



Interoffice Communication

To Dr. R. L. Lembke - Ponca City
From Oran D. Steffey
Date September 11, 1979
Subject ANNUAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INSPECTION - LAKE CHARLES
VCM PLANT

An industrial hygiene inspection was made of the Lake Charles VCM Plant on September 5, 1979. The purpose of the inspection was to physically check the installation from the standpoint of OSHA standards, which cover General Environmental Control - Sanitation, and the presence of and use of toxic and hazardous materials in the work place.

The following areas were covered from a general industrial hygiene standpoint:

Main Office	Laboratory
Warehouse	Control Building
Maintenance	Tank Storage & Loading Racks
Instrument Shop	General Processing Units
	Incinerators

All areas were found to be in good shape. The following comments are made relative to this plant:

The dual waste incinerator has been completed to the extent that it is in operation. It appears that this system is working quite satisfactorily.

The welding area has been expanded and is being improved. This area will receive additional attention within the coming year.

Management and plant personnel are to be commended for continued interest in establishing a safe and healthy work place.

Oran D. Steffey
Industrial Hygienist

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ITINERARY - DRS. E. L. DeWHITT AND O. STEFFEY

LAKE CHARLES VCM AND CHEMICAL PLANTS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1979

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Lv. Ponca City	7:00 a.m.	<u>Shuttle</u>
Ar. Houston	8:45 a.m.	

Drive to Lake Charles.
Inspect VCM Plant.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Inspect Chemical Plant.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Finish Chemical Plant Inspection.

Lv. Lake Charles	5:00 p.m.	<u>Shuttle</u>
Ar. Houston	5:40 p.m.	

Lv. Houston	6:15 p.m.	<u>Shuttle</u>
Ar. Ponca City	8:00 p.m.	

Accommodations @ Chateau Charles..

CCR 000011824

Robert L. Lembke, M.D.

Oran D. Steffey

November 20, 1978

TOXICITY OF MATERIALS OF ANALYSIS FROM THE YELLOW RESIDUE FROM
THE CARBATE CONDENSER - LAKE CHARLES VCM PLANT
REFERENCE - DERMATITIS OF TWO WORKERS

A conversation with Mr. Bill Henry, Safety Director, Lake Charles VCM Plant, revealed the following information concerning work exposure of two workers who are experiencing dermatitis from suspected exposure in the VCM Plant from residues from a carbate condenser.

1. The entire job, which is from the time of unbolting to the time of re-bolting, consumes approximately seven days. During this time it is felt that the men would experience the possibility of two days when they could have been exposed to materials which might cause dermatitis. During these two days one of the men working on top of the unit was exposed to airborne materials about the face and arms. He worked his eight-hour shifts without completely washing and changing clothes. The other man working below the unit experienced exposure to liquids from the carbate condenser tubes. He supposedly washed and changed clothes during his eight-hour work day.
2. These men may be working on the carbate condensers, performing such operations, no more than once every eight or nine months.
3. These men have worked on the carbate condenser before and have reported no difficulties with dermatitis before this last exposure.

The toxicity information on any of the materials of analysis from the yellow residue from the carbate condenser is very sparse, except for nickel which was quite prevalent in the analysis. Following is a toxicity summary:

Chlorinated dibenzofuran (diphenylene oxide)

Hazard unknown but this material is used as an insecticide. Most insecticide materials have the potential of causing dermatitis if one is sensitized to the material or if one is chronically exposed.

Fluorenone

Hepatachloro fluorenone - No information is available.
Octachloro fluorenone - No information is available.

Robert L. Lembke, M.D.
Page Two
November 20, 1978

Nickel

"Nickel and the Skin," taken from Nickel, Medical and Biological
Effects of Environmental Pollutants, National Academy of Sciences,
1975, is attached.

Oran D. Steffey
Industrial Hygienist

rla
Attach.

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE:

November 13, 1978

Bill Henry, VCM Plant, Lake Charles, ext. 5039, called me this morning. He stated that in August two of the men, while cleaning up condensers, apparently two or three days later developed some dermatitis. One developed a dermatitis around the face from some residual dust, a dermatitis described as "bumps." Another received a liquid mixture and developed some bumps around the peri-anal area. These men were sent to a local dermatologist, a Dr. Kent, telephone (318) 478-7456, who treated it as a contact dermatitis. Samples were sent off to the Research Center here in Ponca City and they were informed that this material contained some nickel, but apparently Dr. Kent ran tests with nickel and found that it was not the causative factor.

Dr. Kent saw these men again last Friday and stated that although the condition has improved somewhat it has not completely improved and that he doesn't know what is causing it, that he doesn't believe it was caused from the accident.

Bill Henry's only desire is to get these men's skin condition cleared up and he is asking for help as to our recommendations. He stated that Gordon Monroe, R.N., Lake Charles, is somewhat familiar with the case, although not as familiar as is Bill Henry, and has suggested that possibly the men be sent to a leading dermatologist in Houston. Mr. Henry states that they still have some of the residual material.

I informed Mr. Henry that I would discuss this with other members of the medical staff here and that we would then come up with a recommendation, probably tomorrow, Tuesday, November 14.

Robert L. Lembke, M.D.
Medical Director

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cc:
CLW
JRD
ODS ✓
HHJ

CCR 000011827