AIHC

AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HEALTH COUNCIL

1075 CENTRAL PARK AVENUE • SCARSDALE, NEW YORK 10583 • (914) 725-1492

August 22, 1979

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

OSHA OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE CONFERENCE

Gentlemen:

Earlier this month, we received word that OSHA had distributed 8,000 letters of invitation to journalists in key media across the country to attend a conference in Chicago on the subject of occupational disease. The conference will be held on September 13th and 14th at the Radisson Hotel in Chicago and is expected to attract 150 or more media representatives.

Although the program is billed as one providing background from business and labor as well as the government, only two industry representatives were on the initial program, along with such outspoken industry opponents as Anthony Mazzocchi of OCAW, Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai and Dr. Samuel Epstein of the University of Illinois.

Upon learning of the program, AIHC contacted OSHA in an effort to convince the Agency to insure that the conference provide a more balanced perspective of the issues and a number of changes have been made in the program, including the addition of Dr. Robert Scala of Exxon on reproductive health, Dr. Howard Kusnetz of Shell on economic issues and Dr. William McCarville of Monsanto on cancer in the workplace. In addition, efforts are being made to add one or more independent scientists, such as Dr. Robert Olson or Dr. Harry Demopoulos, to appropriate panels.

OSHA has also agreed to add to the program a 9:00 a.m. keynote speech on Friday morning which will provide a perspective of occupational health from industry's viewpoint and we are working with OSHA to locate an appropriate individual to give this speech. Other changes are also likely to be made within the next week.

This subject will be discussed at some length at the August 29th Board meeting, along with recommendations from the Public Relations Committee with respect to AIHC's direct involvement with the press in Chicago on September 13th and 14th.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Lang

Ronald A. Lang
Executive Director

Encl.

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1612 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 (202) 659-0060

TRIP REPORT

DOI HEARING

~~NGA MEETING~~

15 FEBRUARY 1974
WASHINGTON, D. C.

J T Barr

Air Products and Chemicals INC.

Air Products and Chemicals INC.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date February 20, 1974

Subject Department of Labor Hearing,
Washington, D. C., 15 February 1974

To T. L. Carey — Valley Forge (Location, Organization, or Department)

From J. T. Barr — Valley Forge (Location, Organization, or Department)

cc: A. R. Adams
J. L. Cost w/o attachments
R. Fleming (2)
J. Healy
P. Kotin
J. D. Kramer
A. K. McMillan
E. A. Ray w/o attachments
W. M. Smith w/o attachments
G. B. H. Speed w/o attachments
M. Spurlock
H. L. Watson w/o attachments

A fact finding hearing was announced in 39 FR 3874 over the name of John H. Stender, Assistant Secretary of Labor, to investigate the possible hazards of vinyl chloride manufacture and use. A copy of the notice is appended as Attachment I. Dr. W. M. Smith and I attended.

A pre-hearing conference was convened at 9:30 at which the administrative law judge, Gordon J. Myatt, announced the reason for the meeting, noted the presence of representatives from the solicitor's office of NIOSH and OSHA and of Mr. J. O'Niell, Chief, Division of Health Standards of OSHA and stated that an official transcript of this hearing would be available from the reporter and that this transcript will be the only official record of the hearing. I gave my card to the reporter who will call me when the transcript becomes available and tell us of the cost, which will be 20¢/page. At that time we can order however many copies we wish. Please advise me of the number desired.

He then announced the order of presentation of evidence and adjourned the pre-hearing.

The hearing opened at 10 a.m. and Judge Myatt announced that only those persons registered for presentations would be permitted to ask questions from the floor. He later made two exceptions to this ruling. The first was for Dr. Rudolph Jaeger, a bio-chemical toxicologist from the Harvard School of Public Health who did give a short oral presentation and the second was for a group which called itself the Health Research Group, and are connected with Ralph Nader's activities. They made no presentation but were active in the questioning after the judge had amended his ruling.

The first order of business was the placing in evidence of two exhibitions by Miss Evelyn Gholston from the office of the solicitor. These exhibits were the Federal Register notice of the hearing and the notice of the intention to appear of several groups. Mr. O'Niell of OSHA then summarized the Federal Register Notice restating the reasons for the hearing.

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I. Mr. V. E. Rose, Acting Assistant Institute Director for Research and Standards Development at NIOSH reviewed the known information on the liver cancer situation. He began with the 17 July 1973 meeting of MCA with NIOSH at which MCA notified NIOSH of the proposed study at industrial Bio-Tec and gave NIOSH the background information on the situation, including the result of the experiments by Dr. Viola and his publication in 1970 and 1971.

