

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

Monteleone Hotel

New Orleans, Louisiana

September 20, 1971

MEMBERS PRESENT:

N. V. Hendricks, Chairman	Standard Oil Company (N. J.)
M. V. Andresen	American Cyanamid Company
E. E. Christofano	Hercules Incorporated
L. B. Grant, M.D.	PPG Industries, Inc.
J. Hogan, M.D.	Gulf Oil Corporation
M. N. Johnson, M.D.	Monsanto Company
K. S. Lane, M.D.	Union Carbide Corporation
J. E. Long	Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co.
W. E. McCormick	B. F. Goodrich Company
K. M. Morse	U. S. Steel Corporation
C. F. Reinhardt, M.D.	E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
T. R. Torkelson	The Dow Chemical Company
K. D. Johnson	Manufacturing Chemists Association

GUESTS PRESENT:

L. E. Cassidy, M.D.	Canadian Industries Ltd.
J. Jorgensen	Rohm & Haas Company
F. L. Oglesby	Tennessee Eastman Company
F. L. Lyman, M.D.	CIBA-GEIGY Corporation
S. Schreiber	Allied Chemical Corporation
N. G. White	Shell Chemical Company

MEMBERS ABSENT:

M. R. Gasque, M.D.	Olin Corporation
W. J. Martin, M.D.	Cyanamid of Canada Ltd.
W. McNab	BASF Wyandotte Corporation

1. Minutes of the Meeting of May 6, 1971

The subject minutes were approved with the correction to item 10 to indicate that the subcommittee reporting on the vinyl chloride project should have been designated the "vinyl chloride subcommittee", rather than the "epidemiology subcommittee."

2. Membership Changes

2.1 Membership losses:

2.1.1 By expiration of term:

E. M. Dixon, M.D.
Celanese Corporation - May 31, 1971

F. L. Oglesby
Tennessee Eastman - September 11, 1971

2.1.2 By change of employment:

J. W. Wolfsie, M.D.
UNIROYAL, Inc. - July 10, 1971

2.1.3 Pending expirations:

W. J. Martin, M.D.
Cyanamid of Canada - October 9, 1971

2.2 New Members

2.2.1 Board action completed:

L. B. Grant, M.D.
PPG Industries - May 11, 1971

J. E. Long
Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Corp. - May 11, 1971

C. F. Reinhardt, M.D.
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. - June 9, 1971

W. V. Andresen
American Cyanamid Company - June 9, 1971

2.2.2 Board action pending:

L. E. Cassidy, M.D.
Canadian Industries Ltd. - October 9, 1971

2.2.3 Committee action pending:

D. L. Eynon

Koppers Company, Inc. - January 10, 1973
(Date of Available
Opening)

F. L. Lyman, M.D.

CIBA-GEIGY Corporation

(Opening now available)

It was moved, seconded and carried that the name of Dr. Lyman be forwarded to the MCA Board with recommendation for favorable action at its next meeting.

3. Election of Vice President

To fill the vacancy in this office created by the resignation of Dr. Wolfsie, the Chairman named the following subcommittee to bring in a nomination:

William E. McCormick, Chairman

Lee B. Grant, M. D.

Kenneth M. Morse

Mr. McCormick subsequently reported for the subcommittee that its choice was

Kenneth S. Lane, M. D.

of Union Carbide Corporation. No other nominations were offered from the floor, and Dr. Lane's election to the post of Vice-Chairman to complete the unexpired term of Dr. Wolfsie was confirmed by voice vote.

4. Report to the MCA Board Liaison Committee for Environmental Quality and Control

The Chairman reported that he had attended the meeting of the subject Board Committee on September 14, and presented a written report to them on the activities of the Occupational Health Committee. Copies of the report, which describes both current and projected Committee programs, have been distributed to the Committee membership.

5. Committee Organization and Function

5.1 Rules of Organization and Procedure

The chairman referred to his letter to the Committee dated June 17, 1971. The following subcommittee is charged with developing these suggestions into a report suitable for submission to the Board for approval as a revised Terms of Reference and new Function Statement.

