

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Panel completed a Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) Dossier of available data on TCIP and submitted a SIAR to EPA. The SIAR was reviewed at the May 1996 OECD SIDS Initial Assessment Meeting (SIAM 4). OECD was in agreement with EPA that TCIP was of low priority for further work. The chemical, along with eight other Tris(chloroalkyl)phosphates previously listed with Intent-to-Designate by the Interagency Testing Committee (ITC), was removed from the list in the 36th ITC Report.

PLANS: The Panel will address the few OECD comments on the TCIP SIAR and submit the final report to EPA for distribution through OECD.

Vinyl Chloride Panel: Health

The Panel was formed in 1971 by vinyl chloride manufacturers to develop and assess health and safety data on vinyl chloride monomer.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Vinyl Chloride Panel Health Committee submitted comments to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on the draft *Toxicological Profile for Vinyl Chloride*. The Committee recommended full consideration of a physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model to assess risk.

The Committee successfully negotiated a testing program with ATSDR that includes conducting a combined inhalation two-generation reproductive and developmental toxicity study in rats. Under the Toxic

Substances Control Act (TSCA), Section 4, EPA proposed neurotoxicity studies as well as developmental and reproductive toxicity testing to fill the data gaps identified by ATSDR. The Committee considered the proposed studies excessive in meeting ATSDR's mandate and negotiated an alternative cost-effective research program that would meet the Agency's objectives. As a result of the successful negotiation, EPA will not issue a TSCA Section 4 rule for the proposed studies. The Committee also agreed to fund a molecular research program to study vinyl chloride genotoxicity as a complement to the combined reproductive and developmental toxicity studies. The molecular study will provide information relevant to cancer risk assessment of vinyl chloride and vastly improve understanding of the mechanisms of vinyl chloride carcinogenesis.

The Committee also submitted comments to ATSDR on the proposed *Medical Management Guidelines for Vinyl Chloride*. The Committee suggested specific changes in document language to read more clearly and accurately from scientific and medical standpoints. Changes were suggested for sections on acute and chronic exposure; developmental, reproductive and other health effects, and; route of exposure. In addition, the Committee suggested adding a section on occupational exposure.

In response to an EPA pilot project to update the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) entry for vinyl chloride, the Committee submitted an inventory of pertinent scientific literature to EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). The Committee also informed NCEA officials of relevant ongoing research efforts which it sponsors. IRIS is the primary vehicle for communication of health hazard assessments by EPA scientists. It is used by other federal agencies and some states as a guide in implementing regulations such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Wa-

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ter Act, Superfund, and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

The Committee submitted comments to the California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA's) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on the draft version of *Addendum Health Risk Assessment of Ambient Fugitive Vinyl Chloride Emissions From the Class I Unit of the B.K. Landfill, West Covina, California*. CalEPA recalculated the carcinogenic potency of vinyl chloride based on PBPK modeling data submitted by the Committee and found the risk to be 137 times less than the original value used in the *Addendum*.

The Committee is working with the University of Louisville to conduct a case-control study of brain cancer and vinyl chloride exposure in 3,300 workers from chemical plants in the Louisville, Kentucky area. Repeated epidemiological studies have confirmed the association between development of angiosarcoma of the liver and vinyl chloride exposure, but have not confirmed an association with brain cancer. A peer review process was used to ensure the quality of the study design.

The Committee's outside consultant delivered an interim report on the vinyl chloride cohort study update. The consultant has completed the framework for a relational database of 10,173 workers exposed to vinyl chloride since 1942. The database will link all files on the cohort and allow instant updating of the vital status of cohort subjects. The database also will be used as a central electronic archive for the study.

PLANS: The Committee will comment on ATSDR's proposed methodology for developing a Minimal Risk Level (MRL) for vinyl chloride. ATSDR defines an

MRL as an estimate of the daily human exposure to a hazardous substance that is likely to be without appreciable risk of adverse noncancer health effects over a specified exposure duration. MRLs are developed under guidance specified in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Section 104, and may be used to identify contaminants and potential health effects at hazardous waste sites and releases.

The two-generation reproductive and developmental effects testing will begin in August. The genotoxicity study will be conducted at the same facilities as the developmental and reproductive studies, but it is expected to begin later in the year. This study requires the custom synthesis of $^{13}\text{C}_2$ vinyl chloride.

The Committee will continue an open dialogue with EPA/NCEA to update the entry for vinyl chloride in IRIS.

The University of Louisville brain cancer study is expected to begin in late summer.

The Committee will continue to monitor progress on the vinyl chloride cohort study update.

Vinyl Chloride Panel: Transportation

The Panel formed in 1991 to address safety issues in the transportation of vinyl chloride monomer. In 1992, the Panel formed the Vinyl Chloride Transportation Network to provide technical expertise and assistance by the industry and contractors to emergency responders at vinyl chloride