He noted that NIOSH had requested in the January 1973 Federal Register information on the potential hazards of 23 industrial chemicals, including vinyl chloride, and that a bibliography had been assembled on this subject and will be transmitted for the record.

He stated that BFG had informed NIOSH on 22 January 1974 of a possible hazard related to vinyl chloride and commended BFG for this action. He reported on the walk-through inspection of the Louisville, Kentucky BFG plant on 24 January along with representatives from the DOL, CDC, and Kentucky DOL. This inspection resulted in recommendations being made on 30 January 1974 to BFG for monitoring and improving the work situation at their plant. The same recommendation was transmitted to MCA on 31 January for distribution to the industry. On 1 February 1974 NIOSH and CDC had a briefing for other groups on this subject. Included was NCI, FDA, NIEHS, EPA, Kentucky DOL, BFG, and United Rubber Workers.

NIOSH has drawn the conclusion from the evidence on hand that there is a new occupational cancer associated with the making of PVC and that vinyl chloride is the prime suspect. NIOSH will institute a joint study with NCI on the problem and accelerate the epidemological studies.

Worker exposure is based on the fact that there are 10 companies with 1,500 workers employed in 14 plants manufacturing monomer and 23 companies with 5,000 workers in 37 plants manufacturing PVC. There are thousands of plants employing tens of thousands of workers engaged in converting PVC to finished product.

Biopsies of the four cases of angiosarcoma at BFG have been confirmed at the National Institute of Health who also stated that all four cases had in common a non-alcoholic cirrhosis.

It was stated that there are an estimated 20 to 30 cases per year in the entire U.S. of angiosarcoma and that this clustering of cases at BFG is significant. BFG has told NIOSH of the European studies and this preliminary data led them to the conviction that vinyl chloride is the causative agent.

NIOSH briefed labor and management at Cleveland on 12 February 1974 at a meeting attended by more than 100 persons where NIOSH and CDC reviewed the data and proposed a plan consisting of four points.

1. Development of further studies on the problem.
2. Development of a medical program for surveillance and recognition of the cancer.
3. Epidemiological studies.
4. Toxicity studies.

After this open hearing NIOSH met with a small group to review the procedures to be followed. (Dr. W. M. Smith will report in more detail on this meeting.) A recommendation will be transmitted in a few weeks to DOL which will stress a sense of urgency to start a rule-making procedure. NIOSH is convinced that the situation is serious and actually is of crisis proportions. A preliminary plan was submitted as a part of the record but not given orally.

In response to a question from the solicitor's office as to what type monitoring was recommended, he stated that it should be environmental and personal monitoring for both monomer and polymer, but no specific procedures were given. The Cincinnati staff of NIOSH is available for consultation.

II. The next speaker was Dr. I. J. Selikoff, Director of Environmental Science Laboratories, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He began by stating that this meeting was a paradox in that it was called on an emergency basis but that evidence has been available for 25 years on serious health problems with vinyl chloride. He referred to but did not cite a reference to acute toxicity, a 1961 reference to chronic toxicity, a 1949 reference to liver damage in 15 of 48 workers in Russia, and "many" references over the next 17 years on other cases. The clinical evidence includes cases of hypertension, damage to liver, skin, and bone and other symptoms.

He stated that we have a new problem with an invariably fatal type of cancer. He estimated the number of known cases at 100, putting this into a very rare category, and cited the absence of any cases of several hundred thousand biopsies at Mt. Sinai. It is not known if vinyl chloride effects only the liver or causes other neoplasms. It is his belief that based on other cases of carcinogens, that there will be damage to other organs.

He indicated that he knew of the ICI case and stressed the long latency period of 14 to 27 years after first exposure. He referred to the latency period of Thorotrast induced cases as being 21 years and predicted that there will be many more cases in the future if we do not learn to reverse the course of the disease. He referred to German studies which showed far more prevalent liver damage, in particular a study by Marstello which showed 19 of 20 workers had some problem, including 14 cases of liver disease and 4 of AOL. He spoke of liver and lung changes found by them in BFG workers. This apparently is a study being done at Mt. Sinai with workers from the Pottstown plant. He proposed 10 specific action points.

1. Vinyl chloride and PVC be added to the carcinogens list. No safe threshold limit is known and careful work procedures are needed. Industry data should be used to confirm this point.

