

# Ronald Knerr

## Director of Manufacturing

Norristown, PA - Email me on Indeed: [indeed.com/r/Ronald-Knerr/be0f4ce9b8c743b8](https://www.indeed.com/r/Ronald-Knerr/be0f4ce9b8c743b8)

Extensive experience in manufacturing management and research, including productivity and quality improvement, process troubleshooting, labor relations, control system programming, product development, pilot plant scale-up and quality management. Experience with manufacture of simple and complex esters for lubricant, cosmetic and polyester market applications. Experience with polymerization of thermoplastic and thermosetting polymers, composite structures and thermoplastic compounding. Diverse background includes ISO quality management [...] control system programming (Foxboro I/A), OSHA PSM standard application [...] OSHA Star Safety Program and regulatory issues (NPDES, Title V permits, OSHA, DEP, EPA). Applies technical knowledge to resolve operational and quality issues utilizing Six Sigma tools.

### PROCESS CONTROL/COMPUTER SKILLS

FOXBORO TRAINING INSTITUTE, Foxboro, Massachusetts:

SYS 1 - I/A Series Integrated Configuration And CON 1 - I/A Series Integrated Control

Proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel and Access, Project, SAP R/3 v4.6, NWA Quality Analyst, HP3000, BASIC programming, FORTRAN, PASCAL, Foxboro I/A HLBL, Expertune Control Tuning, Railtrac, Bailey Network 90, Biles & Assoc AIM. Familiar with Ladder Logic, Modicon PLC, FINClient, TrendX, Powerpoint.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Director of Manufacturing

INOLEX CHEMICAL COMPANY - 2007 to April 2014

Responsible for Manufacturing Functions of 20MM lb annual production of organic esters for cosmetic and lubricant applications. Responsible for Production, Maintenance, Engineering, Shipping, Safety and Environmental functions. Managed \$13MM annual manufacturing budget. Labor relations (Grievance, Arbitration and Contract negotiation w/ Teamster Local 169), project management, Process Safety Management (OSHA 1910.119), ISO and EFfCI GMP compliance (European Federation for Cosmetic Ingredients), NPDES Water Permit and Title V Air Permit, OSHA, DEP, EPA, IOTG, DOT.

#### Sr Process Engineer

Inoex Chemical Company - Philadelphia, PA - 2005 to 2007

Monitor operations to ensure compliance with POTW(water), Title V (air) and Solid Waste permits.

Prepare periodic regulatory reports for air, water and solid waste (Tier II, SARA, Title V, POTW, Form R, FIFRA, DEP 26R, 330, etc).

Evaluate alternative plant processes to reduce waste generation.

Monitor and improve polyester production processes to increase productivity and efficiencies.

Support OSHA 1910.119 compliance efforts. PHR participation and corrective action resolution.

#### Quality Control Supervisor

OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION - 2002 to March 2005

Direct Quality and Analytical lab functions in ISO 9001:2000 certified laboratory. Supervise ten USWA bargaining unit technicians and one exempt Analytical Lab Plant Technologist.

- Maintain laboratory operations consistent with ISO requirements and ensure effective laboratory function by managing test procedure integrity, product disposition coding, supply management, personnel scheduling and training and USWA labor/management relations.

- Implemented and managed multiple job consolidations that resulted from a headcount reduction in the Process Control laboratory in April 2002 and the closure of the Pottstown PVC Pilot Plant operation in February 2003.

- Assisted with transitional audit from ISO 9002:1994 to ISO 9001:2000 standard in May 2003.

Revised QC product coding system to streamline product disposition status and inventory control

- Operated Perkin Elmer Gas Chromatographs and FT-IR Spectrophotometer

OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION - Pottstown, PA - 1987 to 2005

Plant Closure)

### **Process Engineer**

OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION - 1999 to 2002

Provided daily technical support to the Production Group to maintain productivity levels and improve quality performance. Performed productivity and quality performance analyses, material and energy balances. Equipment included reactors, compressors, spray dryers, rotary dryers, centrifuges, relief valves (Fauske) and Bailey and Modicon control systems.

Identified key variables impacting quality performance, specifically color-forming by-products in process equipment and variable reactor conversion control. Suspension resin offgrade was reduced from 34% in 1999 to 9.9% in 2000, 9.5% in 2001, and 7.2% in 2002.

Led Recycle Monomer pH Task Force team to identify key process parameters to control recycle monomer quality.

Participated in numerous customer visits with sales representatives to discuss technical issues.

Safety: Served as OSHA Star - Sub Committee Co-Chairperson for Contractor Safety/Procedures leading to successful OSHA STAR certification for the Pottstown site in 2002. Process Hazard Review Leader - Led OSHA 1910.119 PHR for Emergency Control Systems and issued PHR report; Trained Coordinated Auditor (Safety, Environmental)

### **R&D/Process Engineer, Pilot Plant**

OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION - 1987 to 1999

Directed and supervised operation of Pilot Plant development reactors in support of 2 billion pound suspension PVC production capacity. Developed and improved PVC polymers and PVC based copolymers through formulation and process modification. Utilized DOE methodology as appropriate.

Developed polymerization formulations for improved color flexible PVC, resulting in quality improvements in products representing 700 MM pounds of production.

Evaluated alternate clean reactor technology for use in PVC operations leading to supplantation of licensed technology, resulting in annual savings of \$2MM.

Developed, scaled-up, and stewarded production of specialty PVC electrical grade and matte finish applications. Developed PVC formulation for powder coating applications.

Identified key process parameters for improved film grade PVC. Presented results as a member of Film Grade Task Force.

Installed Foxboro I/A control system in Pilot Plant. Designed, configured and tuned process control system for 300 gallon development reactor and 1000 gallon Semiworks reactor.

### **Process/Product Development Engineer**

SYNTHANE TAYLOR CORPORATION - Oaks, PA - 1986 to 1987

Responsible for maintaining quality standards in the production of thermosetting laminates and tubing. Resin/ Substrates included phenolic, epoxy, silicone and melamine w/ glass, linen, paper, carbon fiber and Kevlar. Developed/scaled up new laminates from bench scale through pilot scale to production. Trained employees in SPC/SQC methods.

### **Certification Technician**

LNP CORPORATION - Thorndale, PA - 1984 to 1986

Responsible for the evaluation, comparison and recommendation of compounded engineering thermoplastics. Duties included injection molding of samples and physical testing of specimens.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **B.S. in Chemical Engineering**

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY - Bethlehem, PA

#### **M.S. in Materials Engineering**

DREXEL UNIVERSITY - Philadelphia, PA