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Received Date: 2002-10-31 22:11:26 GMT
Subject: Meeting at Shell on November 14 or 15 - Shanghai Benzene Health Study

Dear William,

It was very nice talking with you yesterday. I appreciate your willingness to meet with us. Would you please let us know the best time for us to meet when you are in Houston for your other meetings in mid-November?

The following is a brief description of the Shanghai benzene health study.

In 1997, the U.S. National Cancer Institute released a study of workers in China, which implicated benzene exposure to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Previously, benzene exposure had been linked only to leukemia. The NCI study also showed development of leukemia at lower exposure levels than previously known.

There is a known population of workers in Shanghai who are exposed to benzene. The Chinese government keeps very good occupational exposure records. This presents a unique opportunity to do a good health study of persons identified with leukemia who have been exposed to benzene. The study, which is projected to last for five years, will provide data on persons over a long period of time, with extensive exposure histories. Shell is participating in a consortium of companies (including ExxonMobil, BP, ChevronTexaco, Conoco) to fund a 5-year study in Shanghai. Bioethicists and an independent scientific panel has reviewed the study protocols. The study will be a cooperative effort between the consortium, Dr. Richard Irons and Dr. Otto Wong, the principal investigators, in the U.S. and Fudon University School of Medicine, government agencies and hospitals in Shanghai.

Shell is sponsoring the project because we believe it is important to understand the hazards of the products we make and sell; it supports our product stewardship program and sustainable development; and we believe it is the right thing to do.

Thank you and look forward to seeing you in Houston.

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