



Interoffice Communication

To (see below)
From F. Kennedy
Date August 31, 1973
Subject VCM Epidemiological Study

Core. as per attached
7/26
206
I would like to look at one of the for our use. For some time we have been looking at the employment of

Please find attached Progress Report No. 1 from Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.

F. Kennedy
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enc

Distribution:

JJL-(JDBr-LJS)-KLS-(JDBu-JMcC)-(LNV-GDJ)-(RDG-JDM)-GFT-EMS

VVC 000001174

MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009 (202) 483-6126

August 24, 1973

CHEMICALS
RESEARCH

AUG 27 1973

To: TECHNICAL TASK GROUP ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

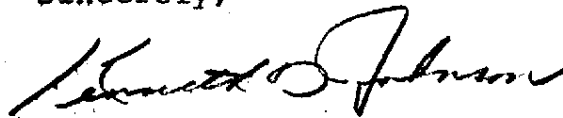
Subject: Progress Report No. 1 from
Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.,

FK
WRB
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LM

Gentlemen:

Distributed herewith is the subject report. Please note responses have not been received from five of the 51 plants initially solicited for participation. We would hope that the questions of their eventual participation in the study could be resolved promptly.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Staff Representative
Technical Task Group on
Vinyl Chloride Research

KDJ:mb

Enclosure

cc : Dr. D. P. Duffield
Mr. D. M. Elliott
Dr. Tiziano Garlanda

VVC 000001175

Manufacturing Chemists Association
VCM Epidemiological Study

Progress Report
August 20, 1973

Prepared by

Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, California 94704

VVC 000001176

Manufacturing Chemists Association

VCM Epidemiological Study

Progress Report

August 20, 1973

Introduction

The VCM Epidemiological Study is an investigation of mortality among workers exposed to vinyl chloride, for the purpose of (a) comparing their mortality with that of the general male population, (b) comparing their mortality with mortality in other occupational group, and (c) comparing mortality within the population of vinyl chloride workers based on estimated occupational exposure.

The Manufacturing Chemists Association has identified 51 plants, belonging to 19 companies, as potential participants in the study, and has provided TCA Inc. with a data sheet (Exhibit A) for each plant giving the name, location and the name of a plant contact.

Progress to Date

A brief questionnaire (Exhibit B) was sent to each plant in order to get an estimate of the exposed population- to find out how far back in time records could be obtained for each plant, and to find out whether job histories were available for retired and terminated workers. Forty six plants have responded to date. Four of these were dropped from the study because they had been in operation less than 5 years as of the end of 1972, and therefore would contribute little or nothing to a study of chronic effects. Table 1 shows the distribution of all the responding plants by the length of time over which usable personnel records are available.

Table 2 shows the distribution of the 42 plants actually included in the study by size of current exposed work force. The total active work force in these plants is approximately 5200. It is estimated that there will be about 1000 retirees and terminations, bringing the actual study group to about 6200.

Tables 1 and 2 show that the typical plant has less than 100 exposed employees and has usable records going back 10 to 15 years. The estimated number of person-years represented by the study group is about 60,000, out of which one would expect, depending on the age distribution of the population, about 500 to 800 deaths.

Preliminary results from the first few plants indicate that it

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is possible to determine the present status of about 90 percent of the study group without going beyond the plant records and the personal knowledge of the plant personnel or employee relations manager. However, in seven plants, representing about 10 percent of the study group, job histories are not available for retirees and terminated employees. These plants will be included in the overall mortality analysis, but not in the analysis by estimated exposure.

Future Plans

Visits to plants are now being made. Some concern has been expressed by plant employee relations personnel about the advisability of photocopying employee data with the individual's name included. Therefore, a work history form has been prepared so that the data can be transcribed from personnel records without the identifying information. Individual plants will be offered the option of (a) having their records copied as originally planned, (b) having TCA Inc. personnel transcribe their records onto the new form, or (c) having their own personnel transcribe the data onto the TCA Inc. forms.

Periodic data on the status of the follow-up process will be provided beginning with the next progress report.

VVC 000001178

Table 1

Distribution of 46 Plants by Number of Years for Which
Personnel Records Are Available

Number of plants	Total	Number of Years					
		<5*	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+
	46	4	12	19	4	4	3

*Dropped from study.

Table 2

Distribution of 42 Study Plants by Size of Current
Exposed Work Force

Number of plants	Total	Number of Workers				
		<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500+
	42	13	14	9	3	3

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