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MANUFACTURING CHEMICALS

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GEORGE E. BEST
VICE PRESIDENT
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

March 26, 1973

MAR 28 1973

R. N. WHEELER, JR.

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

STRICTLY

Mr. A. B. Steele
Chemicals and Plastics
Union Carbide Corporation
270 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Steele:

This letter is being sent to the management contact for the vinyl chloride research project of each of the 20 sponsoring companies, BP Chemicals International Limited (England) having just joined in such participation, with information copies in each case as indicated.

As the technical representatives are already aware, if the preliminary indications from animal exposure tests under the European project should be further confirmed, a possible toxicity problem could be presented.

Considering that potentiality, one of the sponsors has found support among several others contacted informally, for the point of view that the credibility of the scientific findings from the MCA-administered program just about to get under way would be much enhanced if U.S. Government representatives were included from the outset in its surveillance, probably in an advisory role. Obviously, this reasoning derives from the inevitable suspicion about results of research managed solely by parties at interest, and the possibility of a highly precautionary reaction.

There is also the aspect of moral obligation not to withhold from the Government significant information having occupational and environmental relevance, and the desirability of industry taking the initiative rather than at some later time having to defend another course.

Such consultation with the Government in a meaningful way would necessarily involve discussion of the present state of

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knowledge, which importantly includes European data disclosed on a confidential basis to assist in coordinated planning of the MCA program. The second aspect of the proposal this letter places before you is to seek permission from the European project sponsors to release the information for the purpose indicated, and indeed to invite them to participate in the consultation.

Coming so soon after our liaison has become established, you will appreciate this issue is highly sensitive, since there is full sympathy with the attitude that information to be openly released should be well substantiated.

What is in mind, therefore, is that no more than three or four participating company top executives arrange to discuss the proposal with their counterpart heads of European project company sponsors.

To save unnecessary correspondence, this letter is being sent by certified mail to ensure its reaching you, and no reply is called for if you concur in the proposal. If you should have any comments or suggestions to be taken into account, may I please have them by April 6.

Sincerely,

B. B.

cc: Mr. F. Perry Wilson
Mr. R. M. Wheeler

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Manufacturing Chemists Association

Minutes of Meeting

VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH COORDINATORS

Hospitality House

Arlington, Virginia

April 4, 1973

MEMBERS PRESENT:

T. R. Torkelson, CHAIRMAN	The Dow Chemical Company
T. R. Aalto for Marvin Rosen	Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
Z. G. Bell, Jr.	PPG Industries, Inc.
W. D. Harris	UNIROYAL, Inc.
N. V. Hendricks	Exxon Corporation
C. A. Johnson, M. D.	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Flynt Kennedy	Continental Oil Company
W. A. Knapp	Allied Chemical Corporation
A. B. Lindquist	Stauffer Chemical Company
R. L. Maycock	Shell Chemical Company
W. E. McCormick	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company
W. E. Rinehart	Ethyl Corporation
George Roush, Jr., M. D.	Monsanto Company
H. L. Schmidt, Jr.	Borden Chemical/Division of Borden, Inc.
W. M. Smith	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
R. N. Wheeler	Union Carbide Corporation

OBSERVERS PRESENT:

R. A. Asti	Stauffer Chemical Company
J. J. Bergin	Ethyl Corporation
C. H. Dernehl, M. D.	Union Carbide Corporation
W. S. Ferguson	Allied Chemical Corporation
W. R. Gaffey	Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.
M. N. Johnson, M. D.	The B. F. Goodrich Company
D. A. Rausch	The Dow Chemical Company
B. M. G. Zwicker	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company

MCA STAFF PRESENT:

A. C. Clark	MCA
K. D. Johnson	MCA

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1. Minutes of the Meeting of November 14, 1972

There being no corrections or additions offered to the subject minutes, they were ordered approved as distributed.

