

Manufacturing Chemists Association

MINUTES OF MEETING

Ad Hoc Planning Group for Vinyl Chloride Research

Holiday Inn - Connecticut Avenue

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1971

Present:

R. N. Wheeler, Jr., Chairman	Union Carbide Corporation
M. N. Johnson, M. D.	Monsanto Company
K. S. Lane, M. D.	Union Carbide Corporation
W. E. McCormick	B. F. Goodrich Company
T. R. Torkelson	Dow Chemical Company
N. G. White	Shell Chemical Company
K. D. Johnson, Secretary	MCA Staff

Guests Present:

Z. G. Bell	PPG Industries, Inc.
W. D. Harris	UNIROYAL, Inc.
W. M. Smith	Air Products and Chemicals Co.

Absent:

M. V. Anthony	Stauffer Chemical Company
N. V. Hendricks	Standard Oil Company (N.J.)
B. M. G. Zwicker	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co.

1. Definition of Vinyl Chloride Problem

As an antecedent to considering the specific aspects of the proposed research program, the Planning Group concurred on the following concerns that should guide any decisions made on research protocols or other program elements:

- (a) The need to be able to reassure the public that polyvinyl chloride entails no risk to the user.

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- (b) The need to be able to assure the employees of the industry that management was concerned for, and diligent in seeking the information necessary, to protect their health.
- (c) The need to develop data useful in defense of the industry against invalid claims for injury for alleged occupational or community exposure.
- (d) The need to establish the program under conditions that would provide industry with the means to guarantee the objectivity of the program and the validity of the experimental conditions.

2. Sources of Vinyl Chloride Monomer

The Group agreed that both ethylene dichloride and acetylene derived monomer should be studied in parallel experiments, and that supplies of the monomer should be contracted for, through the project administration, on a basis of specifications and costs. The Secretary was asked to solicit cost proposals from interested monomer producers, after the quantities needed, and the handling facilities of the performing laboratory have been determined.

3. Test Protocols

The Group voted to recommend the performance of the full three-level test protocols, as defined in the Occupational Health Committee records, for both ethylene dichloride and acetylene derived monomers. They agreed to leave the final determination of the exposure levels to the Steering Committee that would be set up to guide the project, should authorization and funding be successfully accomplished.

4. Epidemiological Study

There was general agreement that an epidemiological study of exposed workers would have to be attempted before long, and that it would be best to have this done by an independent, highly regarded research or educational institution. They voted to seek industry commitment for this study as an integral part of the over-all program.

5. Non-MCA Member Company Participation

The Planning Group approved, in principle, the admission of foreign producers to the support of the proposed program. This would be on a purely voluntary basis with explicit recognition that European personnel could not be included in the epidemiological studies.

6. Budget

The Group voted to ask the industry for a \$350,000 commitment for a three-year program. The budget breakdown was estimated as follows:

Vinyl Chloride Animal Exposure Program

Contractors' Costs	\$183,000
Vinyl chloride supply and other sponsor-furnished services	30,000

Epidemiological Study

Feasibility Study	20,000
Main Program	100,000

Contingency Funds	<u>17,000</u>
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\$350,000

With the correction of the error of omission of Shell Chemical Company (700 million pounds per year, reported monomer production capacity), the tabulation of production capacity distributed with the November 16 minutes of the Vinyl Chloride Conference, was held to be an adequate basis for proration of sponsor costs.

7. Implementation

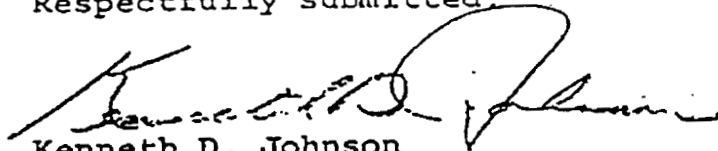
The Secretary was asked to develop ballots and authorization forms for distribution to the concerned companies, soliciting their support for the proposed program.

Dr. Torkelson and the Secretary were asked to consult with Industrial Biotest in regard to their facilities for handling vinyl chloride supplies, and to develop the basis for the preparation of bid requests for the supply of the vinyl chloride that will be needed for the project, as discussed under item (2) of these minutes.

8. Future Meeting Schedules

Hope was expressed that no additional meetings of the Planning Group would be required before its functions could be assumed by a Steering Committee to be organized under the terms of an MCA Board authorization for the Association's administration of a funded program. However, should future developments require, the Planning Group may be reconvened on the call of the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth D. Johnson

Secretary

Ad Hoc Planning Group on
Vinyl Chloride Research

KDJ/cj

December 17, 1971

Attached Vinyl Chloride Research
Address List

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