K. S. Lane, M.D., Chairman
J. Hogan, M.D.
W. V. Andresen
K. M. Morse

This subcommittee is also charged with revision of the Committee's Rules of Organization and Procedure to bring them into conformance with the General Principles Applicable to the Structure and Operation of Committees. In so doing, they have been asked to follow, as appropriate, the model offered by the present draft revision of the subject rules for the Labels and Precautionary Information Committee.

In this function they were asked to consider carefully whether the present membership restrictions were consistent with the current needs of the Committee and what modifications, if any, should be recommended to the Board.

5.2 Communication with Member Companies

The chairman expressed concern over the limited extent of exposure of the Committee and its programs to the MCA membership. Among the steps suggested for improving and strengthening the image of the Committee were:

- (1) Improved coverage in the MCA Annual Report.
The following task group was named to work on a suitable draft for submission to the editor of the 1972 Report: W. E. McCormick, Chairman, Dr. M. N. Johnson and Mr. Warren McNab
- (2) A series of articles in Pilot, perhaps comparable to the Pollution Control Primer series from the Air and Water Committees.
- (3) Development, with the cooperation of the Safety and Fire Protection and Labels and Precautionary Information Committees, of a series of Material

Safety Data Sheets designed to meet the requirements to be imposed upon employers by the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The Chairman appointed Emil Christofano and Dr. C. F. Reinhardt to work with the other committees in developing a program to prepare such Material Safety Data Sheets.

Mr. Norman G. White of the Safety and Fire Protection Committee addressed our Committee briefly as to the status of his Committee's plans and procedures for a joint subcommittee to carry the major responsibility for this program.

The last suggestions were formally approved by motion duly made, seconded and carried. The plan for a series of articles in Pilot was approved in principle and the Chairman was asked to draft a proposed organizational outline for such a series, and to circulate it to the Committee.

6. Liaison with Other Organizations

6.1 Designation of Liaison Responsibilities

Mr. Hendricks informed the Committee that he had appointed the following named individuals for informal liaison with the indicated organization:

Emil Christofano	American Industrial Hygiene Assn.
T. R. Torkelson	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
M. N. Johnson, M.D.	Industrial Medicine Association
N. V. Hendricks	American Petroleum Institute

6.2 Liaison with the Federal Government

In response to invitations submitted by MCA at the urging of the Committee, Mr. George C. Guenther, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, has designated Mr. Joseph J. LaRocca, Chief of the Office of Project Management and Support, as the individual from his department responsible for liaison with the MCA Safety and Fire Protection and Occupational Health Committees.

In a similar vein, Dr. Marcus Key, Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, has named Dr. Charles Powell, Assistant Director, NIOSH, to a comparable role.

Mr. Hendricks will maintain a continuing program of consultation and informational exchange to keep the Committee and the Federal agencies mutually informed concerning items of common interest.

6.3 Liaison with MCA Committees

Mr. Hendricks reported that he had sent letters to the chairmen of the Safety and Fire Protection, Labels and Precautionary Information, Food, Drug and Cosmetic Chemicals Committees, the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemicals Regulation, and Chemtrec, expressing our interest in a closer liaison between the Occupational Health Committee and their activities, and had received favorable responses from each.

Mr. Morse suggested that liaison among the technical committees under the surveillance of the MCA Board Liaison Committee for Environmental Quality and Control would be improved if the technical committee chairmen were to meet informally as a group before they reported to the Board Committee session. A "chairman's breakfast" was mentioned as an appropriate format for such meetings. Mr. Hendricks volunteered to take the initiative in presenting Mr. Morse's suggestion to MCA management.

Copies of a report describing the status and activities of the just-recently activated Chemtrec (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center) were distributed to the Committee.

7. Workshops

The Committee was informed that the attendance for the Safety and Fire Protection Committee/Occupational Health Committee jointly sponsored Workshop on the Impact of the Occupational Safety and Health Act on the Chemical Industry, scheduled for the following day, might reach 400, and that a favorable response to the program was anticipated.

As to future workshops, consideration was given to a repetition of the New Orleans workshop at some other site, and/or a more narrowly focused industrial hygiene workshop. It was decided to avail an evaluation of the performance and acceptance of the New Orleans workshop before making any further plans. To that

end, each Occupational Health Committee member attending the Workshop was asked to prepare a critique, covering program material, presentation, relative emphasis, etc., and to indicate his recommendation as to whether this workshop should be repeated "as is," revised, or replaced by one of altered content and format.

