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OSHA INVESTIGATING GOODRICH CANCER FATALITIES

The U.S. Department of Labor announced today it will hold a public hearing early next month to determine the scope of occupational health problems affecting workers involved in vinyl chloride operations.

The Department also announced it has sent two industrial hygienists from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to investigate polyvinyl chloride production operations of the B.F. Goodrich plant in Louisville, Ky.

Goodrich announced Wednesday it is investigating whether the cancer deaths of three employees are related to occupational exposure to its polyvinyl chloride production operations. One employee died in September 1971, one in March, 1973, and the most recent one last month.

The OSHA experts will investigate jointly with officials from the state and from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

OSHA's investigation is aimed at determining whether violations exist of federal job safety and health standards on worker exposure to vinyl chloride.

The hearing to be held next month will determine the extent of possible exposure and whether there is a need to amend the OSHA standard.

Under federal limits, workers may not at any time be exposed to vinyl chloride in concentrations greater than 500 parts per million parts of air.

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OSHA announces  
fact-finding hearing  
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