

CHEMICALS



INDUSTRIES

INTEROFFICE / LAKE CHARLES

TO F. C. Ludden

DATE November 20, 1975

FROM H. B. Lovejoy, M.D.

SUBJECT

I have read the attached report on carcinogens and as I feel responsible for the general health of the employees at this plant, one main thought occurred that might be utilized in the protection of employees from cancer. This would be the regular moving of employees from known carcinogen exposure. We already move shipping employees every six months. I am wondering if it would not be reasonable and possibly very beneficial to move operations personnel out of vinyl and other possible cancer producing agent exposure after they have worked in such an area for one, two, or five years, and rotate maintenance personnel through these areas as well.

The vinyl standard requires increased frequency of checking of employees after ten years (six months rather than twelve months examinations).

The idea of utilizing older employees might be of benefit, but as age increases the frequency of cancer increases and although we have to be reasonably healthy to survive to age 50, I feel certain the frequency of cancer would be greater and it would be difficult to prove the exposure to a carcinogen was not the cause.

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Attachment

cc: Z. Bell, Ph.D.
L. B. Grant, M.D.
A. T. Raetzsch
J. R. Farst
O. L. Cromeans
R. E. Baker
J. M. Davis
R. P. Lynch

TO: HBL - Lab Person

This would be true if we were sure that the lesion caused by vinyl chloride or others were reversible and at what stage. It is presumed that 10 years is the cutoff point, however, there is nothing to my knowledge to be sure that 10 years after 5 years (or 5 months) of vinyl chloride exposure, some people will develop cancer of the type already attributed to VCM. If we knew the lesion were reversible, I'd agree. To increase the number of workers at risk for the sake of recovering someone who had an Encomet

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Fetal
Safety

American Cyanamid has taken action to make sure that women of childbearing age aren't exposed to substances that could harm a fetus. Women won't be assigned to or allowed to bid on jobs which expose them to a number of substances such as lead and mercury and their compounds, benzene, vinyl chloride, carbon tetrachloride and others. OSHA regs set exposure levels to these substances which are considered safe for workers generally, but the agency hasn't considered the potential effect on fetuses in arriving at the limits.

At American Cyanamid, women in jobs where the exposure exists now will be given six months to bid on other jobs, and then those who haven't been moved before will be reassigned at the end of six months. The new policy will be put into effect plant-by-plant as it becomes feasible.