INFORMAL FACT-FINDING HEARING ON POSSIBLE
HAZARDS OF VINYL CHLORIDE MANUFACTURE
AND USE

Schedule of Appearances

Friday, Feb. 15, 1974
Pre-hearing Conference- 9:30 a.m. Hearing - 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room B - Departmental Auditorium

Administrative Law Judge - Gordon J. Myatt

Office of Standards - Joanne Goodell
- Jeanne Ferrone

Office of the Solicitor - Evelyn Gholston

APPEARANCE

1. Mr. John O'Neill, Chief, Division of Health Standards
OSHA
2. Mr. Vernon E. Rose, Acting Assistant Institute Director
for Research and Standards Development
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NIOSH)
3. Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, Director
Environmental Sciences Laboratory
MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
4. Mr. Anthony Mazzocchi, Legislative Director
OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL
5. Prof. Cesare Maltoni
ISTITUTUTO DI ONCOLOGIA, Bologna, Italy
6. Mr. A.C. Clark, Vice President - Technical Director
MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION
7. Mr. Anton Vittone, President
Dr. Maurice M. Johnson, Medical Director
Dr. Roger Strassburg, Director of Environmental Affairs
Dr. L.B. Crider, Senior Scientist
Mr. Harold J. Fast, Corporate Counsel and Assistant Secretary
B.F. GOODRICH
8. Mr. Richard J. Reynolds, Manager Vinyl Chloride
SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY

Page 2

9. Mr. Sheldon Samuels, Director
Health, Safety and Environmental Affairs
INDUSTRIAL UNION DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO
Dr. Henry Anderson
MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Dr. Thomas F. Mancuso
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Mr. Louis Beliczky, Director of Industrial Hygiene
UNITED RUBBER, CORK, LINOLEUM AND PLASTIC WORKERS
10. Dr. V.K. Rowe
Toxicologist
DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
11. Mr. Herbert K. Carver, Jr.
Design Engineer
DOVE PACKAGING SYSTEMS DIVISION/FRANKLIN ELECTRIC
12. Professor R.J. Jaeger - Harvard
Occupational Safety and Health Services
ORGANIZATION RESOURCES COUNSELORS
13. Donald Holman, Industrial Hygienist
CONTROL DATA CORPORATION - not oral - Exhibit 8
14. Dr. Roberts Brookman, Manager
Research and Development
FIRESTONE
Andrea Rickel
Bertrand Cotteen
Health Research Group

VRD 0002007662

Enclosure 1

NIOSH Recommended Precautionary Monitoring and Control Procedures for Polymerization Processes Involving Vinyl Chloride

I. General Housekeeping Procedures

A. The spillage of Vinyl Chloride and Polyvinyl Chloride in and around the production facilities should be controlled as follows:

1. Housekeeping procedures should be implemented to assure immediate removal of VC and PVC material around polymerization operations including drying, packaging and loading operations.
2. Recovered PVC material which is to be packaged should be stored in closed containers.
3. Waste PVC material should be stored in closed containers and consideration should be given to the adequacy of its disposal and/or destruction. Care should be taken in the storage of closed containers to insure that unsafe conditions do not result from an internal build-up of pressure in the container.

B. Inventories of beginning and recovered quantities of VC and quantities of PVC produced, packaged and recovered should be made to determine losses and probable areas affected.

C. PVC material should be removed from overhead structures and conduits where it tends to collect.

D. Consumption of food should be permitted only in separate facilities provided for this purpose, and no food products should be permitted elsewhere in the polymerization facility.

II. Protective Clothing

A. A daily change of protective clothing including full coveralls, or the equivalent, should be provided each employee in areas where possible exposure to VC PVC could occur. Clothing contaminated by accidental spills should be changed as soon as feasible.

B. Protective gloves and footwear, or footcovers, should be worn as appropriate in those PVC operations where exposure to PVC material is possible.

C. Protective head covers should be worn during PVC operations as appropriate (e.g. hard hats in those areas where physical protection of the head is necessary and hair coverings, or the equivalent, ...

operations such as cleaning of polymerization reactor tanks and packaging operations).

D. Where employees are engaged in maintenance or cleaning operations of polymerization reactors tanks they should wear full impervious suits to guard against skin contact of PVC material and VC vapors. Procedures for safe entry to confined spaces should be observed.

III. Showers

Showers at the termination of an eight-hour work shift should be mandatory for all workers with possible contact with VC-PVC.

