

88-7900322

8E10-1279-0322

CERTIFIED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



11/10/79

December 4, 1979

*12/10/79
4:59
[Signature]*

PAGE 0002

Document Control Officer
Chemical Information Division
Office of Toxic Substances (WH-557)
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Gentlemen:

This will serve to notify you, pursuant to Section 8E of the Toxic Substances Control Act, of a release of chlorine gas at our Oakland plant. The details and references to support documentation describing the nature of the potential hazard are included in the attached form.

As a result of this release, 14 of our employees were taken to either the Oakland hospital or the California Industrial Medical Clinic for examination and treatment. Only 2 of the employees were retained in the hospital, 1 for 3 days and the other for 5 days. The diagnosis was lung irritation and the prognosis is for full recovery with no anticipated complications.

In addition, it is estimated that 35 people from the surrounding areas were examined at various hospitals and subsequently released.

It is our opinion that the cause for this release was equipment failure in the piping connecting the tank car to the permanent plant piping. An investigation to analyze the actions taken and make recommendations for improvements has been undertaken by appropriate personnel, and it is expected their recommendations will be implemented.

This accidental release was investigated on the day of the occurrence by the EPA, California OSHA, as well as the local fire and police departments. We have been advised by California OSHA that as a result of their investigation, they have determined that there were not any OSHA violations, and it is not their intent to issue a citation.

We believe the information referenced in the attached report adequately describes the chemical and physiological effects of chlorine, all of which is widely known in current literature. Please advise if further information is required.

Sincerely,

E. Harder
Vice President-Technical Services
The Clorox Technical Center

CEH:cs
Attach.

The Clorox Company • Technical Center

Street Address: 7200 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Tel. (415) 462-2100
Mail Address: P.O. Box 493, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Notification of Substantial Risk Under Section 8 (e)

Document Control Officer
Chemical Information Division
Office of Toxic Substances (WH-557)
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20460

PAGE 0003

Dear Sir:

In accordance with section 8 (e) of TSCA, The Clorox Company is sending by certified mail this notice of a substantial risk.

1. Date and time of occurrence: 7:00 a.m. - November 16, 1979

2. Location of occurrence: External to The Clorox Company's plant located at 850 42nd Avenue, Oakland, California

3. Name of product or raw material involved: Chlorine

4. Constituents (chemical substances) of product or raw material involved (list CAS number if possible):

Chlorine

CAS No. 7782-50-5

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b. Environmental effects

- 1. Widespread distribution of chemical _____
- 2. Pronounced bioaccumulation _____
- 3. Ecologically significant changes in species interrelationships _____
- 4. Transformation/degradation of a chemical involving above risks _____

If any of the above are checked, please expostulate: _____

This section does not apply. _____

7. Summary of adverse effects, nature and extent of risk involved (reference in #8 if applicable)

Human - Principle effect is that of a serious irritant. _____

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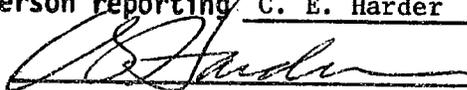
8. Supporting technical data and literature:

1. SAX, N.R., Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials (5th Edition) Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York (1979)
2. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare: Criteria for a Recommended Standard. Occupational Exposure to Chlorine, (NIOSH) 76-170.pp. 29, 36, 56. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976.
3. M.C.A. Chemical Safety Data Sheet 50-80 Properties and Essent. Information for Safe Handling and Use of Chlorine. Washington. (1970)
4. National Research Council, Committee on Medical and Biological Effects of Environmental Pollutants: Chlorine and Hydrogen Chloride. pp. 116-123. Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences, 1976.

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9. Name of person reporting C. E. Harder

Signature



Job Title Vice President-Technical Services

Date signed December 5, 1979

Address The Clorox Technical Center
7200 Johnson Drive

Pleasanton, California 94566

Telephone 415-462-2100

Reporting for: The Clorox Company
Regulatory Compliance
1221 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

88-7900322

Kouer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 1, 1980

OFFICE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Status Report 8 EHQ 1279-0322

FROM: Walter W. Kovalick, Jr., Director
Program Integration Division (TS-793)

Walter W. Kovalick, Jr.

TO: Joseph Merenda, Director
Assessment Division (TS-792)

Submission Description: The Clorox Company Plant, Oakland, California: accidental release of chlorine gas

On November 16, 1979, at 7:00 a.m., an accidental release of chlorine gas occurred at the Oakland plant of the Clorox Company. The cause of this release was equipment failure in piping which connected a tank car containing the gas to permanent plant facilities.

Submission Evaluation

Chlorine gas is a serious irritant. Inhalation may cause bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, tachycardia, and pulmonary edema. Chlorine gas is also an eye irritant and a mucous membrane irritant. These effects manifest themselves within forty-eight hours after exposure.

Comments/Recommendations

This incident does not appear to warrant reporting as an 8(e). Fourteen Clorox employees were taken to either the Oakland hospital or the California Industrial Medical Clinic for examination and treatment. Two employees were retained in the hospital - one for three days and the other for five days. The diagnosis was lung irritation and the prognosis was full recovery with no complications. Thirty-five people from areas surrounding the release site were examined at various hospitals and were subsequently released.

PAGE 0508

An investigation has been initiated by appropriate personnel at the Oakland plant to analyze the actions taken and to make recommendations for improvements. Clorox expects these recommendations to be implemented.

The letter and accompanying report submitted by Clorox were lacking in the detail necessary for a thorough review of the incident. There was no estimate of the amount of chemical release, duration of release and exposure periods, no specific medical examination report, and no indication of historical use. However, this information is being forwarded to EPA by Clorox, and should not significantly affect the status of the incident.

The release was investigated by EPA Region IX, California OSHA, and local fire and police departments. Following an investigation, California OSHA informed Clorox that there were no violations and that it does not intend to issue a citation.

EPA Headquarters and Region IX will follow up on this incident and will maintain a complete record.

MSF 0009

88-7900322

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

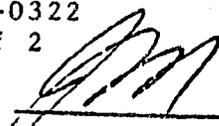
FEB 1 1980

DATE: Revised (May 29, 1980)

8EHQ-1279-0322

Page 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Status Report* 8EHQ-1279-0322

Approved 

FROM: Walter W. Kovalick, Jr., Director
Program Integration Division (TS-793)

Revision
Needed

TO: Joseph J. Merenda, Director
Assessment Division (TS-792)

PAGE 0010

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*NOTE: This status report is the result of a preliminary staff evaluation of information submitted to EPA. Statements made herein are not to be regarded as expressing final Agency policy or intent with respect to this particular chemical. Any review of the status report should take into consideration the fact that it may be based on incomplete information.

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REC 011