

File: Vinyl Chloride
Copy 2

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June 18, 1974

Joel (Cham)
for info. file
- CJD
15 July 74

TO: All Members of:

SPI Food, Drug and Cosmetic
Packaging Materials Committee;
General Polyvinyl Chloride Interest
Mailing List;
Ad Hoc Liquor Bottle Committee;
Plastic Pipe Institute
(Executive Board);
Plastic Bottle Division
(Voting Representatives);
SPI Executive Committee;
SPI Public Affairs Committee;
V and PVC Producers Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The usual weekly mailing to keep you up-to-date on the status of activities relating to the vinyl chloride-polyvinyl chloride problem was omitted last week because our time was so completely preempted by preparations for the forthcoming Hearing to be held by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

As you will recall, the notice of the Hearing which is to be held at 9:30 A.M. at the Departmental Auditorium on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, N.W. was included in our letter to you dated May 24, 1974. The same Hearing notice stated that all those who wished to testify at the Hearing were required to submit a notice of their intention to appear by June 17, 1974. Although we were unable to write to you because of the need to obtain witnesses and help them work towards development of their testimony on a "crash" basis,

a timely Notice of Intention to Appear was filed on behalf of The Society of the Plastics Industry late yesterday afternoon. We are enclosing a copy of the Notice that we filed which, we hope, will serve to inform you regarding our line-up of witnesses and the nature of the presentation to be made by the Society.

Although we cannot be completely definite at this time, we anticipate, as a result of special contact made with OSHA, that the SPI presentation will be the lead-off testimony as far as industry witnesses are concerned. The Hearing will begin with testimony from the Department of Labor, NIOSH, and at least one Union official. This will then be followed by the SPI testimony which it is hoped will set the stage for presentations by a number of the major VC and PVC producers. These will then probably be followed by other interested parties, including a large number of fabricators who have asked for time.

It is the present intention of OSHA to keep the Hearing record open for some time, possibly for as much as a month after the oral hearings end, to provide for the inclusion of the maximum amount of information in the record. Consequently, all those who wish to submit statements and have not done so before the Hearing begins will probably still have time to submit statements later. It is our understanding that OSHA will include all statements and letters that it receives as a part of the record in this matter.

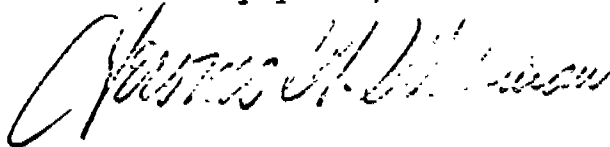
Of less immediate urgency, but of continuing significance to us is the role that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is playing with respect to emissions from VC and PVC plants. As many of you know by this time, Russell Train, EPA Administrator, held a meeting last Tuesday with executives of many of the country's leading VC and PVC producers. It was heartening to note that the preliminary EPA findings showed that, "There is no scientific evidence to indicate that these emissions pose an imminent hazard to people living near these plants..." We are enclosing a copy of the full EPA release on this meeting, as well as a reprint of a newspaper article based upon Mr. Train's statement.

With respect to the anticipated Food and Drug Administration's proposed Interim Food Additive Regulation on polyvinyl chloride, our present information is that the Regulation will be issued "in about two weeks". If this sounds vaguely familiar, please believe we are only reporting what we have learned -- we are not the source of the statements. However, more specificity has been provided in that June 28, 1974 plus or minus a few days has now been mentioned as a target date.

It is still our understanding that the Interim Regulation will require no detectable migration of vinyl chloride monomer into food simulating solvents using analytical methods sensitive to 50 ppb, combined with some limitation on the residual monomer content of the food contact plastic surface. The situation here remains fluid but we believe the current intention is to fix the residual monomer level in the proposed Regulation at 10 ppm.

During the next two weeks, we expect to be extremely busy preparing testimony for the CSHA hearings and attending the same. Nevertheless, we will make every effort to keep in touch with you by means of these letters and thereby keep you as up-to-date as possible.

Cordially yours,



Enclosures

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JEROME H. HEGEMAN
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June 17, 1974

Ms. Joanne Goodell
Attn: Docket OSH-36
Occupational Safety and Health
Administration
U. S. Department of Labor
1726 "M" Street, N. W.
Room 200
Washington, D. C. 20210

Re: Notice of Intention to Appear
and Present Evidence; Occupa-
tional Exposure Standard.

