

HISTORICAL DATA

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From: Col. Marshall Stubbs C, Res and Dev Div.		TO: FOR: Deputy Chief of Research and Development, OCS	Date: 10 Nov 53
Subject: Status of GB Plants and Processes			

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(b)(3):10 USC 130

3. Considerable difficulties were initially experienced at Site A due to conflict in operating policy between Vitro Corporation engineers and TVA operators. Recent changes in management have eliminated Vitro Corporation from the responsible chain of command, placing them in a consultant capacity, and TVA has streamlined its operating group to permit their incorporation in the operating chain of command now headed by Chemical Corps Materiel Command personnel. A recent visit to the site indicates that the highly composite group charged with start-up of the plant has been knit into a reasonably smooth integrated unit. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

4. There does not exist at the present time any pilot plant capable of investigation of problems relating to waste product disposal at Site A. It is believed that, at this late date, very little could be gained by construction of such a pilot plant at least until production has been initiated on a sustained basis. The reason for this is that the effort required to provide a pilot plant would subtract from the effort now being spent in getting Site A operating. At a later date, it may be that investigation of improved processes for Site A would justify a pilot plant in this area.

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7. Various alternative production processes have been or are being investigated, and the following is a brief summary of their status:

a. The APC Process, which was piloted by Tennessee Valley Authority, has been developed to the point where the Shell Chemical Company is currently operating a small production plant at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, producing approximately seven and one-half (7-1/2) tons per day of "Dichloro" (third step product). This process, while not particularly economical, has the advantage of being the only one currently operating. Expansion of the existing facility would require new construction. Raw material is available to support a production capacity of at least forty (40) tons per day of "Dichloro."

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b. The SALT Process has been piloted by the Mathieson Chemical Company at Niagara Falls and the Chemical Corps at Army Chemical Center. The unit plant design has been contracted for with Mathieson Chemical Company and completion of design is scheduled for 1 July 1954. This process appears to be very promising; however, the off-gas handling problem in Step I of this process will closely approximate our existing off-gas handling in Step I at Site A.

c. The HTM Process and its variants are under investigation by Westvaco Chemical Company and construction of a pilot plant is under way. It is anticipated that the feasibility of this process will be proven and data from the pilot plant will be available for unit plant design 1 January 1955. ~~(SECRET)~~

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