

AN 7805

April 29, 1982

M. N. Johnson

Re: April 1982 Activity Report

1. PVC - I assisted Dr. O'Mara in preparing for an interview on PVC flammability, combustion toxicity and fire hazard which will be part of Cronkite's "Universe". Questions and answers, and summaries of appropriate data were provided.

I attended a meeting with representatives of Southwire to discuss the areas where PVC is being attacked and address some of the technical questions they had. I tried to provide information and a broad perspective that would assist Southwire in their confrontations with the opponents of PVC wire and conduit.

The final meeting of the NBS ad hoc committee on combustion toxicity was held this month. The final editorial changes were made in the combustion toxicology protocol which is intended for screening for super toxic materials. After lunch, a workshop was held to discuss future research needs in the combustion toxicity/fire hazard areas.

Dr. Cleveland (Cincinnati Coroner) has agreed to write a letter to the editor of the Journal of Combustion Toxicology noting the many flaws and inaccuracies in Dr. Wallace's article. Both Dr. Cleveland and I will identify the deficiencies and then we will meet to agree on the major points that should be mentioned in the letter.

We are attempting to obtain all important publications on PVC/CPVC flammability, combustion toxicity, and fire hazard. A literature search has been conducted and we are now reviewing the list.

We identified several contractors who are experienced with EIR's. We will see that they are considered in the final selection process.

2. CR-18 - We completed the development of protocols for dominant lethal/male reproduction studies. We have now begun to prepare an EA for approval. This study is needed in light of earlier information which suggested a possible compound-related effect.

The CR-18 long-term feeding study is proceeding without any serious problems. We are nearing the 24th month of exposure. Based on survival data, we expect the treatment to continue until months 27 or 28 (~ 20-25% survival). The final report is expected in 1983.

3. Chemical Group Coordination - Since Dr. Learner is no longer handling his previous coordinating role, I met with Jim Fannin to discuss TOSCA and various other areas which need to be covered. I plan to meet with him again soon to follow-up on some items.

20908001

4. Surpon - We are still working with the Surpon group in an attempt to resolve variable responses in the cytotoxicity tests. Recipes have been selected, and samples are now being prepared for further study.

We also obtained some antimicrobial drugs for R&D evaluation with Surpon and have obtained protocols and cost quotations from anti-microbial and wound healing studies.

5. NAS Meeting - The work of the NAS committee on Water Treatment Chemicals is nearing completion. The committee has prepared a water treatment chemicals codex which establishes impurity standards for these materials. The toxicology subcommittee is now completing work on limits for lead and carbon tetrachloride. Since water treatment chemicals in general have not been found to pose any significant problems, it is not clear whether EPA will perpetuate this codex.
6. Combustion Toxicity - We received the preliminary data on the combustion toxicity of some of our products. Using the NBS protocol, none were identified as "super toxic" materials.
7. FDA Customer Problems - During W.C. Bachtel's absence, we received information that a company was using a gasket made from a non-FDA approved BFG neoprene in a food contact application. A letter was prepared and discussed with Mr. Bachtel and Mr. Steidl prior to mailing. We recommended that this use cease.


R. K. Hinderer