IV. Monitoring

A. Environmental Monitoring

1. In-plant environmental monitoring programs should be implemented; and where workers are required to enter polymerization tanks, a survey of the VC concentrations should be made in the reactors immediately after opening, immediately prior to entry of maintenance personnel and during the tank cleaning operation.
2. Data obtained from the environmental monitoring program should be used to indicate those areas where efforts should be directed to reduce airborne levels of VC.
3. Positive programs to initially control VC levels well below the present Federal Standard of 500 ppm should be developed (some companies are targeting at 50 ppm) and efforts to further reduce levels should be given consideration concomitantly with the necessary modifications in engineering and design controls.
4. The concentration of VC in exhaust ventilation should be determined to estimate the amount of VC lost during operation and the possible exposure of personnel immediately outside the facility.
5. Monitoring for PVC particulate material should be accomplished to estimate the degree of exposure to this substance throughout the facility.

B. Personal Monitoring

1. Integrated, eight-hour personal monitoring samples should be obtained from those employees considered to receive the greatest exposure to VC or PVC.

2. Breathing zone samples should be obtained to complement environmental monitoring program for VC, and similar samples should be obtained for PVC.

V. Respiratory Protection

Because VC is a gas under ambient conditions and PVC is a solid under these conditions, it is recommended that respiratory protection for employees take these circumstances into consideration.

A. Where employees are engaged in cleaning and maintenance operations inside polymerization reactors they should be equipped with an atmosphere-supplied respirator in order to protect against both VC vapor and PVC particulates.

B. During housekeeping procedures and packaging operations where the possibility of PVC dust inhalation is a factor, it is recommended that an air-purifying respirator equipped with a mechanical filter designed to remove particulate material be worn. Respiratory protective devices which meet this requirement, as well as protect against VC vapors in concentrations less than 0.1% have been approved by the NIOSH Testing and Certification Laboratory and bear the numbers: TC-23C-40, TC-23C-47, TC-23C-48.

C. Where employees are engaged in transfer operations of VC from railway tankcars to storage facilities or at any similar transfer point which requires manual operations, they should wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) during such operations to guard against unexpected release of VC during such operations.

D. Other operations involving possible exposure to VC or PVC should be evaluated as the individual situation exists and respiratory protection provided as appropriate.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20204

VRD 0002007667

January 31, 1974

Jerome Heckman, General Counsel
The Society of the Plastics
Industry, Inc.
Keller and Heckman
1150 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Re: PVC Prior Sanction Proposal

Dear Mr. Heckman:

We are enclosing a copy of the memo concerning our conference of
December 20, 1973. This memo is being sent to the Hearing Clerk, today.

Sincerely yours,

Gerard L. McCowin
Assistant to the Director
Division of Food and
Color Additives, HFF-334

FEB 5 1974

VRD 0002007668

Division of Food and Color Additives

Prior-sanctioned polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resin proposed rulemaking,
38 FR 12931 (May 17, 1973)

On December 20, 1973, we held a conference between FDA personnel and representatives of the Society of the Plastic Industry, Inc. (SPI). Present for SPI were J. H. Heckman, General Counsel for SPI, and D. Dixler, Ph.D., of Mr. Heckman's office. Purpose of the conference was to advise SPI of that data which is considered necessary before a final decision can be made concerning the subject proposal.

We first discussed the toxicological aspects involving PVC and mentioned an article by Dr. Viola, A. Bigotti, and A. Caputo -- "Oncogenic Response of Rat Skin, Lungs and Bones to Vinyl Chloride," Cancer Research 31; 516-522, May, 1971. We requested that they conduct an extensive review of the literature concerning the toxicity of PVC and prepare a treatise concerning the applicability of the Viola study and inhalation data to the use of PVC as packaging materials. We also requested that they submit data from feeding studies of at least 90 days but possibly longer dependent upon the results. We suggested that they determine if the monomer could be administered by encapsulation or freezing.

We next discussed the data contained in comments filed by SPI with the Hearing Clerk in their letters of October 16, 1973, and November 30, 1973.

In regards to the chemical data supplied by M&T Chemical Co. and Continental Can Co., we requested the following:

1. Provide a validated analytical method for the monomer sensitive to 50 ppb plus a mass spectrographic method of the specificity of VCM. The former method should be validated with recoveries of at least 90% and should yield a gas chromatograph peak response of at least 20 mm. The method would be validated by FDA laboratories.