Dr. Torkelson moved that the Chairman be authorized to proceed with approval for OHC participation in a second presentation of the New Orleans workshop program if, in his judgment, the critiques he received were favorable. His motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Mac Roy Gasque was asked to continue his responsibility for workshop planning.

8. Chemical Safety Data Sheets

The Chairman reported that the draft on elemental phosphorous was the only one now outstanding.

Dr. M. N. Johnson raised the point as to the care that should be taken in drafting Chemical Safety Data Sheet recommendations in format so restrictive as to imply disapproval of alternative procedures that may be used by some companies and that may provide equivalent degrees of safety.

The Secretary was asked to mail copies of the current "guidelines" for Chemical Safety Data Sheet authors to all members of the Committee.

Mr. Andresen expressed the view that, in all revisions or new sheet issues, care should be taken to be certain that they included all information essential for the preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets by the users of these materials. He also suggested that the value of the sheets could be increased without increasing their size, if separate bulletins on general safety practices could be issued and referenced, where appropriate, in the individual Data Sheets.

An apparent error in reference to the recommendations on eye protection in Section 5.2.2 of SD-9 - Caustic Soda, was called to the attention of the Committee. The Committee felt that this error was sufficiently serious to justify immediate reprinting of the same and destruction of defective copies.

Whether or not the draft Data Sheet on Vinyl Chloride should be revised to identify the allegations of carcinogenicity

was discussed at length, without a firm decision. The Chairman was asked to take this up with the Safety and Fire Protection Committee on Wednesday, September 22, and to clear any tentative decision with MCA staff counsel.

The extent of duplication and the occasional inconsistencies among the standards and safe handling recommendations of the American National Standards Institute, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the National Safety Council and MCA was discussed at some length, but no specific means to cope with this problem could be identified. The problem should be recognized, and to the extent feasible, authors of MCA Chemical Safety Data Sheet drafts should avoid wording that would confuse the users of these bulletins or create an unjustified impression of opposing viewpoints among the issuing organizations.

9. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards

The program of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to develop permanent standards to replace the consensus standards initially blanketed into their operations was discussed at some length. An initial phase will be the development of criteria documents on industrial work space contaminants of widespread interest. Among those to receive early attention are: carbon monoxide, asbestos, cotton dust, silica, fiber glass, beryllium, lead, and mercury. The physical agents - heat, noise, and U.V. radiation are also slated for prompt consideration.

Messrs. Emil Christofano and Kenneth Morse were asked to develop proposed MCA goals on atmospheric and biological monitoring for the control of workspace contaminants.

The Chairman announced his intention to keep in touch with NIOSH as these criteria were being prepared for publication in the Federal Register as proposed criteria. He will appoint task groups to participate in the drafting of MCA comments on such criteria from time to time as the need arises.

Mr. Christofano discussed the problem of definition of an individual "competent," within the meaning of the regulation, to approved personal protective equipment for specific task applications. He urged that National membership in the American Industrial Hygiene Association be considered prima facie evidence of such competence.

No Committee action was taken in regard to the Department of Labor questionnaire on Occupational Noise that was brought to their attention by the Chairman's letter of August 6, 1971.

The Chairman urged that the Committee members give careful attention to the studies and Proposed Standards for Heat Stress, indicating that, in his opinion, the Proposed Standards failed to take acclimatization and self-selection into account, were unnecessarily restrictive and would be very difficult and expensive to comply with. He recommended that each member study carefully the report of the symposium on heat stress conducted at the Industrial Health Foundation in June. The proceedings have been published by the IHF under the title "Assessment of Heat Stress and Strains" Engineering Series No. 8-71, and may be ordered by writing them directly at

Industrial Health Foundation, Inc.
5231 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232

Mr. Hendricks asked that all members make a serious effort to collect data and document heat exposure records of present industrial practices that experience has demonstrated adequate to protect properly selected and acclimated workers.