Dear Ms. Goodell:

Responsive to the May 24, 1974 Hearing Notice published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor in Docket OSH-36 (39 Fed. Reg. 102, p. 18303), this is to advise you of the intention of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI) ^{1/} to appear through its officers, various members and counsel to present comprehensive testimony relative to OSHA's proposed permanent standard concerning vinyl chloride. It is the intention of the Society to provide OSHA with an integrated presentation involving a group of witnesses expert in all of the relevant areas to be considered with respect to the standard in question. It is believed that such an integrated presentation, which we fervently hope, and indeed urge that OSHA consider hearing before other industry witnesses appear in these proceedings, will serve to expedite the Hearing and provide perspective relative to other testimony to be presented independently by witnesses appearing on their own or individual companies' behalf.

1/ The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI) is a Corporation organized under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. It is composed of approximately 1400 member companies and individuals who supply raw materials; process or manufacture plastics or plastics products; engineer or construct molds or similar accessory equipment for the plastics industry; and engage in the manufacture of machinery used to make plastics products or materials of all types.

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In keeping with this objective, the Society plans to make available the following list of witnesses to testify on the subjects indicated.^{2/}

1. Mr. Ralph L. Harding, Jr., President of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. Mr. Harding will begin by explaining the nature, interests and role of SPI in the instant proceedings. He will identify the SPI constituency in this matter and the Society's general position relative to assuring employee and public safety where plastics raw materials and products are concerned.
2. Jerome H. Heckman, Esquire, General Counsel of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. Mr. Heckman's presentation will begin the SPI case in chief. After an opening statement regarding a summary of the evidence to be adduced by the Society, Mr. Heckman will address the legal issues implicit in the proposed standard under consideration and a number of specific change in the proposed permanent standard deemed essential to make some version of it workable.
3. Mr. Anton Vittone, Chairman of the SPI Vinyl Chloride and Polyvinyl Chloride Resin Producers Committee, and President of the B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company. Mr. Vittone will set forth the essential positions of the industry relative to the proposed permanent standard and, in terms of the current state of the art and all forecast improvements, will indicate the general capability of the industry to meet a feasible standard within a reasonable time framework.

^{1/} (Cont.) SPI is the major national trade association of the plastics industry; its membership is responsible for an estimated 75% of the total dollar volume of sales of plastics in this country.

^{2/} It should be understood that this Notice has been prepared on an expedited basis in light of the rather short time provided for preparation for the Hearing. For this reason we trust that the Administration will understand that changes in the contemplated schedule, or even the precise witnesses may become necessary. To the extent possible, OSHA will be notified of any changes as much in advance of the Hearing as possible.

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4. Mr. Vincent P. Ficcaglia, Industrial Economist, Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Ficcaglia, project director of Arthur D. Little's Economic Impact Analysis Study of the United States PVC Resin Industry, will testify on what might be expected to occur if the presently proposed permanent standard were adopted, thereby making it virtually impossible in the opinion of industry experts to produce vinyl chloride monomer and polyvinyl chloride resins. The impact of the U. S. PVC industry on the overall United States economy will be the focal point of Mr. Ficcaglia's testimony.

5. Joseph F. Tomashefski, M. D., Chief of the Pulmonary Department, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio; Robert D. Soule, M. D., Vice President-Industrial Hygiene Services, George D. Clayton and Associates, Southfield, Michigan; and Mr. Roger Strassburg, Division of Environmental Affairs, the B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company. The named witnesses will address the protective equipment requirements of the proposed standard, the effectiveness and limitations of the various types of equipment involved, and human experience information related to various kinds of protective equipment.

6. M. L. Kiplinger, Ph.D., Manager-Toxicology, Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories, Inc. Northbrook, Illinois, will provide a current report on the animal toxicology data presently available and its relevance to the vinyl chloride monomer industrial hygiene problem.

7. Carl U. Dernehl, M. D., Associate Medical Director, Union Carbide Corporation; and Paul L. Wright, Ph.D., Manager of Toxicology, Monsanto Company, will discuss the medical evidence and human experience data. The Society of the Plastics Industry's Vinyl Chloride and Polyvinyl Chloride Resin Producers' Committee has been able to gather and analyze thus far. They will also provide their conclusions as experts in the field of industrial hygiene as to the implications of such evidence.

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8. Carl U. Dornohl, M. D.; and M. N. Johnson, M. D., Director of Environmental Health, E. F. Goodrich Company. These witnesses will discuss the medical requirements of the proposed standard, especially those involving human surveillance, and make recommendations as to necessary and desirable changes in the proposed regulations.