2. Describe the procedures for handling the VCM sample before and during the analytical procedures.

In regards to the other data submitted by SPI in their comments and Schenley Distillers Inc. in their comments, we requested the following:

1. (a). Provide equilibrium extraction tests on the new PVC compound using the other food simulating solvents in addition to ethyl alcohol.
(b). Provide data involving storage for longer periods of time to show the relationship of VCM migration from the new PVC formulation as a function of time using 50% alcohol and edible oils. Such data should also be provided for the old PVC formulation.
2. Provide a method for the determination of VCM in the PVC resin and/or compound.
3. Provide a description of the new manufacturing process for PVC resin and/or compound.
4. Provide data on the VCM content of PVC bottles produced from a formulation of 50% reground polymer with 50% virgin resin.
5. Provide data on Japanese manufacturers' PVC compounds including descriptions of resin and compound preparation as well as VCM levels.
6. Provide more definitive data and discussion concerning the possibility of migration of VCM from cans and bottles which have coatings and plastisols containing PVC. It was noted that FDA's immediate reaction was that there appears to be no problem of monomer migration in this area but that more data would be desirable, particularly as to differences in resins used for these applications as compared to those for rigid containers.

Mr. Heckman stated that he would relay our requests to the SPI and its members. It was agreed that the substance of the conference should be submitted to the Office of the Hearing Clerk for enclosure in the comment file for the subject proposed rulemaking.

Gerad L. McCowin

Flynt Kanne



To: RWG JJL JDBu KLS (JDBr LJS)
RLL WRS OCK

Date 2/1/74

I have included only the Washington Post
enclosure in the attached letter since
you have already received the Goodrich
release and the Wall Street Journal article.

Liver Cancer Cases Spark Plant Inquiry

By Stuart Auerbach
Washington Post Staff Writer

Deaths from a rare form of liver cancer of three workers in a Louisville plastics plant has led to a federal investigation to see if they were caused by the chemicals used in the plant.

All three men were long-time workers in a B. F. Goodrich plant that makes polyvinyl chloride—a plastic used in phonograph records, pipes for the construction industry, bottles, packaging, car upholstery and vinyl tops for automobiles.

The men died of angiosarcoma, a form of liver cancer that kills about 23 Americans a year. Two of the men died last year, in March and in December, and the third died in September, 1971.

Certainly two deaths in one year in the same plant, among polyvinyl chloride had not occurred before, out of 23 in the entire United States is enough to heighten suspicion even on lists of chemical companies that should be studied for their possible cancer-causing chemicals in the plant, said Dr. Vincent Rose of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, who returned yesterday from an inspection of the Louisville plant.

B. F. Goodrich said in a press release that it was investigating to see if the deaths "were related to occupational causes."

The deaths caught experts in occupational health hazards by surprise. One man said that although vinyl chloride, normally a colorless gas, is the main component of the plastic polyvinyl chloride, about 50 other chemicals are used in the plant. Company officials provided the federal investigators with a two-page list of chemicals that could be involved in the deaths.

"There is no question," said Rose, "as to the fact that the exposure to chemicals are numerous."

The company's own investigation started last week when Dr. Maurice N. Johnson, B.F. Goodrich's director of environmental health, received an autopsy report on the man who died in December.

This report had been furnished to the plant physician in Louisville, Dr. John Grech, by members of the worker's family.

Deaths from liver diseases are always considered suspicious in the chemical industry, B.F. Goodrich spokesman John Bell explained, because of the danger of exposure to unusual concentrations of hydrocarbons.

Johnson checked the medical records of other employees in the Louisville plant and found that two other men were reported as dying of angiosarcoma. The three men had an average of 22 years exposure to chemicals working in the plant.

In addition, Rose said, a fourth employee was reported as having died of an unspecified form of liver cancer.

Federal officials are now seeking to confirm the causes of death of all four men.

"There is no knowledge or record of any similar circumstances among the workers in B. F. Goodrich polyvinyl chloride plants," said Bell.

Nevertheless, the company said it has tightened its safety standards to minimize employee exposure to chemicals. Company officials said all five plants are in operation within federally approved levels.

Rose said that public health experts will spend the next several months finding better ways to keep the plant, which was built in the 1950s, from being contaminated by chemicals.

Three Cancer Deaths May Be Job Related, B. F. Goodrich Says

Former Employees at Louisville
Plant All Were Involved in
Polyvinyl Chloride Operation

By a Staff Writer of the Associated Press
ALBANY, Oct. 15 — B. F. Goodrich Co. in a move that sent ripples through the plastics and chemical industries, said it is investigating the possibility that the cancer deaths of three workers at a plant in Louisville, Ky., may be job-related.

Goodrich said that the workers affected were in the polyvinyl chloride operations, and that they died of hepatocarcinoma of the liver, a rare form of liver cancer.

Dr. Maurice N. Johnson, Goodrich's director of environmental health, said in the company's statement that he had recently received medical reports concerning the death of an employee in late December. "A review of medical records uncovered that two other employees had apparently died from the same cause, one in September 1971 and one in March 1972," the company said.

