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E.P.A. Proposes Rules to Cut A Cancer-Causing Gas by 90%

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (UPI)—The Environmental Protection Agency proposed regulations today to cut by 90 percent the amount of cancer-causing vinyl chloride gas, to which 4.6 million people are exposed in factory areas.

The agency said there was a health risk in the current exposure level and the new rules will reduce the up to 20 cases of cancer that occur every year due to exposure to vinyl chloride, a raw material of the plastic industry.

The Society of the Plastics Industry said it did not believe "there is any current, nor has there been in the past, risk to the health of individuals residing in the proximity" of the plants. But it said the producers of the chemical "agree that rigorous emission controls are in the public interest."

Russell E. Train, the E.P.A. administrator, said the cost to plants that produce vinyl chloride, ethylene, dichloride and polyvinyl chloride will total \$198 million, with \$70 million required each year to keep up the control.

The plants will also be required to reduce the amount of vinyl chloride in water discharged at an added estimated cost of \$83 million.

Mr. Train said the cost would filter down to the consumer in the form of a 3.5 percent rise in the prices of consumer goods made from polyvinyl chloride.

The widest use for the plastic material is in plumbing pipes and conduits. The second largest use is for wire and cables in electrical systems, and the third most common use is for

flooring, although the material winds up in everything from garden hose to clothing.

Under the proposal, which could go into effect some time in 1976, the 58 existing plants and any new ones will have to reduce their internal and external discharge of vinyl chloride in such a way that concentration in the surrounding air would be reduced by 90 percent in a five-mile radius of such factories.

Plants Affected

Plants affected by the E.P.A. proposal are as follows:

- Air Products, Inc., Calvert City, Ky., and Pensacola, Fla.
- Allied Chemical Co., Baton Rouge and Geismar, La.
- B. F. Goodrich Co., Calvert City, Ky., Avon Lake, Ohio, Henry, Ill., Long Beach, Calif., Louisville, Ky., and Peardicktown, N.J.
- Borden, Inc., Illinois, Ill., and Leominster, Mass.
- Continental Oil Co., Aberdeen, Miss., Oklahoma City, Okla., Lake Charles, La., and Westlake, La.
- Diamond Shamrock Corp., Delaware City, Del., and Deer Park, Tex.
- Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich., Freeport, Tex., Oyster Creek, Tex., and Plaquemine, La.
- Ethyl Corp., Baton Rouge, La., and Houston.
- Firestone Tire Co., Perryville, Md., and Pottstown, Pa.
- General Tire Co., Ashkoub, Ohio.
- Georgia-Pacific Corp., Plaquemine, La.
- Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Lake Charles, La.
- Goodyear Tire Co., Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Plaquemine, La.
- Great American Chemical Corp., Fitchburg, Mass.
- Jennet Corp., Torrance, Calif., Tucker, Ga., and Somerset, N.J.
- Kaiser Chemical Corp., Sausalito, Calif.
- Monocem, Inc., Geismar, La.
- Monsanto Co., Springfield, Mass.
- Occidental Petroleum Corp., Burlington, N.J., and Hicksville, L.I.
- Pentacote Co., Passaic, N.J., and Point Pleasant, W. Va.
- Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Guayana, P.R.
- Robinsch, Inc., Painesville, Ohio.
- Shell Oil Co., Deer Park, Tex., and Norco, La.
- Shintech, Inc., Freeport, Tex.
- Stauffer Chemical Co., Long Beach, Calif., and Delaware City, Del.
- Tenneco, Inc., Houston.
- Tenneco Chemicals, Inc., Burlington, N.J., Flemington, N.J., and Pasadena, Tex.
- Union Carbide Corp., Taft, La., Texas City, Tex., South Charleston, W. Va., and Painesville, Ohio.
- Vulcan, Geismar, La.

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