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FROM: RAMLOW, JONATHAN M.
SUBJECT: VCM Research Coordinators Conference Call

The VCM Research Coordinators group held a conference call on Tuesday, August 2. We covered the following items:

1. VCM Cohort Mortality Study Update: all participating companies have now committed to funding this study, and the Request For Proposal has been sent to four potential contractors, three of which have already verbally indicated their intention to submit a proposal.

Dr. Shah from CMA has calculated each company's share of the cost of the study, based on 1993 nameplate production capacity. Dow's share will be \$55,630 (of \$300,000), of which we expect to recover about \$30,000 after invoicing CMA for my time as study coordinator. This raises a question: CMA can invoice Dow either once or twice for our share of the study cost, and I need to tell them which we prefer. I need your input on this question.

2. EPA test rule issues for VCM: EPA intends to add developmental and reproductive inhalation testing for VCM to the Master Testing List this year. CMA would like to confer with EPA to determine whether these are current, pressing data needs or whether enough data already exist to answer their questions. We will assemble a short review of the current data to present to EPA at a meeting which Dr. Shah would like to arrange for the first part of October, if possible.

In this regard, it has also been suggested by Joe Ledvina of Vista that the VCM panel also address ethylene dichloride hazardous air pollutant testing issues with EPA. The sense of the panel was that this would be a good idea, although Jim Barter suggested that HSIA would be an alternative platform for addressing EDC. I need your input on this question, too, so that I can let CMA know what Dow would like to do about this.

3. The panel finalized a letter to the American Cancer Society commenting on the ACS including VCM as a possible risk factor for malignant lymphoma in its annual Cancer Facts and Figures publication. This was the source used by a writer for Time magazine in an article about cancer which listed the VCM/lymphoma link in a table of "Big Killers". The panel's letter basically pointed out that the most recent data show only very weak, if any, evidence for an association between VCM exposure and lymphoma, and requested that ACS either modify the statement in their publication or remove it altogether. Please let me know if you would like to see copies of these documents.

Again, I need your advice on how to respond to CMA about how we would like to pay our share of the cost of the epidemiology study, and also about whether or not we think that the CMA VC panel should address EDC testing issues with EPA. Thanks in advance for your responses.

Jonathan Ramlow
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