

Texas City, Texas

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Ethyl Corp. - VCM Plant

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Per your request, I have finally gotten around to investigating the possible capacity of the Ethyl Corporation VCM plant to be built in Houston.

According to the information I have, their capacity for making tetraethyl lead solution is 360,000 pounds per day. This would require 102,000 pounds per day of HCl; and if all of the HCl were made by EDC cracking, this would produce between 50 - 60MM pounds per year of VCM, depending on what on-stream factor is used.

It is interesting to note that Ethyl has been burning chlorine and hydrogen as a means of producing their HCl for the Houston plant. This is rather expensive HCl, as you know; and if the cost of this HCl is credited to the vinyl chloride plant, when VCM begins supplying the HCl, the vinyl operation becomes quite profitable.

I talked to a Houston contact of Ethyl Corporation about their VCM business and he made the statement several times that their management was extremely pleased with their Baton Rouge VCM venture. This is obvious since they are going forward with the Houston plant. My contact did not know, however, the size of the Houston VCM plant as he was involved in the TEL phase of the business and was not up-to-date on the VCM picture.

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