



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH
9600 FISHERS LANE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

To: Attendees at Meeting on Pottstown Study, Akron, Ohio
January 5, 1976

From: Acting Director, Office of Extramural Coordination
and Special Projects

Subject: Draft Minutes of above meeting

Enclosed are draft minutes of the above meeting which you attended. You will note I attempted to capture the main points of the discussion in a condensed manner. Because of this, I may have omitted some items you feel should be included. Please send me any comments and additions as you feel appropriate and they will be included in the record of the meeting.

Jack Butler
Jack Butler, M.D.

Attachment

F. G. WALKER

AP00007428

Minutes of Meeting on Pottstown Study
Akron, Ohio
January 5, 1976

Attendees: See attached list.

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss status of the NIOSH-CDC-University of North Carolina Study on Vinyl Chloride conducted at the Firestone Pottstown plant.

Introduction:

The meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. by Dr. Jack Butler, NIOSH. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the study and to serve as a forum for exchange of concerns and comments among the parties involved in the study. In keeping with NIOSH policy, he stated that minutes would be kept and made available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

Summary of Discussions:

No formal agenda was prepared for the meeting. However, the discussions can be summarized under the following topics:

I. Collaborative Aspects of Study

Dr. Ballou was concerned that NIOSH investigators had not abided by the collaborative agreement made at the start of the study. i.e., to release information on the study only after the review and concurrence of the three participating investigators--by reporting unilaterally on the fetal wastage aspect of the study in Czechoslovakia and through a letter to Dr. Diaz. He emphasized that he would accept any findings of the study as long as these had undergone peer review by the scientists participating in the study.

Mr. Beliczky reviewed the agreement arrived at by the Union, Firestone, and the investigators at the start of the study. Dr. McMichael of the University of North Carolina was to represent Firestone and the Union as one of the investigators in the tripartite agreement with NIOSH and CDC.

Dr. McMichael stated that a breakdown in the collaborative agreement had occurred when NIOSH publicized the fetal wastage data but felt that this would probably not occur again and all parties were now in close communication on the analysis of the study data.

Dr. Infante acknowledged the breakdown in the collaborative agreement. He had only recently been employed by NIOSH and was not aware of the

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agreement since it was not in writing. He emphasized that further review would be reviewed by other parties concerned before public release.

II. Significance of the Study Findings on Fetal Wastage

Dr. McMichael stated that collaboration did not necessarily imply that all parties would concur on the significance of the findings. Both Dr. McMichael and Dr. Heath discussed some of the weaknesses in the fetal wastage aspect of the study. These have been communicated to Dr. Infante and he has provided further information to them in answer to their questions. This information is now under review by the other investigators. At present, a letter to the editor of Lancet is being prepared and will be submitted within 2 weeks. Dr. Ballou felt this should not be done until the entire Pottstown study was completed. Dr. Wagoner stated that this would take months and he felt the investigators had an obligation to inform the scientific community of the results of the fetal wastage study in a timely manner. Dr. McMichael agreed that this was a proper course and that the contents of the letter would be reviewed by all parties concerned before submission. In answer to questions by Mr. Bonamarito on what employees should be told, the investigators agreed that the study in and of itself is not conclusive in implicating V.C. as a human mutagen. However, it is a carcinogen and, in biologic and human tests, it has been shown to cause chromosomal breaks. This lends support to the concern that it may be a mutagen and for this reason human studies, even with recognized limitations, should be reported. Dr. Wagoner and others felt that since V.C. is being controlled in the U. S. as a carcinogen, this should be protective against possible mutagenic effects. This is not the case in some countries where workers are still exposed to high levels of V.C.

III. Status of Study

The final report on the full study at Pottstown has been delayed because of personnel changes within NIOSH. It was agreed by the group that Mr. Waxweiler, a NIOSH staff member involved in the study and now in training at the University of North Carolina, would complete the first draft of the report in 4 weeks for review by CDC and NIOSH. The fetal wastage data would be submitted to Lancet within two weeks as a letter to the editor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Jack Butler, M.D.
Acting Director, OECSP

Attachment

Meeting on Pottstown Study
Akron, Ohio
January 5, 1976

Attendees

Dr. Laurence H. Ballou	Firestone
Louis S. Beliczky	URW
Carolyn Bell	URW
Dr. Hector Blejer	NIOSH
Peter Bonmarito	URW
Dr. Jack Butler	NIOSH
Dr. Bobby F. Craft	NIOSH
Robert Hassmiller	Firestone
Dr. Clark W. Heath, Jr.	CDC
Dr. Peter Infante	NIOSH
Dr. Anthony McMichael	Univ. North Carolina
Dr. Joseph Wagoner	NIOSH
George Wilson	Firestone