



THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

BENNETT BUILDING
2030 DOW CENTER
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

January 30, 1978

RECEIVED

FEB 2 1978

MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT

Scott Bowen
Beveridge Firbanks & Diamond
One Farragut Square South
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Scott:

The attached January 12 letter was received in response to my inquiry of December 27 which is also enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

T. R. Torkelson, Sc.D.
Corporate Medical Dept.

Enclosures

mh

cc: John Lawrence, SPI
Joe Seawell, MCA
Zeb Bell, PPG
Walt Harris, UNIROYAL ✓
M. N. Johnson, MD., BFG
C. D. Kary, SHELL
Gary TerHaar, ETHYL
Mayo Smith, AIR PRODUCTS
R. N. Wheeler, UNION CARBIDE
W. E. Nichols, ORGANIZATION
RESOURCES COUNSELORS, INC.
Clark Cooper, MD., EQUITABLE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

URL 16663



Vinyl chloride

Manufacturing Chemists Association

Record of Meeting

TECHNICAL PANEL ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

MCA Conference Room

Washington, D.C.

January 12, 1978

Dr. T. R. Torkelson, Chairman, presided and opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. The following members and guests were present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

T. R. Torkelson, Chairman	The Dow Chemical Company
T. R. Aalto	Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
Z. G. Bell	PPG Industries, Inc.
J. H. Butala (a)	Gulf Oil Corporation
J. D. Dougherty (b)	Allied Chemical Corporation
W. D. Harris	Uniroyal, Inc.
M. N. Johnson	The BFGoodrich Company, Chemical Division
R. B. Judge	W. R. Grace & Co.
C. D. Kary	Shell Oil Company
F. Kennedy	Continental Oil Company
R. A. Park (c)	Firestone Plastics Company
W. M. Smith	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
G. Ter Haar	Ethyl Corporation
R. N. Wheeler	Union Carbide Corporation
J. B. Worthington (d)	Diamond Shamrock Corporation
J. T. Seawell	MCA Staff

- (a) For R. L. Gibson
- (b) For W. S. Ferguson
- (c) For R. S. Brookman
- (d) For R. W. McBurney

MEMBERS ABSENT

R. J. Abramowitz	Hooker Chemicals & Plastics Corporation
B. W. Duck	British Petroleum Co. Ltd.

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MEMBERS ABSENT (Continued)

R. E. Eckardt	Exxon Corporation
A. W. Fuhrman	Great American Chemical Corporation
J. G. Heil	Certain-Teed Products Corporation
C. A. Johnson	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
R. W. Laundrie	The General Tire & Rubber Company
S. K. Law	Keysor-Century Corporation
A. B. Lindquist	Stauffer Chemical Company
R. L. O'Connell	Olin Corporation
G. Roush	Monsanto Company
H. A. Russell	The Pantasote Company
H. L. Schmidt	Borden Chemical Company
H. M. Zimmerman	Georgia-Pacific Corporation

* * *

1.0 Approval of the Record of the Last Meeting

The record of the October 13, 1976 meeting was approved as recorded.

2.0 Review by the Chairman of Time Spans Required for Completion of Action by the Members of the Technical Panel on Vinyl Chloride Research

Background information on this agenda item is recorded under Item 2.0, Record of Meeting, Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators, January 11, 1978. Reiteration of data presented in the foregoing reference served as a preamble for the Chairman's recommendation that all necessary work incident to the sponsorship of the 1978-1979 research program at the University of Louisville be completed well in advance of the expiration date of the 1977-1978 program (currently estimated to be on or about September 1, 1978).

Pertinent to the 1978-1979 University of Louisville research program was the unanimous request of Panel members that in the future their information copy of the commitment letter show the amount of the pro rata share for their respective corporations. Their request has its origin in numerous instances where the Panel member is expected by his respective Management Contact to have an overview of corporate funds being allocated for research programs.

The Chairman concluded his summation with a request that future action, especially on matters affecting the continuation

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of research programs operating under critical fiscal requirements, be more prompt. He also requested that members of the Technical Panel concern themselves with keeping their Management Contacts promptly informed on background information which the Management Contacts need for prompt consideration of proposed research sponsorship.

3.0 Discussion of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants as They Concern Vinyl Chloride Emission Standards

The Chairman reviewed the efforts conducted to date toward the establishment of realistic emission standards.

