UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

1-29-80

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT UC-1232

UC 1232-1

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

To: Messrs. J. H. Barrett
T. O. Blum
M. E. Eisenhour
D. L. Engle
D. H. Glenn, MD
R. E. Graebert - 511
D. J. Grammer
J. S. Knight
J. B. Leverton
R. R. Rankin
R. Ritchie
R. J. Taylor
J. W. Whittlesey - 501

Date: February 1, 1980

Subject: OSHA Investigation on 1/29/80

Gentlemen:

On January 29, 1980, Mr. David Elskamp, OSHA Industrial Hygienist, conducted an investigation into alleged employee exposure to mercury during maintenance operations in Bldg. 137 and vinyl chloride exposure in and around Bldg. 110 (VA-5 Unit). The complaint is attached.

An opening conference was held with Messrs. Elskamp, Leverton, Munn, Schulz and Martin. In the course of this meeting, Mr. Elskamp was informed that the unit he was investigating had been demolished approximately 10 years ago. Bldgs. 137 and 110 at one time were associated with the synthesis of vinyl chloride from acetylene using mercuric chloride catalyst. In the interim period, VA-5 had been erected on this site and given the building number 110.

Mr. Elskamp requested and was given copies of Interim Plant Procedure No. 21 -- Contractor Work in Vinyl Chloride Areas -- and benzene program guidelines contained in minutes of BENZENE meeting held on March 3, 1978. Mr. Elskamp also requested to examine the OSHA Form 200 Log for 1979 and was permitted to do so.

At the conclusion of the opening conference, Mr. Elskamp was accompanied to VA-5 by Messrs. Akins, Munn, and Martin where a short meeting was held with C. Smith, D. Grammer, and D. Kirkland. Elskamp stated a desire to interview a maintenance employee who worked in the area before the vinyl chloride unit had been torn down and to collect grab samples on the old unit site for mercury and vinyl chloride. Mr. Elskamp was then taken to the slab of what was Bldg. 137 where he took mercury measurements with a V&W Mercury Sniffer. (No mercury was present.) Mr. Elskamp then took several vinyl chloride measurements in VA-5 with Bendix detector tubes. One sample indicated 0.05 ppm vinyl chloride; the rest indicated zero vinyl chloride.

Mr. Elskamp interviewed Mr. Boots Roberts, insulator, with Mr. Munn concerning the complaint.

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A closing conference was held with Messrs. Leverton, Elskamp, Munn, and Martin in which Mr. Elskamp stated that he found the complaint to have no basis. Elskamp additionally stated he would recommend to his supervisor that no additional action be taken. Any followup that would be initiated would be preceded by notification.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at ext. 5589.

Sincerely,

Kirk E. Martin

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