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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: February 20, 1981

From: Z. G. Bell

Location: 5 West

Subject:

To: F. C. Dehn
H. B. Lovejoy
J. O'Connor
G. C. Strickler

For your information, I have attached an article from the February 9 issue of the Chemical Marketing Reporter. I am sure that you can sense the potential ramifications of this award on the chemical industry.



Zeb G. Bell, Jr.

/ta

Attachment

B.F. Goodrich Loses VCM Cancer-Link Case ✓

A Federal district court in Camden, N.J. has ordered B.F. Goodrich Company to pay almost \$400,000 in compensatory damages to a New Jersey woman whose husband's death was linked to emissions of vinyl chloride gas from Goodrich's Pedricktown, N.J., polyvinyl chloride plant.

Mrs. Grace M. Grasso charged that Goodrich failed to perform tests on emissions of vinyl chloride gas from its PVC plant, which opened in 1970 less than two miles from Mrs. Grasso's home.

Mrs. Grasso's husband, John C. Grasso, died of liver cancer in January, 1977, at the age of forty-nine. Mrs. Grasso was awarded \$391,291 in compensatory damages, including over \$37,000 to cover medical expenses incurred during her husband's six-month illness and \$285,000 to cover his future estimated wages.

"We firmly believe that exposure to vinyl chloride at the low level found at Pedricktown could not have caused Mr. Grasso's angiosarcoma," Goodrich said in a prepared statement. The company says its belief is based on laboratory studies and medical evidence. "All angiosarcoma cases attributed to vinyl chloride exposure," the company adds, "have been in workers who have experienced high concentrations of vinyl chloride in the workplace over long periods of time. The Pedricktown facility began operations only in 1970 and has not emitted high levels of vinyl chloride. In fact, no one either inside or outside any Goodrich facility is being exposed to such conditions," Goodrich says.

A Goodrich spokeswoman in its Akron, Ohio, headquarters says Mrs. Grasso's case is the first of its kind brought in connection with the company's Pedricktown plant. Goodrich is reviewing the court's decision and is considering an appeal, the spokeswoman says.
