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CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

OCT - 1 1990

September 26, 1990

TO: Vinylidene Chloride Panel

SUBJECT: Development of an ATSDR Data Need Report for Vinylidene Chloride

On October 26, I spoke with Dr. Cebulus of ATSDR regarding whether or not ATSDR would be developing a Data Need report for vinylidene chloride in the near future. Dr. Cebulus is the ATSDR manager responsible both for developing a list of priority chemicals and for developing Data Need reports. The following are the important points from my phone conversation:

* In the most recent ranking (priority-setting) exercise, vinylidene chloride did not show up in the top 50 chemicals. This was an exercise in which ATSDR looked at such factors as toxicity, frequency of occurrence, and potential for human exposure. Vinylidene chloride did show up in the top 25 of each of 2 subset lists, but apparently this did not cause vinylidene chloride to show up in the main list of the 50 priority chemicals. At the time of our conversation, he could not readily find where vinylidene chloride was located on the print-out.

* From those top 50 priority chemicals, Dr. Cebulus will recommend that 25 "decision logic papers" (Data Need reports) be developed. Because of vinylidene chloride's lower priority, it will not be recommended by Cebulus. Dr. Cebulus will make his recommendation in the next 2 weeks to EPA (Linda Fisher), NTP (David Roll), and the head of ATSDR (Johnson). If these groups agree with Cebulus, then the next batch of 25 Data Need reports would likely come out in the summer of 1991 in the Federal Register.

* If EPA, NTP, and ATSDR do not agree with the 25 chemicals recommended by Cebulus, then priorities would have to be re-established and other chemicals could move up in priority. (I interpreted this to mean that any chemical could potentially move-up in priority, including vinylidene chloride.)

* Dr. Cebulus said I could call him again in the third week of October to see if priorities have changed based on his meeting with EPA, NTP, and ATSDR (Johnson).

Based on what Dr. Cebulus said, it appears unlikely that ATSDR will develop a Data Need report on vinylidene chloride between now and the summer of 1991. However, I will call Cebulus again in the third week of October to make sure.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (202/887-1189).

Sincerely,

Jonathon T. Busch

Jonathon T. Busch
Manager, Vinylidene Chloride Panel