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Manufacturing Chemists Association

Minutes of Meeting

VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH COORDINATORS

MCA Conference Room Washington, D. C.

September 18, 1974

MEMBERS PRESENT:

T. R. Torkelson, CHAIRMAN	The Dow Chemical Co.
Zeb G. Bell, Jr.	PPG Industries
C. T. Disney, M.D. (for M. N. Johnson, M.D.)	B. F. Goodrich
W. D. Harris	Uniroyal, Inc.
R. L. Maycock	Shell
Mayo Smith	Air Products
R. N. Wheeler	U.C.C.

GUESTS PRESENT:

T. R. Aalto	Tenneco
K. H. C. Bessant	B P Chemicals International Ltd.
H. B. Carr	Tenneco
Roger E. Eckardt	Exxon Corp

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 30, 1974

The subject minutes were ordered approved as distributed.

2. UPDATE OF MALTONI REPORT

The Research Coordinators were informed that Dr. Maltoni had submitted to OSHA an updated report of his work (to supplement the data presented at the hearings) and that this report had been accepted for the OSHA Hearing Record on August 13.

3. EPA TASK FORCE REPORT ON VINYL CHLORIDE

Copies of the subject report (two volumes, including appendices) were distributed to those in attendance. EPA's supply of this document was reported to be exhausted, with no decision yet by EPA on if and when it may be reprinted.

2

4. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES

4.1 Union Carbide Records at South Charleston

Mr. Wheeler reported that NIOSH has exhibited no further interest in working up the records of the former employees of the South Charleston plant. Union Carbide has partially searched these files, and has identified to date 500 to 600 individuals with an employment history indicating probable signicifant exposure to vinyl chloride. He estimated that, by completing the screening, an equal number of names might be added to this list. The Research Coordinators reconfirmed their decision of July 30 to ask Tabershaw/Cooper Associates to bid on this job, but asked that MCA not make any firm commitments until the disinterest of NIOSH in proceeding with this project has been ascertained.

4.2 Acroosteolysis Data

It was reported that Dr. Joseph K. Wagoner, Director of NIOSH Division of Field Studies and Clinical Investigation, had asked for access to the raw data in the acroosteolysis registry at the University of Michigan. The Research Coordinators voted to recommend that MCA give such approval, providing that any expenses involved be borne by NIOSH.

4.3 Recomputation of TCA Data

In any supplemental report that may be prepared by TCA, it was urged that the data presentation be such as to permit analysis of the data in terms of latency as a function of intensity of exposure, as well as tumor incidence as a function of duration and intensity of such exposure. The analysis requested by Dr. Muir should be completed in the format asked.

5. INDUSTRIAL BIO-TEST PROGRESS

The eleven-month mortality data had previously been distributed, and was reviewed.

Dr. Torkelson reported that the bone marrow slides prepared from the cytogenetic studies appeared to be of excellent quality, and that their analysis should be completed by Dow in six to eight weeks. At his request, the Research Coordinators voted to permit Dow to have these slides read by outside consultants (at Dow's expense) to obtain an independent evaluation of this material.

It was reported from Dr. Gordon that the histological material obtained from the animals sacrificed for the cytogenetic studies was proving most useful, as it was the only set of tissues derived simultaneously from all rat groups under fully controlled conditions.

IBT has agreed to provide an interpretive review of available histological data in the next progress report, which is to detail accomplishments through the termination of the exposures at the end of one year. They estimate that the annual report should be in MCA's hands by mid-November.

6. LOW LEVEL CHRONIC INHALATION STUDIES AT IBT

The Research Coordinators, in a divided vote, recommended that the low-level chronic inhalation studies to be conducted by IBT be run with rats (unanimously supported) and mice (three for, two against, and two abstaining) with food in the chambers. Chamber levels recommended were 15, 5, and 1.5 ppm. Equal numbers of each species, equally divided as to sex, are to be exposed, with the numbers of animals to be determined by the chamber capacity.

These recommendations were made subject to review by, and concurrence from, the Rall Committee.

Any consideration of low level (less than 1 ppm), continuous chronic exposures was deferred until completion of current studies.

7. EXTENSION OF DOW STUDIES

The Research Coordinators voted to recommend that approval of Dow's request for continuation of the vinyl chloride metabolic studies at a two man-years' level of effort and a cost of approximately $100,000. They also voted to recommend the present support of additional studies on teratology in rats, mice, and rabbits, at both higher and lower levels of exposure than had been covered in their pilot studies, and both with and without the added stress of ethanol ingestion. Dow has estimated the costs for this work at $20,000.

Consideration of the suggestions for dominant lethal studies in rats (at $8,000) and Di Paolo transformation studies was deferred until after the receipt from Dow of a detailed protocol and formal proposal.

8. STUDIES OF MASSIVE ACUTE EXPOSURES

8.1 Epidemiology Study of Patients with History of Vinyl Chloride Anesthesia

It was voted to recommend that a feasibility study be conducted to determine whether clinical records are available on human patients that were subjected to vinyl chloride anesthesia in the period (1930's?) when this gas was in limited clinical use. It was thought that this might provide a basis for assessing the risk of late-development of angiosarcomas or other tumors in individuals with a single (or limited replication of) short-term, massive, vinyl chloride exposures of documented length and intensity. It was estimated that such a pilot study could be completed in six months.

8.2 Experimental Studies

In view of the inadequacy of the available funds to provide for the IBT study as proposed at the July 30 meeting, it was voted to recommend that the experimental protocol be revised by cutting the size of each experimental group in half, subject to concurrence by the Rall committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth D. Johnson

Kenneth D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Secretary
Technical Task Group on
Vinyl Chloride Research

KDJ/mb

Minutes subject to approval