2. There should be no further exposure by any route.

3. Large scale epidemological and clinical studies should be initiated.

4. There should be research for an early warning diagnosis. Some evidence may be available from early effects on other organs.

5. The necessity for an accurate method of diagnosis should be recognized.

6. A therapy program for the disease reversal must be developed.

7. We must determine the basic mechanism for the cause of cancer.

8. Laboratories studies must be made to determine exactly what is the causative agent.

9. Clinical studies should be made on workers to determine the full extent of the problem.

10. He is not now recommending anything on restrictions of use of the end product.

He concluded by stating there had been a major failure of the protective program for the worker here and that no effort should be spared, nor would any control be too rigid, to protect the workers in the future.

III. The third speaker was Mr. A. Mazzocchi, Legislative Director of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International (OCAW). He began by stating that thousands of persons had been exposed to the carcinogen vinyl chloride and that emergency standards must be imposed immediately, quoting the Occupational and Safety Health Act which requires the Secretary to do so. In his opinion, industry has failed to protect the worker and there should be instituted immediately an emergency temporary standard on the same basis as the 14 materials presently defined as carcinogens. He made the following specific recommendations:

1. There be no measurable exposure by any route as determined by the best available analytical procedures.

2. No open vessel operation.

3. Adequate protective clothing should be furnished employees.

4. Safe work practices and employee training should be instituted.

5. Medical and exposure records should be made available to NIOSH.

6. Must maintain confidentiality of employee medical records.

7. A work permit program should be instituted.

He indorsed the Anderson standards of IUD (whatever these are) and stated that the above recommendations were necessary because the present interim NIOSH standards are not being adhered to.

He castigated APCI because we failed in the 14-page (sic) statement to our employees to inform them of the long latency period, and that because the plant is only 10 years old (sic) we should expect no cases for five more years.

He emphasized that death certificates are not reliable data on the occurrence of angiosarcoma because it is often not recognized as the cause of death at that time, and biopsy reports do not become available until several months later.

OCAW is conducting a survey through their union in an attempt to see how many cases of illness due to exposure to vinyl chloride may have occurred. They have used Mt. Sinai to study one plant and found many effects. (This is thought to be BFG at Pottstown.)

He refuted in advance any attempt by industry to state that there was no problem because there were no known cases, and repeated that there was no safe exposure level.

IV. Professor Cesare Maltoni of the Institute of Oncology, Bologna, Italy, was the next speaker. He was very difficult to understand and presented many slides and tables which were too dim or too congested to record. His report has been summarized here as best I can. The official transcript will have photographic reproductions of his slides. The most important statement he made was that he was convinced that there was a no-effect level at 50 ppm, and that this finding is being repeated on a larger group. In response to a question from the floor on the accuracy of extrapolation from experimental animals to humans, he stated that it was very difficult to do so accurately.

He first summarized his observation of the previous exposure studies of rats to vinyl chloride by Dr. Viola:

1. Vinyl chloride was shown to be a carcinogen by inhalation in rats at very high levels (30,000 ppm).

2. The primary effect was to cause tumors in the zymbal ear gland. The high mortality from this cause obscured many of other effects that may have been present.

3. The lung tumors reported were the results of metastases of other tumors in the experimental animals.

Professor Maltoni is now conducting 13 major experiments; only three of these are far enough along to be subject to analysis. The official record of the proceedings will contain the many tables, slides of animal biopsies, and other data which he presented. This work is what has been referred to in some places as the "European Studies".

In Professor Maltoni's first experiment, groups of rats were exposed to varying levels of vinyl chloride for 4 hrs/day, 5 days/week for a year, and held to death. He found no evidence of tumors at 50 ppm, and there are still 3 survivors of the original 60 animals after about 2 years. A few cases were found at 250 ppm, and still more as the level increased. These tumors were of various types, primarily of the zymbal gland, but with a few of the liver, kidney and other organs. There was also metastasis to the lungs, liver, and spleen. He also reported angiosarcomas of the neck, lungs, peritoneum, and uterus. Of interest is the fact that no tumors were found in animals exposed to 2,500 ppm vinyl acetate, a frequently-used comonomer with vinyl chloride.

In another experiment, the animals were exposed at the same rate, but only for 4 months, rather than a year. This group developed far fewer tumors, and only in the zymbal gland, and only at exposures of 10,000 and 6,000 ppm. This experiment has only been in progress 56 weeks, and is thus incomplete.

