H. A. SEMKEN

ROCKDALE WORKS

April 9, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

~~MR. H. P. CHRISCO~~

~~ROCKDALE WORKS~~

Copy to: Dr. L. V. Cralley - Pittsburgh

EXHIBIT

AL-347

RE: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Industrial Hygiene Committee met on April 8 with the following present: H. A. Semken, J. H. Greene, E. W. Ostendorf, and H. D. Franklin.

Occupational Exposure Cases: One case was reported to the First Aid in February and one case in March. Both were the result of exposure to chlorine gas in Bldg. 34. The exposure in February was due to a leak at a hose connection and the March exposure was due to a leak from a faulty hose. It is our understanding that a governmental agency in Austin has been contacted by the president of the local union regarding the chlorine exposure in Bldg. 34.

F Level: The fluoride content of vegetation within a 2 - 3 mile radius of the Plant averaged 14 ppm in December and 16 ppm in both January and February. While these values are somewhat higher than those obtained in the immediately preceding months, they are about normal for this season of the year and are within what is considered to be an acceptable range. Rainfall in the above months amounted to 1.07, 2.63, and 5.60 inches respectively.

Lunch Rooms and Toilet Areas: An RFA will be submitted this quarter to make the recommended revisions to one of the toilet-lunchroom areas in the potroom center passageway.

Scrubber Efficiency Tests: Sampling and analytical work in connection with the first quarter test program is complete. Results will be available within a few days.

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Scrubber System: Cleaning of the lines is approximately 30% complete. The discharge header at Bldg. 76 has been installed and the main header has been cleaned from 76 to just south of Bldg. 40. The reaction tank at Bldg. 76 is essentially cleaned. The mixer in this tank has been removed for repairs and the lower mixer bearing is yet to be replaced. In making these repairs, water has been shut off the scrubber system for 106 hours. Yet to be cleaned are: the main header from Bldg. 40 to Bldg. 6, the laterals to all scrubbers, and all spray headers and nozzles. This will require approximately 15 days.

Use of Asbestos in Potlining Operations: The following comments are in response to a request for information on this subject by potlining personnel: Asbestosis, a disease resulting only from breathing asbestos dust, is now recognized as being a significant industrial exposure hazard. Even intermittent exposures to high concentrations, over long periods of time, can result in varying degrees of asbestosis according to individual susceptibility. There have been reports of an increased incidence of lung cancer in persons with asbestosis. Recommended maximum atmospheric concentrations (8 hours) is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air. Exposure is best controlled by local exhaust ventilation or, for intermittent exposure, an approved respirator. While it is doubtful that sufficient asbestos dust is generated in potlining operations to present a health hazard, proper precautions should be observed when dusting does occur.

Dryer Stack Clean-up: Twenty-three tests were conducted on the 3-tube, Koppers pilot precipitator during January, February, and March; seventeen of the tests were made with the precipitator operating as a dry unit, and six as a wet unit. Results of the dry basis tests show a low efficiency and no further work is planned on this basis. Efficiencies, operating on a wet basis, are sufficiently high to warrant running another series of tests. These will begin about the middle of April. The shell for the 3-stage Western precipitator will be completed in April. The internal

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parts are scheduled for delivery about the middle of June. We hope to have the precipitator assembled and ready for testing by the 15th of July.

H. A. SEMKEN

HAS:S

File copy routed to: Messrs. H. A. Bower
H. D. Franklin
R. D. Hornbeck
E. W. Ostendorf
J. H. Greene
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