MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY

ANNISTON, ALABAMA

February 14, 1958

REPORT OF PLANT INSPECTION MADE 2-12-58

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MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY
ANNISTON, ALABAMA

SAFETY AND HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT - 2-12-58

I. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the February Safety and Plantkeeping Committee were as follows:

1. To regenerate "Safety Consciousness" among the Anniston Plant employees.

   a) By reviewing the six reportable and near-miss accidents we have had since January 1st with employees during the inspection tour.

   b) By asking the employees contacted to name a hazardous procedure they have practiced or observed.

2. To determine employee knowledge of artificial respiration.

3. To observe the method used in the plant to handle compressed gases (N_2, CO_2, etc.).

4. To inspect the general housekeeping in the plant.

II. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Safety Consciousness

The reportable and near-miss accidents were reviewed with 37 employees. All appeared to be sincerely concerned about the increase and were very helpful in pointing out practices and/or situations which they considered unsafe. (See section on unsafe practices).

The Committee recommends that supervision continue the review of Anniston accidents with their employees and point out that unless the trend is stopped, a lost-time accident is sure to follow. Employees should be requested to analyze each job, anticipate the hazards, and to take steps to eliminate the hazards or protect themselves. This should be done promptly in regular or special safety meetings.

2. Artificial Respiration

Plant knowledge of artificial respiration is very inadequate. The Committee found only 4 employees, out of 37 contacted, who appeared to have adequate knowledge of the latest artificial respiration techniques. Two employees have never received training. The remaining 31 employees felt they needed refresher training. Sixty percent said they were not familiar with the Neilson Lift Method.

The Committee strongly recommends that training in artificial respiration be given all plant employees as soon as possible. Recommend training film, practice sessions, and posters.

3. Use of Compressed Gas

The Committee found several glaring examples of unsafe practices in the use of compressed gases (CO_2, N_2, etc.). Many cylinders were observed standing on end without being securely chained. There were no standard pressure reducing valves provided for the cylinders and in some cases, the gas was being used without any knowledge of the pressure being delivered to the pipeline or equipment.

It is strongly recommended that Supervision take a critical look at the procedures being followed and take prompt corrective action. Employees should be instructed in the dangers of mishandling compressed gases.

4. General Recommendations

a) Many steam and water leaks were observed. These leaks not only represent a loss in money, but also may injure people through burns or creating slick surfaces by wetting or ice formation. Maintenance and Production supervision should be more diligent in their efforts to eliminate leaks.

b) More effort is needed throughout the plant to prevent ice formation on steps and walk-ways. Also some icicles were observed in work areas which were a menace. Most of the ice formation was caused by leaks or the purposeful bleeding of water and steam tracers to prevent freezing. Corrective action should be taken to stop the leaks and change the location of bleeders so that ice is not formed in critical areas.

c) Some mishandling of gas masks was observed in the Niran area. The Committee recommends that refresher training be given employees in the care and use of gas masks, and a procedure be developed for the use and inspection of emergency masks.

d) In general, the appearance of the plant was good. It is recommended that a special effort be made between now and March 25th, when Anniston will be host for the Organic Division Plant Manager's Meeting, to bring the plant to a high level of good housekeeping.

5. Unsafe Practices Observed or Related by Employees

The following unsafe practices or hazards were observed by the Committee or related by the employees contacted during the inspection tour.

a) Measuring and sampling of Biphenyl storage tanks is hazardous. It is necessary for a man to climb over a handrail and piping then stand on unguarded curvature of tank at sampling nozzle.

b) Steam leaks around the benzene storage tank area create a hazard.

c) One man felt that it was very hazardous for two men to carry CO_2 cylinders up stairwells.

d) Ice on platform and steps was mentioned several times.

e) Mechanical people felt that the present procedure for issuing clothing to mechanics in the Niran area should be reviewed. They pointed out that on several occasions clothing had not been available or was dirty and possibly contaminated. They were reluctant to use gloves which had been dirtied on a previous job by someone else.

f) Several employees felt it was unsafe for Niran employees to wear their overshoes into the locker room. They pointed out the possibility of bringing toxic material into the room and subsequently contaminating men who were walking around barefooted.

g) The second floor, Aroclor Department, becomes slick when it rains in the open windows.

h) Several employees mentioned equipment which was hazardous to get to or repair, such as pumps located in tight places, valves on high lines, etc. They suggested consideration be given to providing adequate ladders, platforms, mechanical hoists, etc. to reduce the hazards.

i) It was suggested that Niran safety procedures be reviewed again with mechanical and department employees.

j) Employees were observed handling dangerous chemicals without adequate eye protection.

k) Employees have been observed jumping off the loading platform on the east side of the Biphenyl Department.

l) A Lab employee felt that it was unsafe to analyze Niran samples throughout the lab as per present practice. He suggested that all samples be run in one specific designated area.

m) The method used to feed material into the shop built band-saw is very dangerous.

n) The "No Smoking" sign over the door at the paint shop is being violated. An ash tray containing cigarets butts was found inside the shop on the table.

o) A plant guard stated that some cars leaving the parking lot exit through the entrance end.

III. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

OFFICE

MONS 035304

Shipping Office

File cases located on the floor underneath desk at the north wall. These cases should be removed to the vault.