A third experiment exposed pregnant animals between the 12th and 18th days of pregnancy. Two offspring of those exposed to 10,000 ppm developed tumors; none of the parents did except for zymbal glands. This experiment is also incomplete, having been in progress 31 weeks.

Other experiments are in progress, including exposure of other species, and exposure by ingestion and injection, as well as inhalation. They are also examining the workers of one of the large PVC producers in Italy for any medical evidence of harm from exposure.

Professor Maltoni stated that he believed these data showed a no-effect level at 50 ppm. Dr. Selikoff thanked him from the floor for his contribution to the study.

Mr. Key of NIOSH asked him about reported positive spitum tests on the Montedison workers in Italy and he stated that he had found metoplasia but no evidence of serious change in the respiratory tract. The solicitor's office asked if there were any exposure regulations in Europe. He stated that they had been at 250 ppm but were now going as low as possible, certainly below 100 and probably to below 50. Dr. Jaeger of Harvard repeated concern expressed by others earlier that no

primates were to be included in the studies in progress and brought out the fact that not all of Maltoni's experiments were performed with the same batch of vinyl chloride but that all samples were very pure and analyses are on record at Montedison.

V. Mr. A. C. Clark of MCA was the next speaker and reviewed again the history beginning with the AOL experience in 1966 through the present activities of the MCA. A copy of his full paper is in attachment II.

In response to a question from the solicitor's office as to whether other additives to vinyl chloride are being tested, he responded that they were not. Asked why the safety data sheet had been withdrawn, he said it was to revise it in view of present information. Asked if there was a safe level of exposure, he said he could not comment. He will submit for the record reprints on the work practices that we instituted as a result of the AOL studies. When asked why no primates were being studied, it was stated that because of necessity of life-time studies, primates were not practical from either a time or cost basis and that the liver of rats is very similar in structure and function to that of mammals. Dr. Jaeger again asked about studies of other ingredients, particularly vinylidene chloride, and he was told that none are planned. OCAW asked if he knew of the Russian and German documents cited by Selikoff and he was told that he did not.

Actually many of these above questions were fielded by Dr. Johnson who sat by Mr. Clark while he made his presentation.

VI. The next speaker was Mr. A. Vittone, President of BFG Chemicals, who was accompanied by Dr. M. M. Johnson, Medical Director, Dr. R. Strassburg, Director of Environmental Affairs, Mr. L. B. Crider, Senior Scientist, and Mr. Harold J. Fast, Corporate Council and Assistant Secretary. He gave an historical review of the BFG experience in PVC beginning with their now closed Niagara Falls plant which was put into operation in 1937 and the construction of the Louisville plant in 1942 to their existing 5 operating plants. They changed to ethylene-based monomer made by their own process in 1964. He described the monomer production and polymer processing operations in a very general form. He reviewed the discovery of AOL by Dr. Creech in 1964 and the events which have transpired since. He stated that their operator exposure to manual cleaning has been significantly reduced by the introduction of a hydraulic high pressure washer.

He stated that their present exposure levels are below 50 ppm TWA, and that they were implementing most of the recommendations made by NIOSH on 31 January 1974, except where they were awaiting further clarification. He stated that they had found no other cases on reviewing the death records at all of their plants. (Note that as of now we know these statements to be incorrect). For the first time he confirmed that at least two of the workers had had a 10-year exposure to vinylidene chloride, as well as the other comonomers used in their plant, but again they did not give specific individual work

histories.

OCAW asked if their AOL literature search revealed the European papers referred to by Selikoff and the answer was no. They were asked why their European operations had not informed them of the medical situation in Europe and gave no conclusive reply. It was stated that they did both spot and continuous monitoring and that their employees see the results of the analyses. (Again, we know now that as of this date they have no continuous recorders in operation.) When asked about a liver cancer case in a daughter of one of the workers, it was stated that this was not angiosarcoma. The medical tests which they are now administering at present are the SMA-12 group. They were asked again by Jaeger about any test work being done on vinylidene chloride and they stated they had no data on it, or on the vinyl or vinylidene content of the polymer, nor any data on the size of the dust to which the workers are exposed except that it was small, possibly less than 325 mesh, and that they will make such data available. They stated that the VCL content in the silos was about 100-200 ppm. They gave the impression that this was in the atmosphere, but I believe that they are incorrect in this and that this is more likely to be the content of the resin, and that the atmospheric content will vary considerably depending on the residence in the silo and amount of aeration. When asked which process gave most exposure, the reply was about the same, but varies from plant to plant, and they were quite vague on this and many other questions asked them.

