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FROM: RAMLOW, JONATHAN M.
SUBJECT: VCM Health Committee Conference Call

The Vinyl Chloride Panel Health Committee held a conference call this afternoon. The primary topic of conversation was the status of Dr. Carlo Tamburro's proposal for a brain cancer case-control study to be conducted and completed this year.

As I indicated in my recent trip report, the Health Committee members were basically impressed with Dr. Tamburro's experience and knowledge in the field of VCM health effects, and perceive significant scientific merit in his proposal to compare historical VCM exposure in a series of histologically confirmed brain cancer cases, and matched controls, from the original B.F. Goodrich/Louisville workforce. However, everyone agrees that Dr. Tamburro has not yet supplied us with an adequately described study plan or study timeline, and we are reluctant to recommend his proposal to the businesses until he can provide us with those supporting details.

Subsequent to today's conference call, we will proceed as follows: a Committee member who knows and has worked with Dr. Tamburro in the past will speak with him informally tomorrow about whether and how he would respond to a request from CMA for more details, in writing, about his proposed research. Assuming he will be amenable to this, I and the Committee will prepare a list of critical questions to which Dr. Tamburro can respond such that his answers will allow us to evaluate his proposal more thoroughly. For example, we will ask him for an outline of the steps he would need to take to complete the study, along with a time estimate for each step. We will ask him to provide documentation supporting his ability to obtain tissue specimens from brain cancer cases he identifies, and also documentation supporting the participation of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in obtaining definitive diagnoses of any identified brain tumors.

If Dr. Tamburro can provide us with such detailed information to support his proposal to conduct and complete this study within 1995, I believe the Committee will want to recommend that the companies support his brain cancer research, subject to contractual stipulations regarding dates for deliverables and financial incentives for keeping to the schedule.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.

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