UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

OSHA 1165

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS

P. O. BOX 471, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT UC-1165

TO (NAME) Mr. J. H. Barrett
COMPANY Mr. T. O. Blum
LOCATION Mr. J. L. Carvajal - 501
Mr. C. W. Casey
Mr. D. L. Engle
Dr. D. H. Glenn
COPY TO Mr. R. E. Graebert - 511
Dr. E. Q. Hull - 511
Mr. J. S. Knight
Mr. W. P. Nickles
Mr. F. S. Provenzano
Mr. D. R. Reem
Mr. R. Ritchie
Mr. H. R. Schulz

DATE May 7, 1979

SUBJECT OSHA Visit, May 1, 1979

Mr. R. J. Taylor
Dr. M. Utidjian - 511
Mr. R. Van Mynen - 501
Mr. J. W. Whittlesey - 501 (46)
Ms. A. P. Yalcinkaya

Gentlemen:

Rich Miller and Jeff Sayers of OSHA visited the plant on 5/2/79 to discuss ethylene production and ethylene oxide usage. They indicated that this visit was unplanned as of that morning. They requested a tour of No. 3 Olefins and the Ethyleneamines Units and were escorted by Perihan Yalcinkaya of Industrial Hygiene and myself. Jack Buehler of No. 3 Olefins briefed Miller and Sayers on ethylene production and answered their questions. Ron Bocek of Amines described his unit's usage of ethylene oxide in the production of AEEA (Aminoethylethanolamine). Miller and Sayers did not tour the units after their questions were answered. Ms. Yalcinkaya allowed them to see ethylene and ethylene oxide monitoring data obtained by the I.H. Department at various locations throughout the plant.

A number of points were discussed throughout the afternoon. Among these were:

1. Miller speculated that their visit was due to OSHA's concern over a report being published the next day by NIH (National Institute of Health) which would name chemicals thought to cause brain tumors and further speculated that OSHA wanted to be able to say that they checked out the Texas City Plant for ethylene and ethylene oxide if asked.

2. Miller advised that other ethylene producing plants search for records of brain tumors among their workers. He did not seem interested in ethylene consuming units.

3. Miller stated that polyethylene is a "hot item" in the minds of OSHA. Although he did not specify, presumably this applied to glioblastomas.

4. Miller stated that he had a chromatographic analysis of Texas City tap water done but found nothing.

5. Miller stated that OSHA's investigation would end shortly and that we would be given a clean bill of health but that NIOSH's work could continue for years.

UCTC 20878

6. Miller hinted that an area study might be more appropriate rather than one geared to a specific plant. However, this was his opinion and did not seem to carry any official sanction.

7. Miller seemed to be aware that all documented brain tumor deaths from the Texas City Plant were residents of Texas City/La Marque.

8. Miller requested that we check to see if any of the brain tumor victims ever worked in Ethyleneamines and send that information to him.

9. Miller was interested to know that UCC had a 10 ppm limit on 8-hour TWA exposure to ethylene oxide.

J. C. LEDVINA

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UCTC 20879