9. Rudolph Stahl, Ph.D., Senior Analytical Specialist, The Dow Chemical Co., U.S.A.. Dr. Stahl will present testimony and recommendations concerning available monitoring instrumentation, its cost and reliability, for determining vinyl monomer concentrations under varying plant conditions. Recommendations will also be made by Dr. Stahl as to changes that should be incorporated in the final standard so as to make it more practical and effective.

10. Mr. Paul Becke, Jr., Development Manager-Films and Flooring Division, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company; Mr. Arthur A. Smith, Vice-President-Operations, Robin-Tech, Inc.; Mr. P. J. Weaver, Director of Industry Affairs, E. F. Goodrich Chemical Company; Mr. Rodney P. Becker, Manager-PVC Applications and Technical Services, Plastics Division, Diamond-Shamrock Chemical Company; Mr. I. Mollinini, Vice-President-Chief Chemist, Gollub Analytical Service Corporation, Berkley Heights, New Jersey. These witnesses will discuss the implications of the proposed standard with respect to PVC processors and fabricators. More specifically, this testimony will address the question of whether there is any necessity for coverage of processors or fabricators by the standard, the technological and economic feasibility of requiring such compliance, available vinyl chloride exposure data in processors' plants and other, related background and information about how processors are likely to be affected by any standard imposed on the VCM and PVC resin manufacturers.

It is estimated that the direct testimony presented by The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. will require an allocation of approximately four (4) hours.

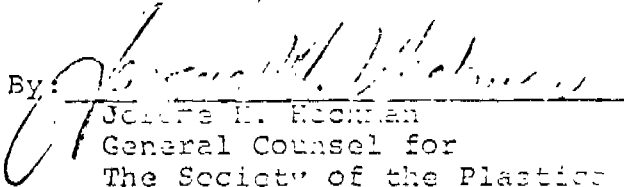
Mr. Joanne Goodell
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As will be further indicated at the Hearing, it is the general position of The Society of the Plastics Industry that the proposed permanent standard cannot be met by October 5, 1974 without destroying the viability of the polyvinyl chloride industry and the many other industries dependent upon polyvinyl chloride resin products. With full recognition that there is a significant problem, the Society will attempt to present acceptable recommendations for changes in the proposed permanent standard and the time-table for its effectuation so that public and employee health will be protected, and risks and benefits will be sensibly balanced, taking into account all aspects of the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS
INDUSTRY, INC.

By:


Joseph E. Hickman
General Counsel for
The Society of the Plastics
Industry, Inc.



Environmental News

Arsht (202) 755-0120
O'Neill (202) 755-0844

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6 P.M., E.D.T., TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1974

EPA URGES PROMPT STEPS BY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY TO REDUCE VINYL CHLORIDE AIR EMISSIONS

Russell E. Train, EPA Administrator, met today with senior executives of the 29 companies which manufacture vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride resin to urge accelerated efforts to minimize the discharge of vinyl chloride gas into the environment.

Train recommended prompt tightening and improvement of operating procedures in the manufacturing plants and suggested early consideration of longer-term process modifications.

Train requested that each company begin or continue monitoring emissions from its plants in order to provide more extensive information on the quantities of vinyl chloride entering the environment. EPA will support additional monitoring in cooperation with State and local governments.

Train indicated that a number of the companies represented reported substantial efforts over a period of time to reduce vinyl chloride emissions, as well as monitoring activities. He stated that the companies in general assured EPA of their desire to provide full and continuing cooperation in finding effective solutions to the problem.

Train called today's meeting after reviewing a summary of EPA's preliminary monitoring results at seven chemical complexes, including two vinyl chloride and ten polyvinyl chloride plants.

} (more)

Train stated, "There is no scientific evidence to indicate that these emissions pose an immediate hazard to people living near these plants. However, present data indicates that regulatory steps should be promptly taken to reduce vinyl chloride emissions to the lowest practical level."

At today's meeting, Train briefly summarized the results of the EPA's recent monitoring efforts. He stressed the preliminary nature of the findings. "Only a limited number of samples were taken at each facility under varying meteorological and temperature conditions," Train said. "While we are reasonably confident that our monitoring methods were sound, it is difficult to generalize about ambient conditions from our samples which were limited in time and distribution. Also there were many opportunities for error in the individual measurements made in this pioneering effort. It is clear that considerable additional work is required before we have an accurate picture of the vinyl chloride levels in the ambient air."

On May 31, EPA requested the manufacturers to provide detailed technical and economic information concerning steps that have been and could be taken to reduce vinyl chloride emissions. The information, due June 14, is being sought under Section 114 of the Clean Air Act for possible use by EPA in setting an air pollution control standard for vinyl chloride.