2. Amendment to Industrial BIO-TEST Laboratories, Inc. Contract

The proposed protocol for an added experiment in the Industrial BIO-TEST project, in which food, water, and bedding would be present in the cages during vinyl chloride exposure, was approved without change. The Task Group asked that the necessary authorizations be expedited as much as possible. (The test protocol of the contract amendment implementing this action is included as an appendix to these minutes.)

3. Epidemiology Project Protocols

Dr. W. R. Gaffey, of Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc., presented a fuller exposition of the background, facilities, and staff competence of TCA, and explained how these would be employed in the performance of the proposed study. He stressed that only three or four TCA employees would see the raw data, thus assuring close control over confidential elements of such data. All data manipulation will be by computer, and input punch cards will be coded.

In the performance of the study, TCA will work through plant contacts designated by company managements, who will be asked to assure their full cooperation with the project. TCA will, in each instance, provide such contacts, on a timely basis, with the data and records it will require, and with the schedule for their plant visitation.

TCA was asked to submit proposed contract language, specifying with greater particularity the specific tasks to be performed under the basic contract, for review by MCA during the period required for Association approval of the project.

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4. Management Approval of, and Commitments of Support for, the Epidemiology Project

The Task Group agreed that requests to their managements for project approval and support should be couched in terms that would permit MCA to execute a contract with Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc. without waiting for 100 percent participation of all sponsors of the animal exposure project. It was proposed that requests for such support identify a maximum contribution which might be required if a minimum number of companies agreed to participate, and full expenditure of all contingency occurred. A minimum cost figure would also be listed, calculated on the assumption that no contingency funds are required, and that all companies participate.

A suggested company commitment form was drafted that would accomplish this goal, i.e.:

" _____ Company commits itself for its prorated share of the costs of an epidemiological study of employees exposed to vinyl chloride monomer, on the basis of total project costs not to exceed \$92,340, and with our contribution not to exceed _____."

Mr. Clark agreed to expedite MCA management actions necessary to secure approval of the project, and authorization for Tabershaw-Cooper Associates to proceed with the performance of the study.

5. Vinyl Chloride Research Analysis Committee

The Secretary informed the Task Group of the invitation of NIOSH to nominate candidates for appointment to research analysis committees on a number of chemicals, including vinyl chloride. It will be the function of these committees to review available data on these chemicals to identify any gaps in such data that may limit the ability of NIOSH to develop fully adequate criteria documents. Such gaps might then be filled by directed research.

Drs. Bell, Rinehart, and Torkelson were named by the Task Group as appropriate MCA nominees. They were asked to submit brief biographical sketches to the

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Secretary to accompany MCA's nominations.

6. Acroosteolysis Report

The Secretary was asked to make available to those members of the Task Group who were not participants in the acroosteolysis project, copies of the project report submitted to MCA by the University of Michigan at the conclusion of that project.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Secretary

KDJ:mb
July 6, 1973
Minutes Subject to Approval

Appendix Attached

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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APPENDIX

TEST PROTOCOLS
extracted from
the
Industrial BIO-TEST Contract Extension

"This experimental group is to consist of 100 rats of the same sex, to be exposed to vinyl chloride vapors at a concentration of 5,000 ppm v/v. Food, water, and bedding are to be present in the cages in which the animals are exposed during the entire exposure period. Otherwise, experimental procedures, including exposure conditions, their documentation and control, and the handling, observation and necropsies of animals shall conform to those described in the Protocol incorporated by reference in the subject agreement, and hereby so incorporated in this agreement extension."

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R. N. WHEELER, JR.

April 6, 1973

Mr. George E. East
Manufacturing Chemists Association
1825 Connecticut Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20009

VC

Dear Mr. East:

Union Carbide Corporation commits itself for its
pro-rated share of cost of epidemiological study of employees
exposed to vinyl chloride monomer with a limitation of total
project cost of \$92,340 and our pro-rated share to a maximum of
\$3,565.

Very truly yours,

A. B. Steele

A. B. STEELE

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cc: Mr. R. N. Wheeler ✓

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