It was understood that a fourth death in 1973—involving a more common form of liver cancer—was considered outside the reasonable bounds of the "grouping" of the three recent deaths, all attributed to angiosarcoma.

Goodrich said it had informed Kentucky health officials and the Federal National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health that the company was investigating the possibility that the deaths might be related to occupational causes.

Will Begin Investigation

Kentucky officials said they had just learned of the situation at the Louisville plant and had a number of weeks to expect to have state health officials in Louisville. Meanwhile, in a team of experts will arrive in Louisville this morning to begin an investigation.

Dr. Morris M. Klevor, director of NIOSH, said the institute also will step up efforts to determine the extent of hepatocarcinoma in the U.S. and in foreign countries with similar problems during previous years. A system for the institute said the last year there were about 20 deaths per year in the U.S. attributable to angiosarcoma.

The recent deaths at Louisville, according to Dr. Johnson of Goodrich, involved workers in the company's vinyl products operations. An official of NIOSH said he understood that the workers had an average of 25 years' exposure to various chemicals and agents involved in vinyl operations.

Goodrich said it has been conducting a program to reduce exposure to hydrocarbons, particularly vinyl chloride, throughout its operations. Further steps to limit exposure and to decrease the situation to workers in vinyl products production are being taken, the company said.

Goodrich also said it is providing medical examinations to all employees involved in any phase of vinyl chloride or polyvinyl chloride production and is reviewing all its medical records of former or retired employees.

About 150 persons work at the Louisville plant, of whom about 270 are involved in vinyl products operations.

"Grouping of a Deaths"

Word that two deaths might be job-related spread quickly throughout several industries. Said Louis Babin, an industrial hygienist on the staff of the United Rubber Workers Union, which has many members involved in vinyl operations at various companies: "I look at this as the diagnosis of a bomb. It opens up the possibility of a whole new occupational disease."

Mr. Babin said he suspected there might be a connection between the Goodrich deaths and the deaths of two workers and the poisoning of Baudouin, at a vinyl products plant in the French town of Vire. At the Vire plant for several months, there complained of a variety of ailments, some followed by cancer, which they all are connected with working conditions.

Paul J. Hocking, a doctor at the Kentucky Rubber Workers' health department, the Louisville plant's workers' union said it is working to have been requested for copies of what about the possibility of cancer. "With the much more of the chemical and workers," Dr. Hocking said he has talked with NIOSH in the last month or so. "There has been a Goodrich case for 15 years."

A medical team at NIOSH, however, said it is not yet certain that the two plants were related. It is noted that the problem of the Louisville plant has been defined as a liver cancer, and that the Vire plant workers had had liver cancer in some cases. The liver effects, said the Goodrich plant, were later identified as problems at Vire.

Goodrich has two other plants in the Louisville area, one at Louisville, Ky., and one at Louisville, Ky., and one at Louisville, Ky.

CONTACT: John J. Bell (216) 379-3549
Cleveland Lane (216) 379-3410

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VRD 0002001677

AKRON, Jan. 23 -- The B.F. Goodrich Company today reported that it informed Kentucky health officials and the Federal National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health that the Company is investigating whether the cancer deaths of three employees in the polyvinyl chloride operations at its Louisville, Ky. plant were related to occupational causes.

Dr. Maurice H. Johnson, the Company's director of environmental health, said he had recently received medical reports concerning the death of an employee late in December. A review of medical records uncovered that two other employees had apparently died from the same cause -- one in September, 1971 and one in March, 1973. The reported causes of death are subject to verification, he added.

"Awareness of this grouping," said Dr. Johnson, "warranted a thorough investigation and prompt notification of the two government agencies most directly concerned."

The B.F. Goodrich Company has been conducting programs to reduce exposures to hydrocarbons, particularly vinyl chloride, throughout its operations. While all plants were operating at levels well below those prescribed by Federal government standards, a successful effort has been made to reduce levels in these plants to approximately one-tenth those specified.

(more)

These efforts have included development of the most sophisticated monitoring systems now known; strict rules on procedures where exposure might be increased; a complete checking of all pipes, valves and similar equipment to prevent leaks, and extensive improvements in ventilation systems.

"The death in December, considered in relation to the two previous similar cases, has caused us to initiate intensive investigations throughout the vinyl products operations of the Company," Dr. Johnson said.

"To be sure we get the best independent evaluation and guidance, the Company has engaged Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc. of Berkeley, Calif. Dr. Irving R. Tabershaw, one of the country's foremost experts in the field of public and occupational health and safety, is supervising the work of this consultant firm," Dr. Johnson said.

