

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

MINUTES OF MEETING

PLASTICS COMMITTEE
New York Hilton Hotel
New York City
January 31, 1967

PRESENT:
Messrs.

G. L. Pitzer (Chairman), Union Carbide Corporation
P. J. Weaver (for Vice Chairman Nantz), B. F. Goodrich Chemical
E. S. Ebers, United States Rubber Company
J. W. Ferguson, Hooker Chemical Corporation
G. M. Hale, Shawinigan Chemicals Limited
J. F. Kroeger, Shell Chemical Company
F. M. Norton, Allied Chemical Corporation
J. R. Ryan, Hercules Incorporated
E. J. Sullivan, The Borden Chemical Company
J. G. Stranch (for D. C. Williams), Eastman Chemical Products
F. H. Carman (Secretary), MCA

and

W. F. Bartoe (Guest), Rohm and Haas Company
R. L. Schuyler, Jr. (Guest), E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company

SUMMARY

The Chairman and Secretary had received comments on the Weatherability Project from Messrs. Harold Bible (Monsanto), R. G. Askew (Phillips), and E. C. Yehle for W. C. Goggin (Dow). In general, their views were consistent with those of the majority present in the meeting and as stated in greater detail later in these minutes.

Dr. Bartoe reviewed the status of the program since his last report to the Committee. Briefly, the NBS has appointed V. E. Gray to head up the work for the Bureau. As requested, objectives of the program have been enumerated, and an appraisal of the project to achieve these objectives together with recommended implementation were to be considered by the Steering Committee February 9. It was proposed by V. E. Gray that the project be staffed with one research associate and two technical assistants reporting to the NBS project supervisor.

The Committee, after a thorough discussion of progress to date and its future prospects concluded: (1) that this joint effort on the part of industry is worthwhile; (2) that NBS had done its part by making changes proposed by industry; (3) that the MCA team may not be fully cooperative and that its competence must be improved; and (4) that the project should be continued at NBS for the present even though industry is not fully satisfied with progress.

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Weatherability Project

Chairman Pitzer thanked all present for their participation in this meeting called without much advance planning. He stressed the desirability of a quick appraisal of the program in view of the Symposium February 8 and 9 and subsequent action that may be taken to improve operations of the project.

Comments by W. F. Bartoe and the Secretary are stated briefly in the above summary.

The discussion during this meeting included the following:

One company representative had advised the Chairman and Secretary that, as a result of a thorough study on the practicability of the project, they felt the probability of success was so small that the logic of continuing the program is questionable.

The attitude of the Bureau has improved, and they have taken the steps requested in direction of the work.

The NBS is a good location for achieving creditability of any developments in the field of weatherability testing.

For the moment, there would appear to be nothing gained in moving the project at this time; however, it was the feeling of some that an academic laboratory may have some advantage, perhaps due to lower cost.

Capabilities of the Research Associates are questionable. In several respects they are not fully cooperative with each other, with the Steering Committee, or with the Bureau.

Leadership has not been shown in the senior research associate; thus, there is a weakness in the MCA team.

The program has had rough sledding over the past two years but now seems to be on the track.

There is a need for listing of specific objectives for the next year and for an analytical chemist to be part of the MCA team.

This appears to be a long-term project, and the industry may have expected too many quick and revolutionary developments.

A joint effort to develop procedures for determining weatherability characteristics is a worthwhile project in behalf of the plastics industry.

The project should be continued for a third year; and, in this recommendation, it was pointed out NBS has responded, MCA has not recruited a third man, and the Association must do its part.

These to varying degrees were the comments of several present.

Baltimore-Washington SPE

Chairman Pitzer and the Washington office had been advised of a regional technical conference to be held in Washington, D. C., September 7 and 8, 1967, and were requested to call this to the attention of member representatives. Also, it had been proposed that MCA endeavor to assist in orientation of engineering personnel in government agencies to encourage the use of plastics and, in general, promote their use as engineering materials. It was agreed the interested Washington representatives should be (1) advised that this has been reported to the Committee, (2) alerted of the September 7, 1967, conference, and (3) advised it is not clear at this time what further program the MCA can properly take.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. Carman

F. H. Carman, Secretary
Plastics Committee

FHC/bk

cc: All Present
Plastics Committee

February 13, 1967