

To: (See Attached Distribution List) Date: January 30, 1975

From: Dr. A. B. Steele

Subject: Vinyl Resin Operations
Flash Report

Vinyl Chloride Monomer

OSHA Standard

The OCAW Petition that the OSHA Standard be reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is caught up in a procedural snarl. The Counsel for the Department of Justice has petitioned that the case be transferred to the Second Circuit where it will likely create another procedural problem since that Court has already heard the case of the other Petitioners (December 13, 1974 Hearing). The Court may be forced to reopen hearings in order to determine in what way the OCAW Petition differs from the cases already argued and may delay decision of the case.

A problem has arisen in the State of California where the State's counterpart of OSHA has scheduled a hearing on January 28th. CAL/OSHA proposes to present the Federal Standard as the proposed State Standard without waiting for the outcome of the Second Circuit case and without recognizing the complication of the Court granted Stay. Our concern with the California problem centers on PVC Solvent and Dispersion resin warehousing and shipments within that State and our latex operations at Torrance.

We believe that the efforts now being taken by Keller and Heckman (SPI) will be effective in countering the California action.

VCM Monitoring

The Data Processing System on the automatic chromatograph in the Dispersion Resins Unit was put into operation.

Specialty Resins

Production of Chewing Gum Base Resin was 84.6% of plan to produce material for American Chicle.

The Pelletized Resin System is operating, using the new Catalyst Feed System. Reactor control is very good.

Solutions production was 88% of plan.

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Suspension and Non-Solvent Resins

A continuing softness in customer orders has forced a reduction in production rates to a single line operation for Suspension resins. The Non-Solvent system has been shut down to prevent inventory buildup.

Production of homopolymer Suspension resin is being monitored to determine the potential of KLUCEL (hydroxypropylated cellulose) as a protective colloid in the process. The plant trial follows highly successful results in the R&D pilot autoclave where resin of exceptionally low hard-particle count was achieved in routine operations.

A. B. Steele

ABS:ml

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