VII. Mr. R. J. Reynolds, Manager of Vinyl Chloride for Shell Chemical Company, accompanied by Mr. H. L. Kuzenet, Manager of Environmental Health, discussed their monomer plants. The first plant was built at Deer Park in August 1971 and has a capacity of 1,200 tons/day using the Stauffer process. About 20 persons are directly concerned with operation of the plant and 25 others indirectly, through such efforts as loading, shipping, maintenance, and supervision. Their second plant was built at Norco in October of 1973 and has a 1,000 ton/day capacity with 20 direct and 5 associated employees.

They stated that the only final exit point in their plant was for inerts vented from a high stack after scrubbing. The method of scrubbing was not given but this statement implied that there was incinceration of the final purge stream. At the beginning of their operations they used spot tests around the plant with color tubes and found no one exposed to no more than 500 ppm TWA. Because the tubes are sensitive only down to 200 ppm, they developed a gas chromatographic method which will be included in the official transcript. They established a plant standard of 50 ppm maximum for vinyl chloride and discussed the possible hazards as known at that time with their employees in July and August of 1973 and advised their customers at that time by their product data sheets that they believe this to be the

proper allowable limit.

They used personal monitoring devices and find no readings over 50 TWA except when there are abnormal conditions which persist for short times with exposures in the 100-200 ppm range.

Each employee is given an exam which includes a medical history, a complete physical, the standard blood work-ups, plus the SMA-12 scan, urinalysis, and a chest x-ray. There have been no abnormal findings in the short time that these plants have been operating and these data are being to establish a base line for future reference.

He closed his presentation by stating that they could see no reason why normal fact finding procedures under section 6 b should not be set.

The solicitor's office asked if there was any difference in purity in their monomer and other which is available. The answer was no. They were also asked if they were looking at other chemicals used in their plants. Again the answer was no, except for the studies at MCA which were being supported by them. Mr. Rose of NIOSH asked how they sampled. The reply was that the best method for their particular situation which was an open plant with many wind shifts was to use a personal monitoring system which involved a bag collector to get a representative 8-hour sample. The content of this bag was later analyzed by a chromatograph.

OCAW asked if the employees had been informed of the dangers. They replied that they had brought them up to date last year as stated and that in January the Wall Street Journal article on the BFG situation was posted. In response to other questions, they stated that their employees see the monitoring data and that any employee medical records would be released to the employee's doctor on request.

The Health Research Group asked the cost of the MCA study. The solicitor's representative objected to the question as not being pertinent and was sustained by the judge. There was considerable discussion as to whether their present data sheets were acceptable and proper and they agreed that they would submit both their older and their present versions, which mentions Viola's work, but that there obviously is a need for further revisions in light of the present knowledge. They will do so and submit for the record.

VIII. The AFL-CIO delegation was headed by Mr. Sheldon Samuels, Director Health Safety and Environmental Affairs of the Industrial Union Department, accompanied by Dr. Henry Anderson of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. T. F. Mancuso, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and Mr. Louis Beliczky, Director of Industrial Hygiene, United Rubber Workers. Mr. Samuels made a short introduction in which he stated that if this were not a unique tumor it might still be unnoticed and that we are now paying the price for past neglect. Dr. Mancuso called for an immediate emergency

temporary standard that should extend to all other type cancers at all industrial chemical operations. He said all similar chemicals should be considered suspect until proven safe and decried the lack of a requirement to prove chemicals safe before they are used. He emphasized that while testing is done it aimed toward toxicity and not the carcinogenic nature of the materials. He said that there were about 20,000 industrial chemicals now in use that are assumed to be safe but that many had not been tested and almost none had been tested in combination with possible cocarcinogens. He called for an immediate government program to demonstrate the safety of all chemicals both singly and in all possible combinations before they are permitted to be used.

He also expressed the strong opinion that there was not a long latency period, but that because of the fast rate of development of the cancer and the relatively young age of the deceased workers, a very strong carcinogen was the cause. This is in direct opposition to statements made earlier by Selikoff and Mazzocchi.

He emphasized that data taken from death certificates are not adequate and that industry should do more work to test their workers better and to give better notice to the worker and his doctor of possible hazards.

He recommended that:

1. CDC and NIOSH undertake an immediate study of the problem.

2. That a crash program similar to that performed for the asbestos lung cancer problem be completed.

3. That a government survey be made to determine the extent of the problem, and

4. That unions, the Secretary of Labor, Universities, and other groups join in the study of the causes and relation to employment conditions of this cancer.