10. Epidemiological Survey of the Chemical Industry

The Chairman reviewed the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Epidemiology over the past month, and related the parallel activities occurring in the American Petroleum Institute. A feasibility study has been conducted by the University of Texas, and on the basis of that study, their committee had solicited proposals for the performance of a full survey by an outside contractor. Howard, Johns Hopkins and the University of Michigan submitted the best proposals, and copies of their proposals were distributed to MCA's Epidemiology Subcommittee. They were asked to consider: (1) which protocol would be best for the model for an MCA survey, and (2) whether to submit to the MCA Board a formal request for funding of such a survey in the 1972-73 budget.

11. Polyvinyl Chloride Acroosteolysis Registry

The Secretary relayed Dr. Dinman's plea for wider and more prompt responses to his requests for the submission of pertinent data to the Registry. He also alerted the Committee to the impending exhaustion of currently authorized funds for maintenance of the Registry activity, and asked them to determine the wishes of their companies in regard to any refunding.

12. Vinyl Chloride Monomer Study

Mr. McCormick reported for the Vinyl Chloride Monomer Subcommittee that they had selected the research proposal from Industrial Biotest as technically adequate and most advantageous from a cost standpoint. The subcommittee recommended that their proposal, with a possible reduction in scale of effort (if necessary to accommodate available funding) on study of acetylene-derived VCM, be presented to the vinyl chloride manufacturers and users as a suggested protocol.

This recommendation was moved, seconded and carried and the Secretary was asked to proceed with plans to hold a meeting of representatives of the vinyl chloride industry to consider these matters. He was also asked to ascertain the current status of Dr. Viola's research and available results before any such meeting.

The question was raised as to whether an epidemiological survey of vinyl chloride workers to determine the incidence of cancer or other lesions suggested by Dr. Viola's work might be in order. It was decided to delay any decision on such a survey until more laboratory data was available from lower level exposures.

13. Treatment for Chemical Exposures

13.1 Phenol Decontamination

Studies on the relative advantages and disadvantages of water, versus glycerol or other polyalcohols, for the removal of phenol contamination from the skin, are still underway at Dow Chemical Company. No Committee recommendations are planned prior to the completion of this work.

13.2 Treatment of Phosgene Exposure

The recently published data on the treatment of phosgene exposure by hexamethylenetetramine has been submitted to Dr. K. L. Lane for critical review.

13.3 Gastric Evacuation Following Hydrocarbon Ingestion

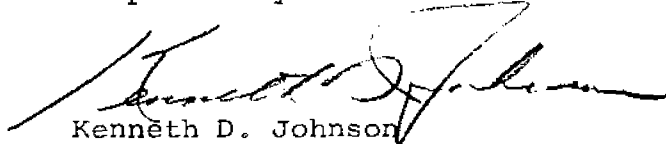
The matter of whether or not warning labels on hydrocarbon solvents should, or should not, recommend induction of vomiting for the emergency treatment of ingestion of such solvent was discussed, but no decision was reached. The Committee urged that MCA develop guidelines on this point to be followed consistently in the Chemical Safety Data Sheet series.

14. Future Meeting Schedules

The next regular meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, at a site to be determined later.

If necessary to expedite the vinyl chloride research program, the Committee expressed an interest in an early December meeting, subject to the call of the chair. Their attention was called to the December 13-14 schedule of the Safety and Fire Protection Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth D. Johnson
Secretary
Occupational Health Committee

Minutes Subject to Approval

December 3, 1971

KDJ/cj

Liaison Report of the
Labels and Precautionary Information Committee

Mr. Norman White, of the subject Committee gave an extensive report of the project being conducted by them to secure consensus support for a hazard labeling system acceptable for both in-plant and transportation uses. This would combine major features of the National Fire Protection Association "704" labeling system and the MCA HI program.

The salient feature of the proposed labeling system involves a division of the diamond label into five areas, with appropriate seventy-of-risk numerals in each area. The control area would be used for inhalation hazard, the upper for skin hazard, the lower for ingestion, and the lateral areas for eye hazards. The selection of these areas was based on the features of the human face, with correspondence between the previously described areas and the nose (for inhalation), the brow (skin), mouth (ingestion), and the lateral eye positions.

The Chairman agreed to appoint representatives from the Occupational Health Committee to a joint subcommittee considering the hazard labeling system.