

Origin & goal of the "Coalition for Benzene Advocacy"

- By historical agreement, API has the lead for benzene issues, as ACC has the lead for butadiene
- API currently works product stewardship & health advocacy issues / activities through the dues-budget funded "Benzene Task Force"
- Chemical industry stakeholders lack a similar "benzene product stewardship & health advocacy" trade association group
- Shell Chemical suggested that API explore chemical industry stakeholder interest in such a group, and identify issues of common interest that could be worked in such a forum
- As a practical first step to gauge interest and initiate organization, a chemical/petroleum industry "Coalition" could be formed with the existing API Benzene Task Force
- If successful in demonstrating "value added", the *ad hoc* Coalition could evolve into a self-funded API solicitation committee for petroleum and chemical stakeholders

Industry Role for the Coalition

- Serve as a credible source of information
- Venue to share "best practices"
 - Communications
 - Emergency response
 - Product Stewardship manual

Proposed Current Benzene Issues / Activities

- Children's Health
 - Children's sensitivity to benzene
 - Project: VCCEP Benzene Risk Assessment
 - Project: David Pyatt's manuscript on children's sensitivity
- Identify threats to industry and respond with science-based advocacy:
 - EPA via CAA Residual Risk
 - Changes in Texas TCEQ regulations
 - EPA mobile air toxics regulations (motor gasoline)
 - HAP implementation
 - Product liability (in general terms)
- Response to recent epidemiology study results
 - NCI low-dose response benzene research
 - HealthWatch data
 - Shanghai Health Study
 - Steffen *et al.* data (French childhood leukemia)
- Prepare "what we are doing" documents
 - VCCEP-sponsored benzene exposure study
- Position document appropriate ambient Air Quality standard
- Communications - holding statements

Proposed Near-Term Benzene Issues

- Benzene Risk Assessment (cancer potency and non-cancer issues)
 - Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs)
 - Regulations impacting chemical production and use
 - Co-exposure / threshold impact on Risk Assessment
- Strategy for CAA Residual Risk
- NCI partnerships - benzene health research
- Proactive issue management
 - Exposure assessment
 - Biomonitoring
 - Occupational and community exposures
 - Understanding implications of new science