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Manufacturing Chemists Association

Minutes of Meeting

Vinylidene Chloride Technical Panel

MCA Conference Room April 21, 1976 Washington, D.C.

The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Bell.
The record of attendance is:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Z. G. Bell, Jr., Chairman	PPG Industries, Inc.
V. C. Bachtel	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company
(for M. N. Johnson)	
E. J. Kerfoot	BASF Wyandotte Corporation
(for R. Jadrnicek)	
J. R. McDonough	Tennessee Eastman Company
J. M. Norris	The Dow Chemical Company
W. A. Patterson	W. R. Grace & Co.
R. J. Turner	Morton Chemical Company
P. J. Vanderhorst	E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
P. L. Wright	Monsanto Company

MEMBERS ABSENT:

W. V. Andresen	American Cyanamid Company
H. A. Cantor	Staley Chemical
A. Konishi	Kureha Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.
L. Rapoport	Olin Corporation
J. M. Smith	Rohm and Haas Company
J. Yamada	Asahi-Dow Limited

GUESTS PRESENT:

W. R. Hoopes	W. R. Grace & Co.
J. P. Lyon	E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
C. C. Kazmierski	The Dow Chemical Company

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1. Last Meeting

The minutes of the January 7, 1976 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Financial Status

The Project Manager summarized the financial statement of April 12, 1976, a copy of which is attached.

3. Toxicology Subcommittee

3.1 Studies in Progress

The two year inhalation study was terminated February 23 on schedule, Dr. Norris reported. It was not carried further as anticipated earlier since ninety percent mortality was reached in one of the groups and this was the previously agreed on criterion for ending the study. An interim report is due in May and to this point in time there have been no untoward findings. A final report, including pathology, is expected in about one year.

3.2 Additional Studies Proposed

3.2.1 Dow Studies

3.2.1.1 Teratology Study

Dr. Norris reported that in the three generation reproduction study with rats exposed to VDC by inhalation, mortality in the F₃A generation has been statistically higher than for controls. This is difficult to explain in view of the absence of toxic effects in the earlier part of the study. A low fertility rate in the F₁ generation was thought to be unrelated. Since the data to this point is anomalous it would be desirable to try to determine whether the high mortality in F₃A is an artifact.

The approach recommended by the Subcommittee and approved unanimously by the Panel is to proceed to F₃B and F₃C generations whether an effect is noted or not. In addition, if an effect is noted in F₃B, the F₄A generation should be bred and observed. The total cost for this work is expected to be in the range of \$20,000 to \$24,000 and will be proposed to management contacts.

3.2.1.2 Wavy Rib Observations

To further investigate this phenomenon, discussed at some length last meeting, Dr. Norris proposed the following three part study which this Subcommittee recommended for approval to the Panel:

1.	\$ 2,620	Two Probe Studies
2.	\$14,960	Post Natal Study (to determine reversibility)
3.	<u>\$16,170</u>	Determining No Effect Level
	\$33,750	Total

The Panel voted unanimously to recommend to Management Contacts that these studies be undertaken at Dow with the understanding that one of them may be dropped if it is deemed to be infeasible in view of the data in hand at the time. Dr. Norris will keep the group posted.

3.2.1.3 Determination of No Effect Level by Inhalation

The Subcommittee plans to review this proposed multiple species study prior to the next Panel meeting so that it may make a recommendation at that time.

3.2.2 Dr. Laseter's Research

Dr. Bell reviewed the brief history of the application of the extremely sensitive analytical techniques developed at the University of New Orleans to biological phenomena. The potential of this method in identifying changes in metabolic pathways and providing an early warning system in humans was stressed. Dr. Patterson who visited Dr. Laseter in the company of W. R. Grace's consultant, Dr. Hodge, agreed to proceed with this type of investigation only if comparative data with other materials were made available. Dr. Bell also mentioned that the National Cancer Institute is very much interested in exploiting the possibilities of this ultrasensitive technique. Reporting the results of a letter ballot, the Project Manager indicated a majority of the Toxicology Subcommittee did not favor supporting this type of research.