He closed by quoting a 1970 statement by the Surgeon General which said that there is no safe level of exposure to a known carcinogen. Mr. Beliczky also called for an immediate emergency temporary standard if it is found that workers are exposed to a grave danger, and quoted the NIOSH statement that it has been determined that a new occupational cancer has been found. He said that the 12 February meeting in Cleveland concluded that vinyl chloride was the primary suspect agent and said that medical data shows the toxicity and probable carcinogenic nature of vinyl chloride. Because there is no way that employees can participate, particularly in the enforcement of the 31 January 1974 NIOSH interim standards, a permanent standard is necessary. He proposed that this standard include a requirement for no contact with the worker as measured by the most sensitive analytical methods available. He did express the opinion that because of the volatility of vinyl chloride, mandatory showers were not required. He cited information that PVC normally contains 500-3,000 ppm monomer and asked

for a limit of no more than 0.01% (100 ppm). It is notable that he did not ask that PVC be put on the list of carcinogens. He did demand a permit system and a registration system for monomer handling.

Dr. Anderson suggested for following as a minimum medical protocol, with additional tests to be added as they become available:

1. A complete work and medical history to be taken on a standard form to be developed.

2. Physical examinations on a continuing basis.

3. Chest x-rays on 14 x 17 PA plates and hand x-rays annually.

4. Pulmonary function tests.

5. Complete blood and platelet work-ups and SMA-12 routines.

6. Urinalysis, including glucose, blood, and protein every 6 months. These should be repeated monthly if abnormal and given prompt medical attention.

7. These records should be maintained and given to the personal physician upon the request of the employee.

8. The government should review the data obtained from the above protocol, plus environmental data from the plant, and do additional studies as needed.

The solicitor's office asked if inhalation studies were more suitable than ingestion studies and the answer was in the affirmative. A Mr. Connelly of Firestone asked if the union knew of any related deaths. The answer was yes, they knew of one in England and are presently investigating reports of others. Mr. Connelly attempted to joust with Dr. Anderson over the information being developed at the Pottstown plant and came out a very poor second in the exchange, primarily because of the lack of good medical records at that plant. Reference was made to a University of North Carolina study apparently carried out by Firestone on their workers, but no further information is available. It was stated by Beliczky that "you have people in your plant with liver problems".

IX. The next speaker was Dr. Rudolph Jaeger, bio-chemical toxicologist, Harvard School of Public Health. He spoke briefly on the subject that there is a possibility that PVC resin and compound may contain carcinogenic material which can be released upon use and that co-monomer may be important. He emphasized the possibility of a problem with vinylidene chloride stating that in rats a short exposure to 100 ppm gave a sharp rise in sorbitol dehydrogenase. He drew the

conclusion that vinylidene chloride is much more hepatoxic than is vinyl chloride. He expressed concern over possible release of toxic agents during the processing, use, and incineration of plastic materials, with reference to the "meat-packers syndrome".

It was stated later by the judge that this oral presentation had been withdrawn and the official record would contain a copy of a previously published paper by Dr. Jaeger on this subject.

In a private conversation later with Mr. Rose of NIOSH, Dr. Jaeger was quite insistent that Mr. Rose should have taken more samples from within the reactors at Louisville and paid more attention to the vinylidene chloride content.

X. The next speaker was Dr. V. K. Rowe, Chief of Toxilogical Affairs at Dow Chemical Company. His was the best presentation of the day in terms of clinical details and clarity of presentation. A complete copy of his presentation and his appendix II is given in attachment III. His appendix I is a bibliography of literature on VCL toxicity, and is available from Dr. Smith or the writer.

He was questioned by the office of the solicitor as to whether they had examined their employees for cirrhosis and cancers and the answer was affirmative. It was also asked if they had done any work on the toxicity of PVC, and the answer was negative. Mr. Beliczky asked how much monomer there was in their PVC and he replied that he did not know exactly but it depended on the degree of stripping. Beliczky continued with the question that since Maltoni had shown positive results at 100 ppm, how could Dow think 50 was a safe level. He replied that this was incorrect, Maltoni had positive results at 250, not 100, and their experience led them to feel that 50 was safe. Beliczky then said that if we had followed your advice in 1961, we would have no problem now, and asked why should we treat this carcinogen differently from the others in terms of exposure. The answer was that they feel the present problems are due to very high past exposures and while their study is not absolutely complete, they feel there is a safe level and that the attainment of zero exposure is impossible.

