C. Grimes

Tenneco Inc.
(COMPANY)

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: TOC P&M Employee Relations

DATE: October 3, 1985

FOR: Paul Cravey

FROM: E. J. Bernacki, M.D.

RE: VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER (VCM)

Both the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) have determined that there is a preponderance of evidence which suggest that vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) is a human carcinogen (IARC, 1982, NTP, 1982). While the literature is replete with evidence of carcinogenicity, the teratogenic potential of VCM lacks scientific support. Infante, et al (1976) studied pregnancy outcomes (fetal loss) among wives of VCM exposed workers. Infante found a significant excess of fetal losses in wives of exposed workers when compared to a control group.

Paddle (1976) and Downs, et al (1977) found errors in the study design of the Infante work and suggested that the resulting analysis lead to possible biased results. Their conclusion, after weighting the evidence, was that there was no demonstrated effect of VCM as alleged by Infante, et al.

The potential reproductive effects of VCM have also been studied in animals by Schwetz, et al (1975), Anderson, et al (1977), and John, et al (1977). No teratogenic or reproductive effects were found to be associated with VCM exposure.

In conclusion, the available literature does not support the presumption that VCM causes teratogenic or other reproductive effects in animal or man.

This lack of scientific evidence lends support to the assumption that workers of either sex are not at increased risk of reproduction effects when exposed to VCM at or below the current OSHA limit of 1.0 ppm.

The VCM monitoring program both stationary and personnel which are in place at the Tenneco P&M polymers operations, appear to characterize adequately the exposure condition present at these facilities. Given the low level of reported exposure to VCM and the lack of evidence suggesting that VCM is associated with adverse reproductive effects, there appears to be no rational for excluding workers who may be at a high risk of pregnancy.

EJB/ra
0855C

cc: J. Heussner
L. Kettler
P. Hughes
J. Oliver
Charlie Brown

E. J. Bernacki

TOC - Pasadena, TX
OCT 4 1985
Employee Relations

OCC 6107

LTEN 200A

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