Maintenance Superintendent's Office

The walls and door need cleaning. There is a lamp cord which should be replaced.

Secretary's Office

Floor at north wall should be repaired.

Printing Room

The two-door cabinet needs to be cleaned inside and stationary should be removed from the top of the various cabinets and tables. Repeat item.

Laboratory

The floor is in very poor condition and in need of cleaning.

SHOP AREA

Shop

The general appearance of the shop was good.

Carpenter Shop

a) There is a steam or hot water heater leaking water just outside the paint shop door. The water made the concrete floor very slick.

b) Several paint buckets were stacked along the south wall - appearance poor.

Paint Shop

Paint shop in need of general cleaning.

2nd Floor

Northeast corner of the print room is very dirty - needs general clean-up.

3rd Floor

a) Southwest side cluttered with rolls of wire and stacked desks. In need of general clean-up.

b) There is a hole in the floor near the southwest corner of building. This hole is covered with an instrument which creates a stumbling hazard.

SERVICE BUILDING

a) Coats were hung on hooks near the showers in the white locker room. The coats should be hung in lockers.

b) There is a painters platform located on top of lockers in the colored locker room. This platform should be removed.

LABOR SHOP

General appearance good - some clean-up is needed around the outside of the building.

MURIATIC ACID AREA

a) The area around the coke scrubber and acid storage tanks is in poor condition. General clean-up needed.

BIPHENYL

a) Ground area on east side of Biphenyl Department in poor condition. Needs clean-up.

b) Steam and water leaks should be repaired.

c) Patch west wall of meter room to prevent water collecting in the room when it rains.

d) The safety shower outside the hydrogen compressor room will not work.

e) Biphenyl lunchroom needs some cleaning. Trash can should be provided in this room for lunch waste paper.

f) Biphenyl lab bench area dirty. Needs general clean-up.

g) The pipe rack area outside the Biphenyl pipe shop is cluttered. Items should be arranged more neatly.

h) Remove fan and ceiling vent from third floor platform. Repeat item.

i) Several small product spills were observed on the floors throughout the Biphenyl Department. Leaks should be repaired and material cleaned up.

AROCLORS

a) Floor is covered in places with tarry product. Should be sanded down.

b) Clean off the tops of the hoods located in the ground floor area.

c) Clean up jet platform. There are still parts of jets scattered around.

d) Consideration should be given to replacing the 55-gallon brick-filled stoves with standard gas heaters.

e) Hose racks should be provided in strategic locations.

f) There was a lever-pak lid wired to the forward flow sight glass on the #1 Aroclor still. This lid was used as a wind guard for a gas torch. This make-shift guard should be replaced by one fabricated in the shop.

g) Repair steam leaks.

SANTOWAX DEPT.

a) Extend the jet exhaust so that condensate does not drip within the platform area.

CHLORINE PLANT

a) Remove CO_2 cylinders lying on ground east of the Chlorine storage tank. (These cylinders were left over from a shop job) done

b) The Chlorine maintenance shop appears to be clean, but the items stored therein should be arranged in a more orderly fashion. no

c) Clean off the top of the Westinghouse compressor located outside the rectifier room. done

d) Grinder face shield, etc. should not be stored in ground floor room of rectifier bldg. Repeat item. done

WELDER SHACK

Area around welder's shack is cluttered. Should be tidied up.

YARDS

1. Area south of Niran in vicinity of water tank should be graded and seeded.
2. Hose house south of Niran should be equipped and painted.
3. Metal warning signs should be posted on fence surrounding sub-station southwest of Niran.
4. Cable south of Niran should be properly stored.

NIRAN PLANT

1. Area in vicinity of incinerator should be policed.
2. Hose racks should be installed. Hose presently coiled on floor.
3. Fire extinguisher locations should be properly marked.
4. M.H. on Thio Acid tank not bolted down.
5. General policing of all operating levels required. Rags, paper, pipe, etc. scattered about.
6. Ice should be removed from grating, pipes, etc.

7. Sump covers should be replaced behind cubicles.

8. Roadway west of building scattered with wood, hose, paper, etc. - in very poor shape.

9. Sample bottles on floor in control room.

TSP BUILDING

1. Trash in elevator pit.

2. Light panel wiring on west wall exposed. Door should be put back on.

3. Sliding door on north wall should be removed.

4. Yard north of building should be picked up.

BUILDING 41 - OLD BOILER ROOM

1. Stove located under Hayes instruments should be relocated to center of building.

2. Floor should be swept. Miscellaneous piping, etc. scrapped.

BOILER ROOM

1. No handle on boiler room doors.

2. General policing of floor necessary.

3. Fuses should be removed from panel in southeast corner.

PROCESS BUILDING NO. 2

1. Temporary wiring should be removed so that starter on east wall southend building can be closed.

2. Junk at foot of stairs to second level.

3. Junk south of elevator on second level.

4. Loading area shouth of building requires policing.

STORAGE AREA EAST OF PROCESS BUILDING NO. 2

1. Entire area requires straightening up.

2. Caps off fire hydrant.

INSPECTION COMMITTEE

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Ben Ward (for H. J. Ingram)

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