TO: Bob Potter
Art Fitzgerald
Dave Sliney
Dan Bishop
Glynn Young
Mike Pierle
Pat Hyland

FROM: Diane Bartolanzo

file - Carondelet

FYI --in case you missed it in today's Post:

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1988 5A

ACTUAL AMOUNT WAS 1,200, NOT 12,000. WE ARE CALLING REPORTER TO CORRECT INACCURACY

12,000 Gallons Of Acid Leaks At Plant

About 12,000 gallons of phosphoric acid leaked Tuesday night at Monsanto Chemical Co.'s Carondelet plant, at 8201 Idaho Avenue, in south St. Louis, authorities said.

No one was exposed to the corrosive substance, and no one was evacuated from the area, said Beth Fay, the acting plant manager.

The leaking acid remained near its tank and was neutralized by soda ash, said Art Politte, security supervisor at the plant.

Fay said that an acid recirculation line had sprung the leak. It might have been caused by a 3-inch section of stainless steel that was of a different grade than the rest of the pipeline, she said.

The leak turned out to be much larger than company officials had first thought Wednesday morning, Fay said. The 12,000 gallons of acid that leaked weighed 16,000 pounds.

As required, the company notified federal, state and local authorities.

DSW 134979

To: Bob Potter
Art Fitzgerald
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Mike Pierle

From: Diane Bartolanzo

Date: 3/2/88

Subj: Carondelet CERCLA reportable spill

Art Politte, safety supervisor at the Carondelet plant, called me at 12:30 pm today to tell me about a 1,200 gallon (15,000 pound) spill of phosphoric acid which occurred last night.

The cause was corrosion on a 3" stub end of a T-shaped spool. The part should have been made from a higher grade of stainless steel. The material was not compatible with phosphoric acid and had been deteriorating for the past two years since installed as part of a pilot plant. It finally gave out.

When the spill was detected, it was not thought to be a CERCLA reportable quantity. It was neutralized with soda ash right away. No authorities were contacted at that time.

Examining inventory levels today, however, the spill was determined to be a greater amount than first thought. All the proper notifications were then made both internal and external. The fire department was contacted and they informed the LEPC in accordance with new Title III guidelines. A letter was also prepared for Mr. Mahoney.

Phosphoric acid does not cause air exposure concern. Once neutralized, the material presented no hazard to employees or the community.

The fire department checked the situation, saw that the surface material was neutralized and left. However, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, picking up the message over the scanner radios, called the plant to find out what the fire department was doing at the plant.

Beth Faye, acting plant manager for the day, explained that there had been a phos acid spill, the material was neutralized right away and posed no hazard. He wanted to know if there were any injuries. There were none. He asked what the hazardous effects of phos acid were. Beth explained--irritating if inhaled or in contact with the skin. The call lasted about 10 minutes.

The acid is contained in several feet of chat. It is neutralized on the surface, but might be unneutralized deeper down. One of our hydrogeologists ran tests today and will continue tomorrow to determine whether the spill came in contact with groundwater. Results should be ready tomorrow. We will then commence a remediation plan. The fire department is being kept informed of our activities.

DSW 134980