



EQUITABLE
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
INC.

OCT 17 1977

Chicago
Houston
New York
San Francisco
Washington, D.C.

A Subsidiary of The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States

RICHARD L. DAVIS
Regional Director

October 12, 1977
EEH/S-77-L439

Theodore Torkelson, Sc.D.
Dow Chemical Corporation
2030 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48640

Dear Dr. Torkelson:

CONFIDENTIAL
Subject to Protective Order in
Ross v. Conoco, Inc., No. 90-4837
14th Judicial District Court
Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

We have edited the final report on the Mortality Study of Vinyl Chloride Workers in line with the suggestions contained in your letter of September 28. This letter responds in sequence to the comments of the research coordinators.

Page 2. Suggestion incorporated in report.

Page 4. Determination of the actual numbers of records would be most difficult to obtain at this time since the original study design did not anticipate such a situation. We believe that Dr. Gaffey's method of handling the population eliminates any bias. In our opinion, this is adequately explained by the final sentence in the first paragraph of Page 4.

Pages 5 and 6. The correct number is 669. The text has been corrected.

Page 6. We believe that the text adequately covers this point. Among those whose vital status was reported as "unknown" there are certainly some who died and for whom no death claims were filed.

Page 10. We have not defended the use of the SMR but have made reference to the controversy and included the appropriate citations. This question, in all of its ramifications, cannot be dealt with adequately in this report.

Page 14. To include any of the age breakdowns suggested in your letter would require extensive data analysis involving considerable expense and time. However, we allude to the probability of an age differential because it would be obvious to any reviewer who checked the tables. We suggest that this question be left to a follow-up study.

Page 18. We have eliminated the column "Years From Beginning of Exposure."

CMA 009255



Page 19. Text changed so that $7+2+2+1 = 12$.

Page 20. A comment that no conclusion can be drawn from the CNS data has been included along with the suggestion that this deserves further study.

Page 21. The first paragraph has been rewritten to accommodate the suggestion.

Page 22. The last paragraph has been rewritten to accommodate the suggestion and an additional paragraph has been added to suggest a follow-up study.

Page 27. No action was taken on this suggestion since we feel that Tables 5 and 20 cover different populations, the last being confined to a group at higher risk.

Table 20. The title of this table has been amended to clarify beginning of exposure.

We believe that with these changes the report should be published in final form. We are proceeding with typing the revised version and expect to have the typed original available by Friday, October 14. We suggest that, for contractual purposes, all copies be sent to MCA in Washington for distribution. If you feel otherwise, please call us at your earliest convenience. Our contract calls for the delivery of 40 copies of the final report. Should MCA so desire, we will be pleased to provide the original typed copy in unbound form for additional reproduction, or reproduce additional copies at a cost of \$5 each in minimum order units of ten copies.

Again, EEH expresses its appreciation for the opportunity the MCA has given us to be of service. Dr. Cooper, who did much of the revision, joins me in sending best wishes.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Davis

RLD:bw

cc: Dr. Joseph Seawell ✓

CONFIDENTIAL
Subject to Protective Order in
Ross v. Conoco, Inc., No. 90-4837
14th Judicial District Court,
Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

CMA 009256