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Subject: Benzene Health Research

For your awareness, Patsy Clegg, Benzene Product Steward in HSE-CF, has provided the following update on benzene health research.

Shanghai Health Study - Sponsored by the Benzene Health Research Consortium

The National Cancer Institute released a study in 1998 of workers in China, which implicated benzene exposure to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, (NHL). Previously, benzene exposure had been linked only to AML, acute myelogenous leukemia. Shell Chemical LP is participating in a consortium of companies (including ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, Conoco) to fund a 5-year study in Shanghai. The project includes 3 studies: a prospective epidemiology study, a benzene poisoning disease progression study, and a molecular biomarkers study. Shanghai is was selected as the study site for several reasons: (1) it is the site of the NCI study; (2) there are workers being exposed to benzene at high levels; the Chinese government keeps good exposure records; and there is cooperation of the

Chinese government, Fudon University, and Shanghai hospitals. Bioethicists, an independent scientific panel, and the IRBs (Independent Review Board) of U. of Colorado, Fudon U., and Applied Health Sciences have reviewed the protocols. The study will be a cooperative effort between the consortium, Dr. Richard Irons and Dr. Otto Wong, the principal investigators, in the U.S. and Fudon School of Medicine, the Center for Disease Control and hospitals in Shanghai. Shell has committed \$3MM to the \$22.8MM project. A state-of-the-art clinical laboratory has been built on the Fudon University Medical School campus. Chinese technicians have been trained. The study is ready to begin accepting cases. The report is expected to be published in 2007/8. Nancy Sullivan, VP of Aromatics/Phenol, is the corporate sponsor. Patsy Clegg and Stuart Cagen represent Shell on the Oversight and Technical committees.
