



THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

BENNETT BUILDING
2030 DOW CENTER
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

January 30, 1978

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1978

R. N. WHEELER, JR.

Scott Bowen
Beveridge Firbanks & Diamond
One Farragut Square South
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Scott:

The attached January 12 letter was received in response to my inquiry of December 27 which is also enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

T. R. Torkelson, Sc.D.
Corporate Medical Dept.

Enclosures

mh

cc: John Lawrence, SPI
Joe Seawell, MCA
Zeb Bell, PPG
Walt Harris, UNIROYAL
M. N. Johnson, MD., BFG
C. D. Kary, SHELL
Gary TerHaar, ETHYL
Mayo Smith, AIR PRODUCTS
R. N. Wheeler, UNION CARBIDE
W. E. Nichols, ORGANIZATION
RESOURCES COUNSELORS, INC.
Clark Cooper, MD., EQUITABLE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

65



UCC
008581



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TOWER BUILDING • EMPIRE STATE PLAZA • ALBANY, N.Y. 12237

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND CHRONIC DISEASE RESEARCH

ROBERT P. WHALEN, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS J. VIANNA, M.D.
DIRECTOR

January 12, 1977

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1978

R. N. WHEELER, JR.

T.R. Torkelson, Sc. D.
Corporate Medical Dept.
The Dow Chemical Company
Bennett Building
2030 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48640

Dear Mr. Torkelson:

Thank you for your letter of December 27, 1977 concerning our report on angiosarcoma of the liver (JNCI, Vol. 59, page 1383, 1977). Of course you are quite correct in stating that the vinyl industry is not 62 years old. This is a typographical error that should read 32. In reference to the exposure history of the patient No. 1 (Table 1), this makes reference to arsenical pesticides which as you know have been in use for a much longer period of time.

With regard to your second point concerning the 92, 800 ppm, we do not state that this concentration was found 1700 feet from the plant. In contrast, this was the concentration emanating from a small stack in the factory in question. Our source for this information was the company itself. In 1976 emissions from that same stack were found to be 22, 600 ppm.

Thank you for your interest in this article. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a reprint for your files.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Vianna, M.D., M.S.P.H.
Director

NJV:p1
Encl.

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THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

BENNETT BUILDING
2030 DOW CENTER
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1978

December 27, 1977

R. N. WHEELER, JR.

Nicholas Vianna, M.D.
Bureau of Occupational Health and
Chronic Disease Research
New York Department of Health
Empire State Plaza, Tower Building
Albany, NY 12237

*UCC for Seawell
John Lawrence*

Dear Dr. Vianna:

I have read with interest your paper on Angiosarcoma of the Liver: An Epidemiologic Survey published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Nov. 1977 pages 1383-1385, Vol. 59. I certainly agree with your conclusion that at most a very tenuous relationship was established except for the Chemical Operators.

Two questions have been raised that I wonder if you can answer. The column titled, Duration of Exposure Before Diagnosis must refer to something else. It is impossible for anyone to have had 60 or 62 years of exposure since the vinyl industry is not that old. Could the numbers in this column really be years of residence in that location? If so, how long were the actual exposures? That is, how long were the plants in existence?

Second, it appears unlikely that 92, 800 ppm would be measured in the air 1700 feet from the plant. This is well into the explosive range and would represent a tremendous quantity of vinyl chloride.

I'd appreciate any information you can give on these questions.

Sincerely,

T. R. Torkelson

T. R. Torkelson, Sc.D.
Corporate Medical Dept.

mh



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THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

January 5, 1978

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48840

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1978

R. N. WHEELER, JR.

Duane Nuechterlein
2020 Building

SPI VCM/PVC HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Subcommittee has received and distributed the two reviews of the reports of birth effects alleged to be caused by vinyl chloride. Not only have these literature reviews helped stem a lot of questions about vinyl, but they have helped call attention to the poor quality of NIOSH epidemiology.

The Subcommittee is reviewing its efforts to establish a vinyl chloride literature service and is working with Beveridge, Fairbanks & Diamond on the EDF-EPA Proposed Standard for Vinyl Emission.

T. R. Torkelson
Corporate Medical Department

mh

cc: John Lawrence, SPI
M. N. Johnson, BFG
R. N. Wheeler, UC
W. M. Smith, AIR PRODUCTS
G. TerHaar, ETHYL

*I Failed to give this to you at the SPI
Subcommittee Jan 11, 1978
JRT*



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