

MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting

JOINT SESSION
of the
MANAGEMENT CONTACTS OF COMPANIES SPONSORING THE
VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH PROGRAM
and the
TECHNICAL TASK GROUP ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

MCA Conference Room
9:00 AM

Washington, D.C.
January 25, 1974

PRESENT:

T. R. Aalto	Tenneco Chemicals Inc.
A. R. Adams	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
L. H. Ballou, M.D.	Firestone Plastics Company/Division of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
A. M. Barnes	Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Plastics Division
J. T. Barr	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Z. G. Bell, Jr.	PPG Industries, Inc.
W. J. Boyne	Borden Chemical/Division of Borden, Inc.
R. S. Brookman	Firestone Plastics Company/Division of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
A. S. Cummin	Borden, Inc.
C. H. Dernehl, M.D.	Union Carbide Corporation
Ernest Dixon for W. S. Ferguson	Allied Chemical Corporation
B. W. Duck	British Petroleum Company, Ltd.
D. P. Duffield, M.D.	Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Mond Division
H. E. Everson	Diamond Shamrock Corporation
W. D. Harris	UNIROYAL, Inc.
Richard Henderson for M. R. Gasque, M.D.	Olin Corporation
E. Q. Hull, M.D.	Union Carbide Corporation
W. M. Iliff	Uniroyal Chemical Division of UNIROYAL, Inc.

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C. A. Johnson, M.D.	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
M. N. Johnson, M.D.	The B. F. Goodrich Company
Flynt Kennedy	Continental Oil Company
W. A. Knapp	Allied Chemical Corporation
H. L. Kusnetz for	Shell Oil Company
R. L. Maycock	
A. B. Lindquist	Stauffer Chemical Company
J. R. Livingston, Jr.	Exxon Chemical Company, U.S.A.
R. W. McBurney, M.D.	Diamond Shamrock Corporation
Thomas McDonach	Exxon Chemical Company, U.S.A.
Richard Maier	Stauffer Chemical Company
D. A. Rausch for D. C.	Dow Chemical, USA
Nuechterlein	
R. J. Reynolds	Shell Chemical Company
D. E. Rhoads	Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
W. E. Rinehart	Ethyl Corporation
George Roush, Jr., M.D.	Monsanto Company
H. L. Schmidt, Jr.	Borden Chemical/Division of
	Borden, Inc.
L. J. Schuman	Continental Oil Company
W. M. Smith	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
I. R. Tabershaw, M.D.	Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.
T. R. Torkelson	The Dow Chemical Company
Anton Vittone	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company/
	Division of The B. F. Goodrich
	Company
R. N. Wheeler	Union Carbide Corporation
B. M. G. Zwicker	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company/
	Division of The B. F. Goodrich
	Company
B. M. Barackman	MCA Staff
A. C. Clark	MCA Staff
K. D. Johnson	MCA Staff
V. H. Peterson	MCA Staff

1. Report from The B. F. Goodrich Company

After the meeting was called to order by Mr. Clark, and after those present had introduced themselves to the group, this portion of the morning session was turned over to Mr. Anton Vittone. He first called upon Dr. M. N. Johnson, who summarized the chronology and clinical picture of the three cases of

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angiosarcoma of the liver in Goodrich vinyl chloride workers that were the subject of their press release of January 23. This information had earlier been presented to NIOSH and the Kentucky officials, January 22 and 23, respectively. He also described their program of clinical surveillance, including SMA-12 profiles, on all employees with vinyl chloride exposure.

