

2/23/73 Dr. E. G. Hull



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS

SOUTH CHARLESTON PLANT P. O. BOX 8004, SOUTH CHARLESTON, W. VA. 25303

To (Name) Mr. M. E. Eisenhour, 515
 Division Dr. Kenneth S. Lane, NYO-4
 Location Dr. W. L. Larcamp, 514
 Dr. A. B. Steele, NYO-28
 Dr. N. L. Zutty, NYO-32

Date February 13, 1973

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Copy to

Subject MCA Vinyl Chloride
Research Project

CONFIDENTIAL

Attached are the minutes of the last meeting of the Research Coordinators on the MCA Vinyl Chloride Research Project. Items of particular note are as follows:

1. Doctors T. R. Torkelson, Mac Roy Gasque, and Richard J. Kociba of Dow Chemical Company reviewed the work on the European study. They report it is of excellent quality and the results on rats are probably undeniable. A summary of European data, to date, is attached.
2. The Research Coordinators decided to proceed immediately on the annual inhalation studies planned in the U.S. as per the attached protocol. The studies will cost at least \$200,000; thus, an additional 20% will have to be subscribed by the sponsors. UCC has pledged \$6,765. The 20% increment would be \$1,353. The basic contract with Industrial Bio-Test is for \$172,000 plus the cost of monomer and other items.
3. In view of the European study results, the Coordinators agreed to immediately determine the feasibility of an epidemiology study on plant workers. February 20, 1973 was set as a date to discuss such a study with representatives of the University of Michigan, University of Nebraska, University of Cincinnati, Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, and Harvard University. Preliminary data on number of workers and exposures has been requested from the sponsors by February 16. The nature of the study and its cost are yet to be determined. Both Dow Chemical and Imperial Chemical Industries have attempted such studies on their employees without significant results due possibly to the small population. (Attached is a copy of the report on Dow's study.) The tentative plan is to collect data from all U.S. producers to secure significant results.

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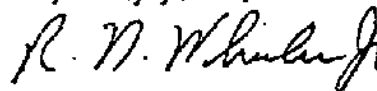
Two items were discussed at length for information purposes:

1. The acceptable (NIOSH) threshold limit value for vinyl chloride will shortly be reduced from 200 ppm to 50 ppm, based on Dow's recommendations and reported studies.

2. If vinyl chloride proves to be hazardous to health, a producing company's liability to its employees is limited by various Workmen's Compensation laws. A company selling vinyl chloride as an aerosol propellant, however, has essentially unlimited liability to the entire U. S. population.

3. Essentially all data on animal inhalation studies now in progress in Europe will be made public in Florence, Italy, during October 1974. Some public discussion may occur in Bologna during May of 1973 of Viola's studies and work in progress.

Very truly yours,



R. N. Wheeler, Jr.

RNWJr/ra

Attachments

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