The preliminary monitoring results, which should be further verified by additional monitoring, indicate that the levels of vinyl chloride in the ambient air near the plants fluctuated sharply, apparently due to the periodic opening of polyvinyl chloride reactor kettles, accidental plant discharges, variations in the production process, and meteorological conditions. While almost all of the samples collected contained detectable levels of vinyl chloride, more than 95 percent of the samples showed amounts less than 1 part per million (ppm).

At several of the chemical complexes tested, a number of individual air samples showed more than 1 ppm vinyl chloride. A one-time high of 33 ppm was obtained at one site although repeated sampling at this site indicated that this level was unusual. The average at this site was in the range of 0.5 to 1 ppm.

(more)

Most of the air sampling was done within one-half mile of the property lines of the plants. In one case a level of 3.4 ppm was recorded at a distance of three miles from the plant. The average of several readings at this site was approximately 0.5 ppm.

EPA also monitored water effluents, and levels varied considerably depending on the in-plant handling of wastes and treatment of wastewater. The highest level for wastewater leaving the plant site was 20 ppm. More typically, levels of 2 to 3 ppm were found. There is no currently available evidence to indicate that vinyl chloride is present in detectable levels in drinking water. Not unexpectedly, the levels of vinyl chloride entrapped in sludge and other solid wastes from the reactor kettles ranged from 100 to in one case 3,000 ppm.

"At the present time," Train said, "there is no basis for considering that the levels of vinyl chloride detected in water discharges or in sludge if handled properly are hazardous to human health or to aquatic life."

As a precaution, EPA has initiated programs to gather further information concerning vinyl chloride levels in effluent water, drinking water, and sludges; the persistence of vinyl chloride in water; and the effects, if any, of vinyl chloride on aquatic organisms.

Vinyl chloride has been strongly implicated as a cause of a rare but fatal form of cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver. To date, 19 cases of angiosarcoma have been confirmed worldwide in workers at polyvinyl chloride facilities. In all of these cases, the workers had been repeatedly exposed to high levels of the gas over a substantial number of years. It has also been suggested that vinyl chloride may be implicated in several non-worker deaths from this liver cancer. Whether vinyl chloride is the cause of these deaths is still being investigated.

(more)

Results from animal studies, many of which are still in progress, have shown that prolonged exposures to levels of 5 ppm cause this same liver cancer in rats and mice. Train also noted today that the industry recently expanded its support of these studies on the health implications of vinyl chloride at lower doses and will continue efforts in this regard.

EPA is planning to support epidemiological studies in some neighborhoods near vinyl chloride and polyvinyl chloride plants to further assess the implications of vinyl chloride exposure for the general public.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Department of Labor, responsible for worker safety, has determined that levels exceeding 50 ppm in the work place present a hazard and has set an emergency temporary standard at that level. To initiate the process for setting a permanent standard, on May 10, OSHA proposed lowering the standard to the level of detection. Public hearings to gather information for a permanent standard and to assist OSHA in making a final judgment as to the adverse effects of vinyl chloride and the appropriate levels of exposure to workers, have been scheduled by OSHA for June 25-26.

Detailed reports on EPA sampling activities at Locking, Louisville, Plaquemine and Long Beach are available today. Detailed reports concerning the other three complexes are in the final stages of compilation and will be available within several weeks.

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VINYL CHLORIDE AND POLYVINYL CHLORIDE PLANTS
COMPLIANCE MONITORED BY EPA REGIONAL OFFICES
DURING MAY 1974

Louisville, Ky.	PVC Plant	The B. F. Goodrich Company B. F. Goodrich Chemical Division
Leominster, Mass.	PVC Plant	Borden, Inc. Borden Chemical Division
Plaquemine, La.	PVC Plant	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Chemical Division
	VC Plant	Dow Chemical Company
Long Beach, Calif.	PVC Plant	The B. F. Goodrich Company B. F. Goodrich Chemical Division
	PVC Plant	American Chemical Corporation
	VC Plant	American Chemical Corporation
Painesville, Ohio	PVC Plant	Uniroyal, Inc. Uniroyal Chemical Division
	PVC Plant	Robintech, Inc.
Delaware, City Delaware	PVC Plant	Stauffer Chemical Company Plastics Division
	PVC Plant	Diamond Shamrock Corporation Diamond Shamrock Chemical Division
Flemington, N.J.	PVC Plant	Tenneco, Inc. Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.

NOTES:

Water effluent samples were also collected at the PVC plant of Union Carbide Corporation, Chemical and Plastics Division, in S. Charleston, W.

