

St. Louis

January 7, 1966

PVC EXPOSURE

J. M. Chamberlin - JCM
 S. L. Hunter - SHUNT
 W. E. Messall - SPRINGFIELD
 G. W. Ingle - SPRINGFIELD
 F. E. Reese - FREES
 J. V. Waggoner - JWAGG
 P. H. Avon - PAVON

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Mr. A. C. Erdman
 SPRINGFIELD

Dr. William Messall, Springfield Plant, and I attended a meeting at B. F. Goodrich in Akron yesterday. Those attending for Goodrich were:

Dr. Rex Wilson, Medical Director
 Mr. William McCormick, Manager Industrial Hygiene & Toxicology
 Mr. M. Miller, Vice President of Personnel

The purpose of the discussion was for Goodrich to relate to us their experience with the workers in their various vinyl chloride polymerizing plants.

In brief, Goodrich has 22 people who have either symptoms of painful hands and/or absorption of the bone in the distal parts of the fingers to a greater or lesser degree. While approximately 6 or 7 of these have developed symptoms and have come into the dispensary, the others have been found as a result of an X-ray program which has seen 800 workers in Goodrich's polyvinyl chloride plants having their hands X-rayed. Another 1200 are scheduled within the next two months for such X-rays.

These cases have occurred as follows:

Avon	8
Henry	2
Welland &	
Niagara Falls	4
Louisville	8

All but one were cleaners of the poly kettles. This exception was a chemist. Goodrich has paid compensation on some of the cases, and 5 of them are being represented by a lawyer. The first case was discovered about 18 months ago.

There is at present no clue as to the cause. No one knows whether monomer is indicted but Goodrich is eventually going to X-ray workers in these installations also. No one knows whether this is local absorption, inhalation, exposure to plasticizers, or what. Goodrich has explained this same situation to Union Carbide and that company's response was much like ours. "We don't think we have any cases but we will look."

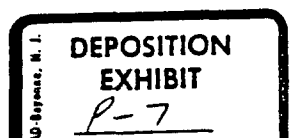
What Monsanto should do is X-ray the people who are presently working in the PVC polymerization room at Springfield. I am sure Dr. Messall can prepare these people with an adequate story so that no problem will exist. Depending upon what happens following this X-raying, we will have to see what our next step is.

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Mr. A. C. Erskine

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I am to keep in contact with Goodrich. At present their Doctor Wilson is on his way to Brussels to see if he can stop a publication of a paper by a Selway doctor who allegedly had at least two cases occur in a Selway plant which exhibited the same bone destruction that occurred in the Goodrich cases.

While this is not completely hush hush, I think discretion should be used to prevent any undue talking, and the name of Goodrich should be kept in the background.

R. Ernest Kelly, M. D.

REK/la

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