

Chemical Manufacturers Association

Record of Meeting

VINYL CHLORIDE PROJECT PANEL

AND RESEARCH COORDINATORS

March 4, 1980

CMA Offices, Room 404

Washington, D. C.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

R. A. Park	Firestone Plastics Co.
B. Braddle (for F. Kennedy)	Continental Oil Co.
R. J. Abramowitz	Hooker Chemicals & Plastics
J. F. Gabbett	Georgia-Pacific Corp.
P. Cohen	Great American Chemical Corp.
W. D. Harris	UNIROYAL
M. Sannerhoff (for J. Stauffer)	Stauffer Chemical Co.
C. A. Johnson	Goodyear
C. P. Wen (for R. Gibson)	Gulf Oil Chemicals Co.
C. Hopper	Gulf Oil Chemicals Co.
Z. Bell	PPG Industries, Inc.
R. M. Reed	Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
V. L. Kirkland	Shell Chemical Co.
R. N. Wheeler	Union Carbide
W. Blakeslee	Certain-Teed Products
T. R. Torkelson	Dow Chemical Co.
J. T. Seawell	CMA Staff

MEMBERS ABSENT:

W. M. Smith	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
J. T. Carter	BP Chemicals, Ltd.
W. A. Bittenbender	Borden Chemical
R. W. McBurney	Diamond Shamrock
T. J. Benya	Ethyl Corporation
J. Lynch	Exxon Corporation
R. W. Laundrie	General Tire & Rubber Co.
M. N. Johnson	BFGoodrich Co.
R. B. Judge	W. R. Grace & Co.

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A. G. Wheeler
S. H. Law
C. Roush
R. L. O'Connell
R. Brookman

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14th Judicial District Court
Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

ICI Americas, Inc.
Keyser-Century Corp.
Monsanto Company
Olin Corporation
Pentacote Company

1.0 Approval of Record of Last Meeting

The record of the November 23, 1979 meeting was approved as recorded.

2.0 Contribution to "Conference to Reevaluate the Toxicity of Vinyl Chloride, Polyvinyl Chloride, and Structural Analogs"

The Chairman reviewed the CMA/SPI joint contributions to the conference made in response to requests from Dr. Infante's office.

3.0 Preparatory Work for the Five-Year Update of the Epidemiological Study Completed by Equitable Environmental Health, Inc. (EEH)

Consideration of this agenda item began with a review of specifications prepared by the Project Administrator in order to clarify the proposal submitted by Environmental Health Associates, Inc (EHA) on January 15, 1980. A schematic prepared for the CMA presentation showed the sequence in which the interrelated investigation could progress and presented a flow diagram of the overall study. EHA will proceed immediately with an assessment and evaluation of the EEH data preparatory to beginning work on the brain study and the design of a protocol for the five-year update. The Chairman emphasized that, once developed, the protocol becomes CMA property and will form the basis of bid/proposal requests.

As originally envisioned by EHA, their approach to the data assessment, brain study, and five-year update is comprised of five investigations. Some of these are prerequisites for studies that would follow and all are interdependent.

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Action of the Panel and the Research Coordinators on the CMA proposal and the EHA letter of January 15, 1980 included the following:

- 3.1 Paragraph 3 on page 4 of the CMA proposal will be changed to read as follows:

At CMA's option, EHA will contact the deceased's family for additional details. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis and consultation with the company involved.

- 3.2 The Panel members were in agreement with Items 1 through 3 on the proposed ballot.

- 3.3 It was VOTED that:

EHA will be requested to prepare a protocol and a cost estimate for a "case control study" of cancers of the central nervous system.

- 3.4 The ballot that formed an integral part of the CMA proposal is to be changed to reflect Item 3.3 above.

- 3.5 It was VOTED:

We recommend asking potential sponsors if they are interested in financially sponsoring a thorough case control study including clinical evaluation of brain tumor cases.

- 3.6 EHA will prepare a protocol for the "brain case control study". This study will be open for bids in addition to the EHA bid.

- 3.7 It was VOTED:

That action should proceed on Item 4.3 of the ballot as this Item is recorded. This Item concerns interest in sponsoring Study Plan A.

- 3.8 Regarding Ballot Item 4.4, Study Plan B should be modified by identifying the plants as follows:

Group I - Vinyl Chloride Monomer
Group II - PVC by Dispersion or Emulsion Processes
Group III - All others

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These three groups "will be considered as separate cohorts".

- 3.9 Under Study Plan B, EHA is to be requested to clarify the comment "--secure complete job histories for the approximate 2,300 cohort members with incomplete job histories". EHA is to characterize the deficiencies that exist in these 2,300 cohort members.
- 3.10 It was VOTED to hold item 4.4 (Study Plan B) in abeyance for consideration at a future date.
- 3.11 Page 3, paragraph 2, of the January, 1978 final report prepared by EHA entitled "Epidemiological Study of Vinyl Chloride Workers" gives an erroneous reference to "homopolymers, copolymers, or resins, with or without VCM and PVC production". This reference is to be brought to the attention of organizations concerned with future epidemiological studies.
- 3.12 EHA has apparently "grossly underestimated" the cost of Study Plan B in the opinion of the members of the panel.
- 3.13 The panel members expressed the opinion that there is little likelihood that Study Plan C will contribute anything new. It is estimated that Study Plan C will not yield meaningful data until 10, 20, or perhaps 25 years hence.
- 3.14 It was VOTED to:

Table indefinitely item 4.5 (Study Plan C) of the proposed ballot.
- 3.15 It was VOTED to:

Request EHA's "opinion and position" on analyzing data in terms of those plants producing (1) VCM, (2) emulsion or dispersion polymers (excluding latex), and (3) all others.- This analysis is to treat "significant differences with respect to mortality at a cost not to exceed \$10,000."

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J. T. Seawell
Project Administrator
Vinyl Chloride

CTS:md
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March 27, 1980

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