Health Research Group asked if monitoring was continuous over the time period referred to in their clinical studies and the answer was yes. Beliczky asked which analytical method might be accurate at 1 part/million and the answer was all of the major analytical techniques. Question - can the analyses differentiate vinylidene chloride? The answer - I do not know. Question - can the analytical instrument go down at 0.1 ppm? Answer - certainly, with time instruments can be developed at any sensitivity desired.

XI. The last speaker was Mr. H. K. Carver, Jr., Design Engineer from Dove Packaging Systems, a division of Franklin Electric. In essence, he gave a 15-minute sales pitch for their meat packaging machine to be used with polyethylene and polyvinylchloride which reduces the visible emission during the cutting of the film by holding the cutting wire temperature below the combustion point of the polymer.

The presiding judge then closed the hearing with the statement that the record will be kept open until 8 March 1974 for further written submittals but that these will not be included in the transcript of this hearing. They will be available for inspection at room 240 at 1726 M Street NW, Washington, D. C. Note that this is a different room number from that given in the Federal Register notice of the meeting.

Some additional information was obtained during private conversations. A Dr. Richardson of EPA referred to work done at Eppley Institute by Phil Shubick which purports to indicate angiosarcoma is always due to particulate matter. He asked particularly about the possibility of cadmium being present in the work environment. He was quite firm on the opinion that primates and not rodents should be used as test animals. I have written to him asking him to send us the information which he has available.

Mr. Gordon Rozand stated that Century will soon have a portable instrument available with a column which will therefore be able to separate the components in the air samples. He further stated that the Shin-Etsu technology being used in their new Texas plant requires a man to go into the reactor and spray the walls after every batch, and that they are working very hard on a method to eliminate this requirement.

We were told by some persons there that they had heard that our Calvert City plant was to be inspected in the immediate future by NIOSH. Upon checking with Mr. Rose we were referred to a Mr. J. Jones who works for Dr. Wagner in the Cincinnati office, who said that they will visit 8 of 10 plants now in operation which were built before 1953 and that other plants would be visited later. This would appear to remove us from the first grouping. Included in their proposed inspection will be a medical doctor, an industrial hygienist, and an environmental expert, and they expect to do mortality studies based on plant worker histories.

Mr. R. W. Van Houten of Liberty Mutual Insurance extended the services of the industrial hygiene group of his company for whatever use they might be to us. We should contact them through their local Loss Preventive Representative who calls on our plant if we wish to use their service.

Attachments

1. Federal Register Notice
2. MCA Presentation
3. Dow Presentation
4. Dow Appendix I, Hygiene Studies

Applications for disaster loans under this announcement must be filed not later than March 19, 1974.

Dated: January 18, 1974.

THOMAS S. KLEPPE,
Administrator.

[FR Doc.74-2379 Filed 1-29-74;8:45 am]

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES

Notice of Meeting

The Veterans Administration gives notice pursuant to Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Veterans Administration Facilities will be held in Room 442 at the Veterans Administration Central Office, 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC on February 22, 1974, at 10 a.m. The committee members will review Veterans Administration construction standards and criteria relating to fire, earthquake, and other disaster resistant construction.

The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Because of the limited seating capacity it will be necessary for those wishing to attend to contact Mr. James Lefter, Director, Civil Engineering Service, Office of Construction, VA Central Office (phone 202-389-2868), prior to February 19, 1974.

Dated: January 22, 1974.

By direction of the Administrator.

[SEAL] RUFUS H. WILSON,
Associate Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc.74-2448 Filed 1-29-74;8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

POSSIBLE HAZARDS OF VINYL CHLORIDE MANUFACTURE AND USE

Request for Information and Notice of Fact-Finding Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is requesting information on possible hazards associated with the manufacture and/or use of vinyl chloride (chloroethene, Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number 75014).

The Administration requests information including, but not necessarily limited to:

(1) The toxicity of vinyl chloride;

(2) The toxicity of other chemicals involved in the manufacture and use of vinyl chloride;

(3) The technologies involved in the production and use of vinyl chloride;

(4) Employee populations potentially or actually exposed to vinyl chloride or other chemicals, and involved in the production and/or use of vinyl chloride;

(5) Epidemiological studies of effects of vinyl chloride and other chemicals used in the manufacture or use of vinyl chloride on populations, employee or otherwise; and

(6) Whether the available information warrants the issuance of an Emergency Temporary Standard, or the commencement of a regular rulemaking under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Written data may be mailed or delivered to the Office of Standards, Attn: Docket OSH-36, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room 203, 1726 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20210, not later than February 28, 1974. The data will be available for public inspection and copying at the OSHA Public Reading Room, Room 203, 1726 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20210.

