

Shintech

It's one year later, what happened?

* Shintech came here to build the largest EDC/PVC plant in the world in St. James Parish. It turns out that they didn't know the state and federal laws they had to meet to build the plant. So, they came to St. James Parish to build a big chemical plant and didn't know what laws they had to meet. How are we supposed to believe that Shintech will know the laws and regulations required to run the plant once they get it built?

To this day, Shintech claims they did no wrong and that their original permit application and DEQ's original permit were correct even though:

- 1) They have since reduced the amount of emissions of known and suspected carcinogens by 47% in an attempt to meet the required laws and regulations.
- 2) After Shintech made the 47% reduction in emissions the EPA still found 49 deficiencies and problems in DEQ's original permits.

If Shintech didn't know the laws that were required to build the plant, can the people of St. James Parish believe Shintech will know the laws and regulations required to run the plant correctly????

* The law (The 1990 Clean Air Act) says that Shintech will have build a plant that is as good as the best plant in America. Shintech never understood that this was the new law in America, and wanted to build a plant like the one in Freeport, TX, that uses technology from the 1970's.

* The proposed Shintech plant will have the two largest process vents in the State of Louisiana. A process vent is just a garbage dump to the sky. The Shintech process vents will release as much as 44 tons per year of vinyl chloride. Vinyl chloride is one of the fifteen worst chemicals known to man, a cancer causing chemical (called a carcinogen) and a chemical suspected of causing problems in the formation of human babies (called a reproductive toxin).

* The proposed Shintech plant will be the largest emitter of vinyl chloride in the State of Louisiana. And they want us to believe that they will be good

neighbors??? It would cost them almost nothing to treat almost all of this vinyl chloride and not release it into the air in St. James Parish.

* Shintech chose to fight everyone and defend the poor air permits instead of spending the money to eliminate their pollution problems.

* Everyone at the last Shintech public hearing, December 7, 1996, saw Shintech's attitude towards the people of St. James Parish. They only wanted to sing their own praises, and showed no interest or care for the views and concerns of the citizens here.

Definitions

What is an EDC/PVC plant?

Shintech wants to start with saltwater they will pump up from underground. This saltwater is commonly called "brine". They will take this brine and remove the chlorine from it. Chlorine comes from common salt, which is made up of sodium and chlorine (NaCl). They will then take the chlorine and add it to another chemical called ethylene to make ethylene dichloride (EDC). The EDC will then be heated up in a furnace to make vinyl chloride and hydrochloric acid. The vinyl chloride is then used to make the plastic material called polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

The major environmental problems in this process are the brine, which contains heavy metals that are harmful to humans, and the vinyl chloride, which is one of the fifteen worst chemicals known to man. The process also creates some dioxins, also known to be very harmful.

Other hazards are the explosion and fire hazards such as the recent explosion and fire at Borden Chemical on Dec. 24, 1997. Shintech will have a much bigger plant and a much bigger explosion and fire hazard. Shintech has stated the worst case for an explosion will involve over 8 million pounds of vinyl chloride, and stated that this explosion will;

"define a vulnerability zone of 1700 yards radius", which is over one mile in radius or over two miles in diameter. They further stated that;

"Since the potentially affected population within the defined vulnerability zone is very small, Shintech considers the potential for adverse impact to the general public very small".

What is a carcinogen?

A carcinogen is a chemical that is known to cause cancer in humans or is highly suspected of causing cancer in humans. Vinyl chloride is a known carcinogen, and so is known to cause cancer in humans.

What is a reproductive toxin?

A reproductive toxin is a chemical known to change the development of human babies in the first nine months of pregnancy, or to affect the ability of humans to create healthy babies. Vinyl chloride is suspected of being a reproductive toxin.