The Company has instituted a program of explaining the new information and steps the Company is taking to all employees involved in vinyl products production. In addition, the Company has put into action a program to reduce exposures to vinyl chloride and other hydrocarbons to the minimum possible in all vinyl operations. Operations of the plants are continuing under the program of minimum exposure levels.

"We are providing medical examinations to all employees involved in any phase of vinyl chloride or polyvinyl chloride production and reviewing available medical records of any deceased former or retired employees," Dr. Johnson said.

"We have assured officials of NIOSH and the state of Kentucky that we will continue to provide them with any significant new information as it develops," he said.

JAN 23 1974

NRD 0002007679

A team of experts from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the Center for Disease Control will visit a Louisville, Ky., plant of the B. F. Goodrich Co. tomorrow to begin an investigation of health hazards involved in the polymerization of vinyl chloride.

The team will begin its work in response to an alert from the company which reported one case of liver cancer and three cases of angio sarcoma, a rare type of liver cancer, among polymerization workers at the plant.

Dr. Marcus M. Key, director of NIOSH, said the institute also will step up its effort to determine the extent of the disease in the United States and in foreign countries with similar manufacturing processes.

At a later date, Dr. Key said, NIOSH will transmit criteria for a health standard to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in the Department of Labor.

Under a 1970 law, NIOSH is responsible for health effects research and criteria used by OSHA to set and enforce standards for protecting health and safety at the workplace.

In the interim, Key added, NIOSH will work with OSHA, the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the industry and involved workers to develop stringent work practices for use in the polymerization process.

NOTICES

(6) Whether the available information warrants the issuance of an Emergency Temporary Standard, or the commencement of a regular rulemaking under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Written data may be mailed or delivered to the Office of Standards, Attn: Docket OSH-36, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room 203, 1726 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20210, not later than February 28, 1974. The data will be available for public inspection and copying at the OSHA Public Reading Room, Room 203, 1726 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20210.

Oral presentation of data will also be received by an administrative law judge at an informal fact-finding hearing beginning at 10 a.m., e.d.t., on Friday, February 15, 1974, Conference Room B, Departmental Auditorium, Constitution Avenue NW., between 12th and 14th Streets, Washington, D.C.

Persons desiring to appear at the hearing must file with J. Goodell, Attn: Docket OSH-36, Office of Standards, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room 203, 1726 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20210, a written notice of intention to appear, in triplicate. Notice should be filed as soon as possible, but will be accepted by the Management Officer at the hearing until the pre-hearing conference begins. The notice should state: The name and address of the person wishing to appear; the capacity in which he will appear; and the approximate amount of time required for the presentation. The notice should also include, or be accompanied by, a brief statement of the presentation to be made.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., e.d.t., on February 15, 1974, the presiding Administrative Law Judge will hold a pre-hearing conference in order to establish the order and time for the presentations, and in order to settle any other matter relating to the proceedings.

The oral proceedings shall be reported verbatim. The use of prepared statements by witnesses is encouraged. All documents that are intended to be submitted should be submitted in triplicate (original and two copies).

The administrative law judge shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to conduct a fair and full informal hearing, including the powers:

- (a) To regulate the course of the hearing;
- (b) To dispose of procedural requests, objections, and comparable matters;
- (c) To confine the presentations to matters pertinent to the requested information;
- (d) To regulate the conduct of those present at the hearing by appropriate means;
- (e) In his discretion, to question and permit questioning of any witness; and
- (f) In his discretion, to keep the record open for a reasonable stated time to receive written data from any person who has participated in the oral proceeding.

Following the close of the hearing, the

presiding officer shall certify the record thereof to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 28th day of January 1974.

JOHN H. STENDER,
Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 74-2604 Filed 1-29-74; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

POSSIBLE HAZARDS OF VINYL CHLORIDE MANUFACTURE AND USE

Request for Information and Notice of Fact-Finding Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is requesting information on possible hazards associated with the manufacture and/or use of vinyl chloride (chloroethene, Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number 75014).

The Administration requests information including, but not necessarily limited to:

- (1) The toxicity of vinyl chloride;
- (2) The toxicity of other chemicals involved in the manufacture and use of vinyl chloride;
- (3) The technologies involved in the production and use of vinyl chloride;
- (4) Employee populations potentially or actually exposed to vinyl chloride or other chemicals, and involved in the production and/or use of vinyl chloride;
- (5) Epidemiological studies of effects of vinyl chloride and other chemicals used in the manufacture or use of vinyl chloride on populations, employee or otherwise; and