Dr. Zwicker then related the steps Goodrich has taken to minimize exposures, from those involving improved maintenance, housekeeping, and plant ventilation to changes in work practices. He stressed the uncertainties inherent in estimating employee exposures from random grab samples for atmospheric analyses, and described their use of portable indicating instrumentation (a Century Organic Vapor Analyzer) in detailed surveys of the work areas to identify locations for installation of permanent sampling probes for their centralized, automatic monitoring equipment (based on a Bendix 8401 Total Hydrocarbon Analyzer). This instrument, although not specific for vinyl chloride, is reliable, responds rapidly, and has an essentially linear response over three decades of concentration of vinyl chloride vapors in the air. A paper describing their system, "An Instrumental System for the Monitoring of Vinyl Chloride Monomer in Plant and Laboratory Work Areas," by L. B. Crider, was distributed to those present.

Dr. Zwicker also described Goodrich's procedures for informing employees at risk of the nature and status of the problem, and the steps that are being taken by Goodrich for their protection. Employee briefings, in small groups, were conducted by management. At the request of the employee, consultation with medical staff is being provided on an individual basis.

Dr. Irving R. Tabershaw, consultant to Goodrich and president of Tabershaw-Cooper Associates (the firm conducting the industry-sponsored mortality study of vinyl chloride workers) then was called upon to comment on the significance of the events related by the Goodrich representatives. Although acknowledging that identification of the pathology observed with vinyl chloride exposures was still tentative, he stressed the overwhelming likelihood that the three cases of angiosarcoma of the liver were related to industrial factors, and that at present, vinyl chloride exposures were by far the most significant common factor in their industrial exposure histories.

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Dr. Tabershaw also gave an oral update report on the status of the MCA study. TCA has now identified 122 deaths among the population under study, and expects to find 30 to 40 more by the time the remaining plants have reported and follow-ups have been completed. One hundred two death certificates have been secured, with no obvious abnormalities in the pattern of causes of death, nor any case giving rise to immediate suspicion that it might be industrially related. He stressed, however, that age-specific rates had not yet been calculated, and that his comments were based upon a first-impression response to the data.

It was the impression of the Goodrich representatives that NIOSH and OSHA would probably move toward an emergency "work practices standard" for vinyl chloride rather than attempting to set a numerical TWA or ceiling value standard.

2. MCA Reaction to Problem

2.1 MCA-NIOSH Liaison

After discussion of possible steps MCA might take to retain industry initiative, it was moved, seconded and carried that MCA immediately call Dr. Marcus Key, renewing our offer of assistance and support for the studies NIOSH was considering undertaking, and confirm this by letter from an MCA officer. Mr. Best, MCA Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, made such a call the afternoon of January 25, and sent the confirming letter the same day. A copy of his letter to Dr. Key is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

The Research Coordinators were delegated the responsibility for coordinating the technical back-up to the MCA offer of assistance in NIOSH program development and execution. Those areas in which MCA might be most helpful were judged to be diagnostic procedures and medical surveillance, work practices, and industrial hygiene monitoring and analytical procedures.

2.2 MCA Liaison with Industry

The group urged MCA to take appropriate steps to see that companies handling vinyl chloride but not members of the group sponsoring the present study programs be made aware

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of the problem. It was the consensus that this could best be done if they were to join the group in the sponsorship of any expanded and accelerated research programs that it might undertake. MCA was asked to extend a renewed invitation to VCM and/or PVC producers who had declined to join the group at the time of its formation.

2.3 MCA Participation in OSHA Hearings

In anticipation of public hearings by OSHA on the emergency standards they are expected to propose for vinyl chloride, MCA was asked to prepare testimony for possible presentation at such hearings. The MCA statement would be limited primarily to a narrative history of the activities of the Association and the members of the group of companies supporting the animal exposure and epidemiological studies now underway under MCA's aegis.

3. Formation of Task-Group Units

It was moved, seconded and carried that the TTGVCR be instructed to organize three sub-task groups to expedite the development of plans and recommendations in the three areas referred to in item 2.1 above.

3.1 Medical Sub-Task Group

Dr. M. N. Johnson was appointed by the Chairman to serve as leader pro-tem of a medical group to develop recommendations for guidelines for industry practices in the medical surveillance of workers at risk to vinyl chloride occupational exposures. Such guidelines may include, but are not limited to, recommendations as to pre-employment and routine physical examination procedures and standards, diagnostic criteria for the recognition of early or incipient injury from vinyl chloride exposures, and the medical management of such injury should it occur.

