

SPI

THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, INC.

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mailed 5/8/74

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE

VCM MONOMER AND PVC RESINS AD HOC COMMITTEE

Sheraton Brook Park Motel
Cleveland, Ohio

May 3, 1974
10:00 a.m.

Present:

Tony Vittone, Chairman, B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., 6100 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Cleveland, Ohio 44131

Ross Adams, Air Products & Chemicals, 5 Executive Mall Building, Wayne,
Pa. 19087

Harry Connors, Diamond Shamrock Chemical Co., 1100 Superior Avenue, Cleveland,
Ohio

Daniel Dixler, Keller & Heckman, 1150 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Joe Fath, Tenneco Chemicals Inc., P. O. Box 2, Piscataway, N. J. 08833

Ralph L. Harding, Jr., President, SPI, 250 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017

Jerry Heckman, Esq., Keller & Heckman, 1150 17th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

Dick McBurney, Diamond Shamrock Chemical Co., 1100 Superior Avenue, Cleveland,
Ohio

Nick Nuechterlein, Dow Chemical Co., Abbott Road Building, Midland, MI 48640

Phil Weaver, B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., 6100 Oak Tree Blvd., Cleveland,
Ohio 44131

Thomas J. McGrath, Director of Packaging Services, SPI, 250 Park Avenue, New
York, New York 10017

Tony Vittone welcomed the attendees and he asked Ralph Harding to outline the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Harding said that it became apparent that there was a need for the Steering Committee to meet and discuss strategy.

Before discussing strategy, the members reviewed companies who should be members of the Ad Hoc Committee. Shell Chemical Company has been contacted and it appears that they will join the committee companies who should be contacted are: Certain-Teed Products, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Atlantic Tubing & Rubber Company, Keysor-Century Corporation, and Montedison.

Mr. Heckman reported about his latest contacts with OSHA. The proposed final standard has been prepared. It establishes a zero tolerance level for VCM with no cumulative level. The standard could be issued at any time.

Mr. McGrath confirmed Mr. Heckman's information advising that the National Bureau of Standards reported the same information.

SPI- 09581

Mr. Heckman recommended that members of the Ad Hoc Committee have their attorneys review the opinion rendered by the Washington, D. C. U. S. Court of Appeals in the case of Industrial Union Department AFL-CIO, et. al. vs. Hodgson, Secretary of Labor, citation 72-1713. This is the appeal involving the OSHA asbestos standard.

It was reported that the following data will be compiled by May 8, if possible, as a result of Harry Connor's OSHA Committee:

- 1) Dr. Derhnel of Union Carbide working with Dow Chemical will compile medical information about human exposure to VCM for long periods of time.
- 2) Information about the feasibility of reaching a realistic standard will be compiled by Joe Fath and Lee Kuhn.
- 3) A risk/benefit study outlining the economic impact of a zero tolerance has been started by A. D. Little. The study will be completed in 45 days.
- 4) Jack Jaglom is obtaining information about the levels, if any, of VCM in fabricator plants.

It was reported that the results of the Tabershaw-Cooper study about the human experience related to VCM will be announced at Dr. Selikoff's meeting on May 10.

Reviewing the OSHA request for information for an environmental impact statement, Mr. Heckman distributed a copy of a draft of SPI statement. The statement was reviewed, revised and approved. Mr. Heckman will send it to the members on his mailing list.

Warren Ferguson of Allied Chemical at Harry Connor's OSHA meeting requested that an EPA Committee be established. A copy of Mr. Ferguson's April 11th letter sent to several companies outlining the need for work in this area was reviewed. The Steering Committee approved the formation of an EPA Committee named Warren Ferguson Chairman, and instructed Mr. McGrath to advise Mr. Ferguson. The EPA Committee will report to the Steering Committee.

Mr. Vittone read a draft of the speech he will give at Dr. Selikoff's May 10th meeting. The members complimented him on an excellent talk which will set a pattern for the PVC industry. The members made suggestions for inclusion into Mr. Vittone's speech.

The other actions taken by the Steering Committee were:

- 1) A consensus that the industry will have to, over a period of time, target for lower residual levels of VCM in the resin.
- 2) Supports the Organization Resources Counselors project to obtain medical information about the effects, if any, of VCM on workers in fabricator plants. The Steering Committee recommends that PVC resin producers who are not

members of O.R.C. should consider joining and supporting the O.R.C. study. The O.R.C. study will not require SPI financial support.

- 3) M.C.A. will conduct inhalation studies at levels lower than 50 ppm, and the company members involved in that study will keep the Ad Hoc Committee informed about its work.
- 4) Nick Nuechterlein will volunteer a person to chair a committee to develop a practical method for measuring VCM. Tony Vittone and Harry Connors will name representatives. Mr. Nuechterlein will advise Tom McGrath the name of his representative. Mr. McGrath will advise the other committee members about the formation of this new committee requesting they name representatives.
- 5) Mr. McGrath will contact A. D. Little and N.B.S. to put them in touch with each other to discuss the N.B.S. economic impact study. He will advise N.B.S. that SPI will assist them by supplying mailing labels of SPI members to N.B.S. so that they can use them to mail their study.
- 6) Jerry Heckman's OSHA statement will be used as a basis for a press release.
- 7) If SPI is called upon by the media to comment on the OSHA standard or other activities related to the VCM problem, Mr. Harding will clear the SPI statement with the Steering Committee if there is time. If there is not sufficient time to contact all the members, Mr. Vittone will clear the statement.
- 8) Members will be financially assessed for approved project by using their reported 1974 capacities. If a company is not on stream as of January 1, 1974, they will be assessed 2% of the total reported capacity.

The Steering Committee will hold its next meeting on June 5, 1974 at the Sheraton Hopkins Motel at Cleveland Airport at 8:00 a.m. At that meeting a date for the next full committee meeting will be set unless events required that the full committee meet sooner.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. McGrath
Director of Packaging Services

TJMcG/pb