The current most pressing matter in this overall area concerns a Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Establishment of State Ambient Air Quality Standards for Vinyl Chloride as announced by the Air Resources Board of the State of California. The Air Resources Board requests evidence and testimony relating to the "effects of vinyl chloride exposures on health, illness, and irritation to the senses". The Board also seeks information relating to the appropriateness of a twenty-four hour or other averaging period, and the appropriate test method.

The time and place for a public hearing on this matter are as follows:

Date: January 25, 1978

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Ambassador Hotel
Embassy Row
2400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California

Additional information concerning this public hearing is recorded under Item 3.0, Record of Meeting, Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators, January 11, 1978.

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4.0 University of Louisville
Acceptance of Research Reports

4.1 Initial Progress Report, April 11, 1977

4.2 Second Progress Report, June 6, 1977

4.3 Annual Report, September 8, 1977

Based on the recommendations of the Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators the above-mentioned reports were unanimously accepted by the members of the Technical Panel.

5.0 University of Louisville
Research Proposals

5.1 Discussion of Research Proposals Submitted for the Second Year of Research (1977-1978) and Third Year (1978-1979)

In accord with the recommendations of the Research Coordinators the members of the Technical Panel accepted the University of Louisville research proposals for both fiscal years (1977-1978 and 1978-1979).

The Chairman and the Project Manager presented a report on the current status of sponsorship for the 1977-1978 research program. This report concluded with a request from the Chairman that all necessary liaison with Management Contacts be carried out in an effort to accelerate action on invoices which have already been mailed for the 1977-1978 research.

The main topic of discussion under this agenda item was concerned with the nature of this research program, i.e., its concern with (1) "the human aspects" of this research effort on vinyl chloride and, (2) the breadth of the investigations which pertain not only to vinyl chloride but to other chemicals as well. Recorded under subsection 5.1, Record of Meeting, Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators, January 11, 1978 are the component studies of this overall research program which are illustrative of the applicability of this research to many industrial chemicals.

The members of the Technical Panel endorsed the opinion of the Research Coordinators by passing a motion to recommend to

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MCA management that consideration be given to the continuation of University of Louisville research, after completion of the 1978-1979 research program, by action of an appropriate standing MCA Committee having interest in and concern with chemical safety from a broad-based viewpoint.

5.2 Recommendations to Dr. C. H. Tamburro

A research update meeting is planned for May or June, 1978 at the School of Medicine, University of Louisville for the purpose of having each of the directors of component research projects present a review of his findings to date to Panel members.

It will be recommended to Dr. Tamburro that at the time of the research update presentations, plans for each of the 1978-1979 component research studies be reviewed as concluding parts of the individual research summaries or as a separate entity.

5.3 Companies in Arrears on Their Pro Rata Payments for 1976-1977 University of Louisville Research Program

The motion was made, seconded, and carried on a request that MCA take appropriate follow-up action on an attempt to secure pro rata payments overdue for the 1976-1977 University of Louisville research program. These payment deficiencies which are properly reflected in sections 4 and 5 of the financial statement on the vinyl chloride research program dated December 1, 1977 were the sources of the only comments made on the financial statement. The financial statement was accepted as recorded.

6.0 Recommendation Concerning Funding of Research and Matters Relating Thereto within the Framework of the Research Budget

The Technical Panel accepted the recommendation of the Research Coordinators by passing a motion that the necessary commitment be secured from the Management Contacts whereby in the future the Panel can authorize appropriate expenditures for research and ancillary operations (e.g., the upcoming in-depth audit of the chronic inhalation study) within the budget framework approved by the Management Contacts.

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7.0 Status Report on Chronic Vapor Inhalation Study and
Recommendations on In-Depth Audit

Background information on this agenda item is recorded under Item 7.0, Record of Meeting, Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators, January 11, 1978.

The motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the recommendations of the Research Coordinators concerning the formation of an Audit Task Group to be comprised of:

Dr. Z. G. Bell, Chairman	PPG Industries, Inc.
Dr. T. Benya	Ethyl Corporation
Dr. G. K. Hatfield	Diamond Shamrock Corporation
Dr. R. K. Hinderer	The BFGoodrich Company, Chemical Division
Dr. C. D. Kary	Shell Oil Company
Dr. T. R. Torkelson or Dr. K. Olson	The Dow Chemical Company
Consulting Pathologist	To be selected by the Task Group
Mr. J. T. Seawell	MCA Staff

The motion was made, seconded, and carried to recommend for Management Contact approval an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to be authorized for expenses incident to the audit, e.g., the fee for a consulting pathologist, his travel expenses, possible rental of microscopic equipment, and an appropriate meeting room for Task Group work.

