

APR 24 1980



P. O. BOX 456, RIVER ROAD, BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY 08016, PHONE (609) 499-2300

RJA-431-bb

April 21, 1980

Mr. Joseph T. Sewell
Project Administrator-Vinylchloride
Chemical Manufacturers Association
1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC

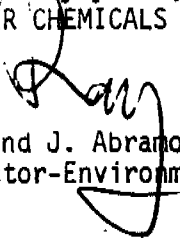
Dear Mr. Sewell,

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators, the subject of up-dating the EEH Epidemiological study was discussed.

We're attaching a copy of a memo from our Corporate Medical Director, Dr. M. R. Zavon, putting forth his reasons for not sponsoring any additional epidemiology studies.

Best regards,

Very truly yours,
HOOKER CHEMICALS & PLASTICS CORP.



Raymond J. Abramowitz
Director-Environment, Health & Safety

cc: M. R. Zavon
R. A. Katherine

attachment

hooker

April 16, 1980

TO: R. Abramowitz

SUBJECT: Vinyl Chloride Epidemiology

As I have reflected further on the questions raised at the recent conference I am even more skeptical about the value of additional epidemiological studies at this time. There is no questioning the association between exposure to vinyl chloride and the angio sarcoma of the liver. Some seventy or more cases have now been discovered worldwide. There is a suspicion of association with tumors of other organs but the incidence is increased only modestly if at all.

With the acceptance of the above I fail to see how further epidemiologic studies are going to alter our present perception of the situation. The argument presented to me by Maury Johnson of Goodrich that it would help in case of litigation with regard to brain tumors seems to me to be weak to the point of non-existence. No matter what is found in an epidemiologic follow-up, it is not going to resolve that question. If negative, it can easily be argued that the numbers and the length of time are still inadequate to be definitive. If positive, there are too many other substances to which these people are exposed to be very sure that it is the vinyl that is involved.

I suggest that if it is feasible, the question of support for further epidemiologic study at this time be reopened.



M. R. Zavan, M.D.
Corporate Medical Director

MRZ17CCbp

cc: D. A. Guthrie

CMA 012404