

Government News Business

Rohm and Haas Company plans to begin construction of a pilot plant to expand facilities for new product exploration and development. Construction of their new Life Sciences plant is scheduled to begin in 1975 and will be completed in 1977. Estimated cost is \$5 million. Site for the plant has not yet been determined.

Dow Chemical Company research data on 2,4,5-T is currently being reviewed by EPA. Samples of fish, mud and human milk taken from two areas where the pesticide had been used showed no evidence of TCDD, says Dow. Dow officials said that the equipment used was capable of measuring levels below 10 parts per trillion. EPA claims to have found low levels of TCDD in samples from beef-grazed land treated with 2,4,5-T.

Department of Labor's 23 jurisdictions with approved safety and health plans conducted 39,554 inspections enforcing their own job safety and health laws during the first quarter of 1975. OSHA officials said that under federal OSHA of 1970, states are encouraged to develop their own plans for job safety and health programs. To be approved by OSHA, a plan must contain assurances that a state's program will be "at least as effective as" the federal program. OSHA retains enforcement authority in states without plans (New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin).

House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee defeated an amendment to FIFRA that would have required EPA to obtain approval of the Secretary of Agriculture before cancelling a pesticide registration. But wait. The same committee substituted an amendment which would require that the Secretary's comments be published in the Federal Register when EPA-proposed regulations are published.

EPA has released their guide for commercial pesticide applicators. The "CORE Manual" is a 48-page booklet designed to help pesticide applicators meet the general certification standards. The guide does not include information to meet specific standards required by Federal regulations or State law. Copies of "Apply Pesticides Correctly--A Guide for Commercial Applicators" are available from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Diamond Shamrock Corporation announced a multi-million dollar expansion at its T. R. Evans research center near Painesville, Ohio. First phase of the expansion on the company's 800-acre site will be two new laboratory buildings, consisting of 67,000 square feet devoted to life sciences and 61,000 square feet for plastics applications, and a 48,000 square foot expansion of the existing process development building. The expansion program, when completed in 1976, will more than double the research center facilities.

EPA's "Guidelines for Registering Pesticides" has come under fire from the DuPont Company. DuPont objects to the use of mice as a valid test animal for pesticide cancer evaluation. DuPont says that rats and dogs are more valid test animals in determining whether pesticides may or may not cause cancer in humans.

Hawaii Irrigation Supply Company has been named the exclusive distributor in the Hawaiian Islands for Weather-matic's lawn and garden and heavy turf irrigation lines.