

Status Report on Shintech's Title V permits
(Prepared by LEAN, Sept. 8, 1997)

1. Problems with Shintech's permits.

a) The PSD incorrectly allocates emissions in St. James Parish for Shintech. This was brought up in the public comments, a LEAN petition, and DEQ's response to comments. The EPA has admitted that this was done incorrectly but isn't going to correct the problem.

b) St. James Parish's ozone nonattainment status was illegally removed. DEQ stated that St. James Parish had three ozone violations in 1995, the same year it was put into ozone attainment by the EPA. This should never have been done, and St. James Parish should still be in ozone nonattainment.

c) DEQ illegally issued the final permits. LAC 33:III.533.C.1 states that DEQ can't issue these permits within 45 days of notifying the EPA of the proposed changes to the permits resulting from public comments. There were many changes to the final permit that were requested in the Law Clinic's public comments. However, DEQ never notified the EPA of these changes. Issuing the final permits in this way circumvented the required EPA review and the opportunity for public petitions concerning the changes.

d) The calculations for emissions points P-1 and P-2 are not correct. The correct calculations would show a reduction in methanol emissions of approximately 80 tons/year (160,000 pounds/year). Sufficient calculations are required under LAC 33:III.517.D.

2. Reductions in known and suspected carcinogens from the initial permit (commonly called the draft permit) to the final permit.

Chemical	Initial Permit (tons/year)	Final Permit (tons/year)	Percent Change
Vinyl Chloride	52.2	29.4	-43.6 %
1,2-dichloroethane	7.6	2.5	-67.7 %
Chloroethane	2.2	0.4	-81.8 %
Chloroform	0.7	0.5	-28.5 %
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.8	0.8	0 %
Total carcinogens (known and suspected)	63.5	33.6	-47.1 %

Total reduction in known and suspected carcinogens was 29.9 tons/year, or 59,800 pounds/year.

3. Negotiating points with the State and Shintech.

Improvements in Shintech's proposed process. Based on the current process, it would be fairly cheap and easy for Shintech to design a zero discharge facility. The

exceptions are hydrochloric acid and chlorine air emissions, which can be greatly reduced. This goal is realistic and achievable, and would set a precedent that any other industry wanting to locate in the industrial corridor must be willing to meet. We should also ask Shintech to make several important changes to their design for safety reasons. This would not be as cheap, but has the potential to create a much safer plant and to minimize the damage that would be done if an industrial accident were to occur at the facility. Safety concerns include tube failure in the fired heaters and changes to the VCM holding tank.

Discussions with the state. These will include ways to improve the Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ's handling of the Shintech permits has shown the state that the DEQ is now an impediment towards progress in Louisiana. The DEQ is fundamentally sound, but some changes at the top will be required to change DEQ's perception that they work for industry and not for the betterment of Louisiana and its citizens. If this can be done, the way will be opened for DEQ to start meeting the requirements of state and federal law. Other important improvements at the DEQ must include increased and more accurate monitoring throughout the industrial corridor and the development of a good and meaningful enforcement program.

Discussions with both the state and Shintech. These will center on improvements in the Convent area. One point will be improvements in the local infrastructure, including improving the roads for emergency evacuation, improving emergency equipment and emergency response capabilities, and providing funds to upgrade the ability of homes and schools to serve as shelters in some emergency situations. A second point will address the local citizens of Convent. Specifically, meaningful employment for the citizens, providing training and job skills, and providing funding to subsidize citizens who would choose to move from the area.