Members of the Technical Panel agreed with arrangements worked out with Dr. Goode of IBT, Decatur whereby the audit would be conducted during the week of February 20, 1978.

8.0 Equitable Environmental Health, Inc. (EEH)

8.1 Final Report on Epidemiological Study on Vinyl Chloride
Workers

Members of the Technical Panel endorsed the recommendations made by the Research Coordinators to accept the final EEH report under the provisos that modified pages of the text, i.e., pages 19, 20, 23 and Table V, are incorporated as replacements for the same numbered pages and table in the second of two "final reports" both of which were dated August, 1977.

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8.2 Long Range Planning for an Update Epidemiological Study to Be Conducted Five Years Hence

The Technical Panel endorsed the recommendation of the Research Coordinators that five years from the date of the present study, consideration would be given to follow-up studies of the cohorts investigated during the original study. It was projected that the update will continue to follow the form of a historical prospective mortality study of workers exposed to vinyl chloride and its polymers.

In addition to the necessary corrections cited above, the Panel was unanimous in its recommendation that the following additional work be performed by EEH in order that the final report be as scrupulously correct as possible:

- 1) That it be recorded in an appropriate section of the report that the investigators observed that the incidence of brain tumors was found to be in excess, twelve observed versus 5.9 expected (significant at the 0.05 level). However the incidence was not related either to duration of exposure nor to intensity of exposure to vinyl chloride monomer.
- 2) That reference be included to the recommendation that this population be studied again within the next five years.
- 3) That a new cover page be structured reflecting the date of report corrections, i.e., January, 1978.
- 4) That the sixty copies of the August, 1977 so-called "final report" in MCA's possession be corrected and all pages not of a matching type be retyped.
- 5) That one hundred new copies of the report will be prepared.

The Panel recommended that the necessary funds be expended in order to accomplish the items described above. EEH,

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during a telephone call placed during the meeting, indicated that charges for this work will be in the neighborhood of \$1,000.

9.0 Discussion of and Action on Continuation of Cooperative Effort on Continuing Updating of the International Registry Of Reported Cases Of Angiosarcoma Of The Liver Among Vinyl Chloride Polymerization Workers

The Chairman reviewed Mr. John Stafford's work on an International Registry of Reported Cases of Angiosarcoma Among Vinyl Chloride Polymerization Workers. Dr. Torkelson concluded his discussion of Mr. Stafford's work by urging that all companies which can possibly contribute to the International Registry do so by addressing reports to:

Mr. John Stafford
Imperial Chemical Industries Limited
Plastic Division
P. O. Box 6
Bessemer Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 1HD England

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The Chairman further requested that copies of all material sent directly to Mr. Stafford also be sent to him.

10.0 Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin
Reported Cases of Angiosarcoma of the Liver

Background information on this subject is recorded under Item 10.0, Record of Meeting, Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators, January 11, 1978. Dr. Torkelson reported that no new information had been received from Dr. Fiechtner. The most recent opinion received from Dr. Fiechtner and his coworker Dr. Cesar N. Reyes was a "casual relationship of arsenic exposure at an early age". This appears to be the most likely lead which these two doctors have at present.

11.0 Chemical Safety Data Sheet SD-56 on Vinyl Chloride

The motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the current draft of SD-56 and to request that the document be dated April 1977, the date when the current draft was circulated.

The Panel endorsed the recommendations of the Research Coordinators that the final deadline for all comments to be submitted by either the Research Coordinators or the members of the Technical Panel be set at three weeks after receipt of the record of the January 11 and 12 meetings of these respective groups.

12.0 Data Information Service on Vinyl Chloride

Members of the Technical Panel accepted the recommendation of Dr. Torkelson whereby action on this subject be deferred since the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) already had in operation a worldwide interest in searching the literature on vinyl chloride. SPI has been coordinating its efforts with work already in progress on a worldwide literature review on vinyl chloride being conducted by the Office of Occupational Health of The World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland under the direction of Dr. E. J. Fairchild, II.

Dr. Torkelson suggested that should anyone have contributions to make to this overall effort that they be sent directly to him. He, as Chairman of SPI's Subcommittee on Toxicology, is in frequent communication with Dr. Fairchild and will forward such contributions to Dr. Fairchild.

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J. T. Seawell
Project Manager
Vinyl Chloride Research

JTS:ec
Record Subject to Approval
February 3, 1978