



DOW CHEMICAL U.S.A.

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MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

Carol Stack, Ph.D.
Biomedical and Environmental Special Programs
Chemical Manufacturers Association
2501 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Dr. Stack:

This letter belatedly confirms agreement by Dow Chemical U.S.A. to proceed with the CMA-coordinated epidemiological study on vinyl chloride workers. This study is to be conducted by Environmental Health Associates, Inc. according to the proposal provided 8 February 1984.

We recognize there are deficiencies in the study design that necessarily limit the value of this study. Paramount among the deficiencies is the lack of environmental exposure data for vinyl chloride and other materials and stresses that may be present in the environment. Apparently data on vinyl chloride exposure exist only for a small portion of the cohort. In addition, there is no plan to describe the individual work environments.

With the only classification of exposure being "exposed" and "not exposed," this study and any case-control studies can add only limited information to our understanding of vinyl chloride toxicity per se. The study will serve to update the descriptive information available for employment in the VCM/PVC industry.

I should remind you that Dr. Brian Bennett of ICI would still like to visit with the CMA Vinyl Chloride Program Panel when we next meet.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore R. Torkelson, Sc.D.
Health and Environmental Sciences

cc: R. R. Cook, M.D.
M. G. Ott, Ph.D.