

CERTIFIED MAIL #059 203 918
RETURN RECEIPT

VM7

February 10, 1986

V4652

VISTA

Gus VonBodungen
Air Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
P O Box 44096
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. VonBodungen:

We are informing your office of one incinerator bypass of greater than one hour duration occurring at the Vista Chemical Company VCM Plant. This notice is in accordance with the discharge reporting requirements of Sections 77.9(a) and 76.18(c) of the Louisiana Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (LESHAP).

On February 3, 1986 an incinerator bypass, which lasted from 1700 hrs. to 2130 hrs. occurred. The bypass was initiated by a flame failure indication caused by an operational upset in the main plant. An accumulated emulsion layer in the Wet Crude Tank registered as the EDC/Water interface on the tank's level gauge. As a result, emulsion instead of wet EDC was fed to the Light Ends Column causing an operational upset. To prevent getting water in the EDC purification process downstream of the Light Ends Column three steps were taken:

- 1) The Light Ends Column make was diverted to the EDC wash section.
- 2) The Light Ends Column feed was reduced.
- 3) The Heavy Ends Column make was diverted to the EDC wash section.

The increased flow to the wash section caused the Wet EDC Pump to overload on high amperage. The subsequent high levels in the EDC Wash System caused liquid carryover in the wet vent header prompting the bypass. Based on the VCM Plant modernization material balance, approximately 36 lbs. of vinyl chloride was vented. The bypass exceeded one hour because the standby unit was down for maintenance and instrumentation problems developed while restarting the on-line unit. While the incinerator was down production rates were reduced to minimize the vinyl chloride emissions.

CWH 000005907

