



INTERNAL  
CORRESPONDENCE

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION OLD RIDGEBURY ROAD, DANBURY, CT 06817

|           |                  |                 |                   |             |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| To (Name) | J. S. Cornell    | T. E. Lawrence  | Date              | May 3, 1983 |
| Division  | D. H. Glenn      | T. A. Lincoln   |                   |             |
| Location  | H. Greenberg     | A. R. Schnatter | Originating Dept. | HS&EA       |
| Area      | S. A. Hart       | R. N. Wheeler   | Area              | P-2         |
| Copy to   | Dr. Carol Stack  |                 | Subject           |             |
|           | Dr. Otto Wong    |                 |                   |             |
|           | Nancy L. Wheeler |                 |                   |             |

Attached are minutes of the last project review meeting regarding the CMA vinyl chloride epidemiology project.

Sincerely,

S. G. Austin  
S. G. Austin, Sc.D.  
Corporate Director of Epidemiology

SGA:jsh  
Att.

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Progress Report on Vinyl Chloride (South Charleston and Texas City) Study

Monday, March 21, 1983

A meeting was held on Monday, March 21, 1983 to discuss the status of activities related to the vinyl chloride epidemiology studies at South Charleston and Texas City. In attendance were Ms. Susan Hart, Mr. Howard Greenberg, Mr. Rob Schnatter, Mr. Nick Wheeler and Dr. Susan Austin.

1.0 Rob Schnatter reported the following status for the South Charleston cohort:

- 1,182 = total cohort size
- 338 - "non-exposed" status from computer tapes
- 839 - data collection complete, no further problems
- 5 - record not found on computer tape

2.0 Rob Schnatter reported the following status for Texas City:

- 355 = total cohort
- 277 - data collection complete, no further problems
- 73 - autoclave chippers
- 5 - some problems remain, under investigation by Dr. Glenn in Texas City

3.0 Mr. Wheeler remarked that although clerical errors may have occurred in selecting the vinyl chloride department codes from employee work records, it was unlikely that 338 errors were made. To account for the 338 persons with undocumented exposure histories, Dr. Austin suggested two steps for further investigation:

(1) For any of the 338 employees who are still on the active payroll at South Charleston (or Institute), a questionnaire could be sent to the employee requesting information on dates of employment in any of the vinyl chloride departments. Mr. Wheeler indicated that it would be reasonable to expect employees to recall the departments in which they worked, but not the code designations associated with those department names;

(2) For the remaining inactive employees, a 10% sample could be investigated to determine whether errors in transcriptions were, in part, responsible.

4.0 Mr. Wheeler commented on discrepancies between department codes used in the initial vinyl chloride study and those listed in the Kanawha Valley Epidemiology Study dictionary:

- (1) Department 078 (Vinyon N) involved relatively high exposures, department named later changed to Vinyl Resins;

(2) Department 096 (Dyne) should have been included in the dictionary as a vinyl chloride department;

(3) Department 450 included some people who were among the highest exposed persons to vinyl chloride (i.e. mechanics, pipefitters, cleaning workers). Approximately 20% of those assigned to this department would not be exposed;

(4) Not all of Department 223 involved exposure to vinyl chloride (22301 and 22302 were the only vinyl chloride specific departments);

(5) Of the 450 department number series, only 45052, 45056, 45057 and 45058 involved exposure to vinyl chloride;

(6) Departments M4N and 080 involved little exposure to vinyl chloride. The total persons assigned to these department codes in the Kanawha Valley study file should be no more than 15 persons. However it is possible that these department codes were used as a "slush" code.

5.0 Mr. Schnatter reported that EHA had requested final data forms and tapes for those employees known to have been exposed for whom data collection has been completed to date. Results from Texas City are expected in another week at which time a submission to EHA will be made.

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