Sampling was attempted but was infeasible due to limited time and equipment difficulties at the PVC plants of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Firestone Plastics Company, in Perryville, Md. and Portlouis, La.

Very limited air sampling was conducted in the Houston area in the vicinity of the plants listed below. However, in view of the inadequacy of the activity, the sampling effort in this area is being continued.

Deer Park, Tex., PVC Plant - Diamond Shamrock Corp., Diamond Shamrock Chemical Division
Deer Park, Tex., VC Plant - Shell Chemical Co., Industrial Chemicals Division
Houston, Texas, VC Plant - Tenneco, Inc., Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
Pasadena, Texas, VC Plant - Ethyl Corporation

VINYL CHLORIDE AND POLYVINYL CHLORIDE MANUFACTURERS IN
CONTACT BY EPA

AIR PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS, INC.
AMERICAN CHEMICAL CORPORATION
BORDEN CHEMICAL, INC.
CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY
DIAMOND SHANNOCK CHEMICAL COMPANY
ETHYL CORPORATION
FIRESTONE PLASTICS COMPANY
GENERAL WIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY
B. F. GOODRICH CHEMICAL COMPANY
GOODYEAR TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY
GREAT AMERICAN CHEMICAL COMPANY
HOOKER CHEMICAL
KEYSOR-CENTUR CORPORATION
MONSANTO COMPANY
NATIONAL STARCH AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION
OLIN CORPORATION
THE PANTRY CO. OF NEW YORK, INC.
ROBINSON, INC.
STAUFFER CHEMICAL COMPANY
TENNCO CHEMICALS, INC.
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
UNIROYAL INCORPORATION
UNIROYAL INCORPORATED
ALLIED CHEMICAL CORPORATION
DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
MONOCHEM, INC.
PPG INDUSTRIES, INC.
SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
GEORGIA PACIFIC CORPORATION
CERTAIN-LITE PRODUCTS
(PVC plant under construction)

Point Cloud Of Pollution

By Morton Shatz

Washington Post Staff Writer

Pick a large manufacturing plant and make a list of plants that produce toxic vapors, effluents, gases, or that convert raw gas to a common pollutant. You can find scientific evidence of these substances in the air, and you can find them in the blood of people living in the vicinity. The Environmental Protection Agency is now doing this.

Moreover, public health officials are taking steps to reduce vinyl chloride emissions to the "lowest practical level," EPA Administrator Russell E. Train said.

He now wants to know what the 25 plants that manufacture the gas and the plastic polycarbonate are doing to speed up efforts to maintain a level of the gas into the environment. He said afterward that they had assured their cooperation.

Train called the meeting after reviewing a summary of the preliminary research results in the next few days. 12 plants produced in seven chemical complexes.

More than 95 per cent of the samples collected within a radius of a half mile of the plants properly listed contained vinyl chloride at a level of less than 1 part per million, the agency reported. In one case, 10 samples recorded concentrations as high as 0.5 per cent.

At four of the complexes — at Louisville, Tenn.; Long Beach, Calif.; Jamesville, Ohio; and Phenix, Ala. — number of samples showed more than 1 part per million. At the 300,000-gallon plant at Louisville, the average recorded level was 0.5 and 1 part per million. One time, a level of 0.5 per cent was recorded.

At the 100,000-gallon plant at Louisville, the average recorded level was 0.5 and 1 part per million. One time, a level of 0.5 per cent was recorded.

Dr. David A. Schottenfeld, director of the National Institute for Environmental Health Safety, said the EPA has set a temporary standard for workplaces of 100 parts per million, proposed to lower the standard for jobs to whatever level at which the gas can be detected.

Worldwide, 10,000 tons of vinyl chloride are produced each year. The gas is produced primarily for use in the manufacture of plastics, but also for other uses.

In each case, the gas has been reported to be over 100 times more toxic than the gas. The gas is also reported to be more toxic than the gas. The gas is also reported to be more toxic than the gas.

Train said the results of the executive summary of the preliminary research results indicated that only a limited number of samples were taken at each facility. They were meteorological conditions and the conditions during the monitoring period.

He said that the levels of vinyl chloride in the air were quite sharply with the plants as the plants were located. The plants are located in the area of the plants.

EPA said that the results of the preliminary research results indicated that only a limited number of samples were taken at each facility. They were meteorological conditions and the conditions during the monitoring period.

Train said that the results of the preliminary research results indicated that only a limited number of samples were taken at each facility. They were meteorological conditions and the conditions during the monitoring period.