MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE N.W. WASHINGTON D.C. 20009 NO. 483 8126

April 17, 1974

To: TECHNICAL TASK GROUP ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

Subject: Report on Conference with Industrial BIO-TEST Laboratories, April 15, 1974

Gentlemen:

As a result of the telephoned information received by MCA from Industrial BIO-TEST personnel last week, a conference at the Northbrook, Illinois offices of IBT was set up at which an oral status report on the chronic inhalation studies with vinyl chloride was presented to MCA, industry and federal agency representatives.

Those in attendance, and their affiliations, are shown below:

S. G. Bell, Jr.	PPG Industries, Inc.
A. S. Cummin	Borden, Inc.
E. J. Fairchild	MIOSH
J. W. Goode	Industrial BIO-TEST Laboratories
D. E. Gordon	Industrial BIO-TEST Laboratories
W. D. Harris	UNIROYAL, Inc.
M. M. Johnson, M.D.	The B. F. Goodrich Company
Flynt Kennedy	Continental Oil Company
H. L. Keplinger	Industrial BIO-TEST Laboratories
R. J. Kociba	The Dow Chemical Company
H. L. Kuenets	Shell Oil Company
D. V. Lassiter	OSHA
W. E. Rinehart	Ethyl Corporation
W. M. Smith	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
J. F. Stara	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
T. R. Torkelson	The Dow Chemical Company
R. N. Wheeler	Union Carbide Corporation
E. M. G. Swicker	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company
R. P. Blewitt	MCA
A. C. Clark	MCA
K. D. Johnson	MCA

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FOR RELEASE

CONTACT

For Immediate Release

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WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Va., June 6 -- The Manufacturing Chemists Association (MCA) today announced that it will administer four new research projects to further probe the relationship of carcinogenicity in animals due to vinyl chloride as it may relate to humans. The studies will be funded by U. S. producers involved in the synthesis and polymerization of the chemical. This is in addition to substantial research being carried out by individual companies here and abroad.

The new projects were approved unanimously by the Association's Board of Directors in session during MCA's Annual Meeting here.

The program includes:

1. A study of animal metabolism;
2. A study of teratogenesis (animal fetus);
3. Animal chronic inhalation studies at concentrations below 50 ppm, in an effort to identify a "no-effects" level, and
4. An acute inhalation experiment in which animals will be subjected to a massive exposure simulating conditions which might be experienced by a community exposed to a tank car rupture in a transportation accident. The animals would be observed over their lifespan.

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The funding companies, which are supporting current research, and MCA consider it essential that the program be expanded to determine the conditions necessary to assure the safety of workers involved in the manufacture and use of the products and of the plant neighborhoods in which they are made.

The scientific information developed from this program will be disclosed publicly without restriction. Further, as appropriate to the advancement of the program, technical reports will be developed and made publicly available on work practices, industrial hygiene monitoring and analysis and the medical surveillance of exposed workers.

The first two projects will be conducted by The Dow Chemical Company. The other projects will be carried out by Industrial BIO-TEST Laboratories, Inc. Industrial BIO-TEST has been conducting vinyl chloride animal exposure studies, under contract to MCA for administration, since Feb. 1, 1973. Progressive results have been announced in this continuing study.

Results of another study, documenting the health experience of present and former employees who have worked with the chemical, were released May 7 of this year. Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc., conducted this epidemiological study.

All findings also have been reported immediately to government bodies concerned with the problem. This practice will be followed in respect to the new studies.

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It is estimated that the four projects will cost a minimum of $400,000 to $500,000. Because of the fluid status of scientific knowledge and regulatory climate in respect to vinyl chloride, an upward revision of the cost estimate might be necessary to accomodate change of test protocols.

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