Those initially named to serve on the medical group include L. H. Ballou, M.D. (Firestone), C. H. Dernehl, M.D. (Union Carbide), D. P. Duffield, M.D. (ICI), E. M. Dixon, M.D. (Allied Chemical), R. W. McBurney, M.D. (Diamond Shamrock), and George Roush, Jr., M.D. (Monsanto).

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3.2 Work Practices Sub-Task Group

Mr. R. N. Wheeler was appointed leader pro-tem of a group to study, identify problems, and recommend operating procedures and facility design in the manufacture, transport and consumption of vinyl chloride monomer to limit exposures to the lowest levels consistent with safety, and to secure freedom from health hazards. Specific areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to workplace air, engineering guidelines, work and operational practices, protective equipment, industrial hygiene procedures, and process modifications.

The following persons were named as members of the group: Mr. A. M. Barnes (ICI), Mr. J. T. Barr (Air Products), Dr. Z. G. Bell, Jr. (PPG), Dr. W. J. Boyne (Borden Chemical), Mr. H. R. Hoyle (Dow), Mr. H. L. Kusnetz (Shell), and Mr. Richard Maier (Stauffer).

3.3 Industrial Hygiene and Monitoring Sub-Group

Dr. Richard Henderson was appointed pro-tem leader of a sub-group to develop recommended practices and guidelines for the conduct of industrial hygiene monitoring and sample analysis for the evaluation of steps taken for the reduction of exposures to vinyl chloride, and to detect promptly and with confidence conditions of exposure presenting potential threat to the health and safety of workers. The design and conduct of interlaboratory comparisons of accuracy, precision and specificity of sampling and analytical procedures are to be considered specific tasks of the group.

Initial assignments to this group include Mr. A. M. Barnes (ICI), Dr. Z. G. Bell, Jr. (PPG), Mr. H. R. Hoyle (Dow), Mr. Flynt Kennedy (Continental Oil), and Dr. B. M. G. Zwicker (B. F. Goodrich):

4. Publicity on Vinyl Chloride Hazards

A number of articles from the European popular and technical press, relating to alleged hazards of working with vinyl chloride, were called to the attention of those present. Copies of translations of these articles are attached to, but not incorporated as a portion of, these minutes. The bibliographic references to these articles are tabulated below

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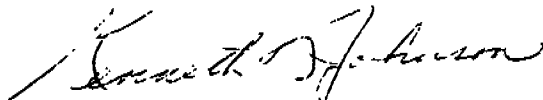
1. S. Juhe, C. E. Lange, G. Stein, G. Veltman, Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift, 98, 2034-2037 (1973)
2. Kolner Stadt.-Anzeiger, 14 December 1973
3. Weser Kurier, No. 300, p. 11, 20 December 1973
4. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 20 December 1973
5. Der Spiegel, No. 50 (1973)
6. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 2 January 1974

5. Future Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the TTGVCR will be held at the Sheraton O'Hare (North), near O'Hare Airport, Chicago, on Wednesday, February 20, 1974. The Sub-group on Work Practices will meet Tuesday AM, at that hotel, in the suite of the TTGVCR officers, and the Research Coordinators will meet there at 2:00 PM the same date. If other sub-groups are to meet in conjunction with this meeting of the TTGVCR, they will be so notified.

The TTGVCR meeting agenda will be distributed shortly.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Secretary, Technical Task Group
on Vinyl Chloride Research

KDJ:mb
Minutes Subject to Approval
January 30, 1974

Distribution

- Technical Task Group on Vinyl Chloride Research
- Vinyl Chloride Research Management Contacts
- Attendees of Meeting

cc : Mr. D. M. Elliott
Dr. Tiziano Garlanda

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