

September 25, 1974

TO: A. Vittone
FROM: C. Lane
SUBJECT: VCM-SPI PUBLIC RELATIONS MEETING

Tuesday afternoon, September 24, this group met with representatives of Hill and Knowlton and SPI at H & K offices in Washington to discuss public relations procedures in view of the forthcoming publication of the OSHA standard.

Jerry Blizin said he believes the draft of the permanent standard is nearing completion and the final draft could go to the government printing office any time now for publication in the Federal Register of October 4. He said it is highly likely that the draft of the standard will be leaked to the press before the Federal Register publication, although OSHA may make special efforts to guard its secrecy until it appears in the printed form.

We discussed various public reactions. It was recognized that we have no reliable way to anticipate provisions of the new standard and that it will contain many provisions which probably will be objectionable to industry. It was also recognized that unless the permanent standard is set at "no detectable" levels of exposure, the health research group or labor unions will probably sue OSHA. It was also recognized that industry, either through single companies or in some form of group action, may take legal action.

It was the consensus of the group to recommend that responses to media questions immediately following release of the standard should express disappointment that OSHA did not follow the recommendations of industry but that we could make no further comments at this time until we had the opportunity to review the standard completely and assess its impact on the industry.

It was also pointed out that there is growing media and public concern about the possible affects of vinyl chloride exposure to the public within the vicinity of plants or in the use of products. Therefore, it was agreed that Mat Swetonic of H & K should begin promptly to prepare a background memorandum on these subjects, using testimony and

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September 25, 1974
Page two
A. Vittone

published facts but not arriving at any conclusions. This would not be distributed widely but would be put into the hands of well known writers in this field or given to others on request or as they show interest in these areas of the VCM problem.

C.L.

CL:ld

cc: J. J. Bell
W. C. Becker

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