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Lorain Journal March 20, 1975

Avon Lake B. F. Goodrich Plant Says Worker Has Liver Cancer

By FLORENCE YORK
Staff Writer

AVON LAKE — The B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company's Avon Lake plant, which has been investigated in the past for a possible link between vinyl chloride and cancer, confirmed today that one of its employees has cancer of the liver.

A spokesman for the company said today that employees were informed by bulletin board yesterday that one of the workers was found to have angiosarcoma of the liver, a rare form of cancer.

The employee, 46-year-old Charles Arthur, of 950 Oakwood, Elyria, is still confined at Lorain Community Hospital. His wife said this morning. She said she

believed her husband, who has worked for about 22 years at the Avon Lake plant, worked with vinyl chloride at times.

The diagnosis of angiosarcoma of the liver was made on Monday, said Mrs. Arthur. She explained her husband had been complaining of a "bellyache" and went to his physician for tests.

She said she expects her husband to be released from the hospital by this weekend or the beginning of next week. Mrs. Arthur, when asked if her husband would be returning to work at B.F. Goodrich, said they had not discussed the matter yet.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which began an investigation of vinyl chloride last June, said vinyl

chloride has been "implicated" in 19 worldwide cases of angiosarcoma of the liver among workers engaged in the conversion of the chemical into polyvinyl chloride.

"We don't normally comment on an employee's medical condition," noted the spokesman, "but we felt our employees would be interested, because angiosarcoma is a disease that has been associated with vinyl chloride in the past."

He would not confirm or deny that the employee worked in an area where vinyl chloride, a gaseous chemical suspected of causing liver cancer, is handled.

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