After some discussion, the Panel voted (seven to two) to drop the proposal to support the type of work being conducted by Dr. Laseter.

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3.3 Report on EPA Sponsored Work at the Midwest Research Institute, (MRI)

Dr. Norri's indicated the data from MRI so far on embryo lethality is very hard to interpret since it is not consistent. A report on MRI's interim results obtained by Dr. Norris will be distributed to the Panel.

4. Analytical and Monitoring Subcommittee

Dr. Patterson reported on behalf of Dr. Pike, (Chairman of this Subcommittee), that a method had been developed for the determination of EDC in air. In Round Robin testing it was found to have good accuracy and precision. Currently it is being re-written in final form by Mr. Cobler of Dow.

The Project Manager further indicated this Subcommittee would like eventually to offer it to ASTM and have it published in a suitable scientific journal. The group felt it should first be approved by the Panel after the Work Practices Subcommittee has commented on it and incorporated the method into the Work Practices document they are preparing.

It was further noted that the Analytical Subcommittee had developed methods for monomer in latex as well as in powder. They had decided to defer work on simulated food solvents with films until FDA has established proposed allowable levels since the analytical approach used will be dependent on them.

Lastly, the Analytical Subcommittee recommended to the Panel deferral of the proposal of Dr. Gilbert of Rutgers until feeding studies now underway and planned are completed and a no effect level has been established.

5. Work Practices Subcommittee

Mr. Hoopes pointed out that the most recent work practices document this group prepared had been distributed to the Panel along with comments received. However, rather than discuss these individually, it was agreed that the Subcommittee prepare a revised document for presentation to the Panel at the next meeting.

5.1 Proposed Submission of Work Practices Document to NIOSH

This suggestion was made in response to a request for information by that agency. The Panel voted unanimously to

defer a decision on what to do with the work practices document until it is in hand.

6. Medical Surveillance Subcommittee

Points made by Dr. Kerfoot regarding BASF Wyandotte's South Kearny plant situation are as follows:

1. The unions, (Rubber Workers and Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers) continue to associate the abnormal liver functions found among some workers at that plant with vinylidene chloride. The Company position is that the observations could be ascribed to any of several hepatotoxins at the plant. There has been some interference from NIOSH and The United Rubber Workers, who represent the workers at this plant, in completion of the biopsies recommended by the liver specialist called in as a consultant by the Company.

2. Difficulty is being encountered in finding a suitable control group for comparison with the workers examined. To help evaluate the epidemiological situation, the Company has engaged Dr. Clark Cooper of Equitable Environmental Health, Inc., (formerly Tabershaw-Cooper Associates).

3. Dr. Norris said Dow has good data on exposure concentrations and health histories dating back to 1944, showing no adverse effects. Dow intends to publish this information.

4. NIOSH has taken over one hundred samples at the plant in question and they have all been under one part per million of VDC. Dr. Kerfoot suggested that the medical surveillance procedure for VDC should be reexamined carefully in view of BASF's experience.

5. The VDC operation at South Kearny was shut down recently.

6. An appeal was made by Dr. Kerfoot to have companies with relevant medical data transmit it to him.

7. Report on International Agency for Research on Cancer, (IARC)

The thrust of Dr. Clary's report, read to the group by Dr. Vanderhorst, is that the IARC Committee felt there was insufficient information at this time to prepare a monograph. A preliminary draft including chemical, physical and biological data was written and will be distributed to the Panel along with

Dr. Clary's letter of April 6.

8. Next Meeting

September 16 was selected as the date for the next meeting in Washington, D.C. In addition, it was agreed the Toxicology Subcommittee would meet at 1:00 p.m. on September 14 and the Work Practices Subcommittee at 2:00 p.m., September 2.

Sincerely,



Milton Freifeld
Project Manager
Vinylidene Chloride Research

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May 7, 1976

Minutes subject to approval