Oral presentation of data will also be received by an administrative law judge at an informal fact-finding hearing beginning at 10 a.m., e.d.t., on Friday, February 15, 1974, Conference Room B, Detmental Auditorium, Constitution Avepartmental Auditorium, Constitution Avenue NW., between 12th and 14th Streets, Washington, D.C.

Persons desiring to appear at the hearing must file with J. Goodell, Attn: Docket OSH-36, Office of Standards, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room 203, 1726 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20210, a written notice of intention to appear, in triplicate. Notice should be filed as soon as possible, but will be accepted by the Management Officer at the hearing until the pre-hearing conference begins. The notice should state: The name and address of the person wishing to appear; the capacity in which he will appear; and the approximate amount of time required for the presentation. The notice should also include, or be accompanied by, a brief statement of the presentation to be made.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., e.d.t., on February 15, 1974, the presiding Administrative Law Judge will hold a pre-hearing conference in order to establish the order and time for the presentations, and in order to settle any other matter relating to the proceedings.

The oral proceedings shall be reported verbatim. The use of prepared statements by witnesses is encouraged. All documents that are intended to be submitted should be submitted in triplicate (original and two copies).

The administrative law judge shall have all the powers necessary or appropriate to conduct a fair and full informal hearing, including the powers:

(a) To regulate the course of the hearing;

(b) To dispose of procedural requests, objections, and comparable matters;

(c) To confine the presentations to matters pertinent to the requested information;

(d) To regulate the conduct of those present at the hearing by appropriate means;

(e) In his discretion, to question and permit questioning of any witness; and

(f) In his discretion, to keep the record open for a reasonable stated time to receive written data from any person who has participated in the oral proceeding.

Following the close of the hearing, the presiding officer shall certify the record thereof to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 28th day of January 1974.

JOHN H. STENDER,
Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 74-2504 Filed 1-29-74;8:45 am]

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

[Notice No. 434]

ASSIGNMENT OF HEARINGS

JANUARY 25, 1974.

Cases assigned for hearing, postponement, cancellation or oral argument appear below and will be published only once. This list contains prospective assignments only and does not include cases previously assigned hearing dates. The hearings will be on the issues as presently reflected in the Official Docket of the Commission. An attempt will be made to publish notices of cancellation of hearings as promptly as possible, but interested parties should take appropriate steps to insure that they are notified of cancellation or postponements of hearings in which they are interested. No amendments will be entertained after January 30, 1974.

MC-56679 Sub 66, Brown Transport Corp., MC 136155 Sub 2, Gay Trucking Co., Inc., MC 136285 Sub 3, Southern Intermodal Logistics, Inc., MC 136230, Interstate Warehousing, Corp., now assigned March 12, 1974, will be held at the Holiday Inn—Downtown, 175 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Ga.

W-81 Sub-No. 3, McAllister Lighterage Line, Inc., & W-457 Sub-No. 6, McAllister Brothers, Inc., now assigned February 4, 1974, at New York, N.Y., is cancelled and transferred to Modified Procedure.

MC-61935, Centropolis Transfer Co., Inc., now assigned February 6, 1974, at Jefferson City, Mo., is cancelled and reassigned February 6, 1974, in Room 609, Federal Office Bldg., 911 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Mo.

No. 35717, Southern Railway Company—Petition for Declaratory Order, No. 35717 Sub 1, Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company—Petition for Declaratory Order—Refund Rule—Electrical Appliances, continued to March 18, 1974, at the Offices of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C.

MC 20872 Sub 18, Lime City Trucking Company, Inc., now assigned February 4, 1974, at Chicago, Ill., is postponed indefinitely.

MC 2202 Sub 447, Roadway Express, Inc., now assigned February 25, 1974, at Cleveland, Ohio, is cancelled and the application is dismissed.

[SEAL] ROBERT L. OSWALD,
Secretary.

[FR Doc.74-2458 Filed 1-29-74;8:45 am]

FOURTH SECTION APPLICATION FOR RELIEF

JANUARY 25, 1974.

An application, as summarized below, has been filed requesting relief from the requirements of Section 4 of the Interstate Commerce Act to permit common

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