

Manufacturing Chemists Association

Minutes of Meeting

TECHNICAL TASK GROUP ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

MCA Conference Room

Washington, D. C.

November 14, 1972

PRESENT:

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	W. Mayo Smith
Allied Chemical Corporation	W. A. Knapp
Borden Chemical/Division of Borden, Inc.	H. L. Schmidt, Jr.
Continental Oil Company	F. Kennedy
The Dow Chemical Company	T. R. Torkelson
Ethyl Corporation	W. E. Rinehart
B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company, A Division of The B. F. Good- rich Company	W. E. McCormick
PPG Industries, Inc.	Z. G. Bell, Jr.
Shell Chemical Company	R. L. Maycock
Stauffer Chemical Company	M. V. Anthony for A. B. Lindquist
Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.	A. Siegel for M. Rosen
Union Carbide Corporation	R. N. Wheeler
UNIROYAL, Inc.	W. D. Harris
MCA Staff	G. E. Best
	K. D. Johnson

GUESTS PRESENT:

The Dow Chemical Company	C. Otis
ICI Mond Division	D. M. Elliott

ABSENT:

Exxon Corporation	N. V. Hendricks
Firestone Plastics Company	W. W. Madden
Monsanto Company	E. P. Wheeler
Olin Corporation	M. R. Gasque

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1. Agreements with European Research Group - G. E. Best

1.1 "Equal Status" Standing of European Group

Mr. Best reported that the intent of stipulation (c) in Mr. Elliott's letter of October 30 had been clarified by subsequent discussions between MCA and ICI. The phrase in question -- "...European Group who shall have equal status to other contributing sponsors." is meant to refer only to the rights of access to research data on a current basis. Representation on the Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators is intended only to give such data access, and not to imply any right to have a determining voice in project definition or program management.

1.2 Pledge of American Sponsors to Hold European Research Data Confidential

Mr. Best explained to the group the inability of MCA to offer any warranty to the European Group as to the extent to which the American sponsors could or would honor the requests of the European Group to hold its data in strict confidence, and of the consequent need by the latter for individual pledges from each of the American sponsors to which such data might be disclosed. He had therefore distributed to each of the American sponsors a simple pledge of such secrecy.

Two points in the proposed pledge appeared to give concern to counsels for some of the MCA members. The first related to the absence of any explicitly stated time limit in the pledge. The second was the failure of the proposed agreement to provide for those circumstances under which proceedings before judicial or administrative bodies might place a legally binding obligation upon a company to reveal any knowledge in its possession concerning adverse effects associated with vinyl chloride exposures.

Mr. Elliott expressed his hope that the European Group would recognize the slight, but finite probability of a company being placed under legal obligations to disclose European research data in their possession, and offered to work with MCA staff in reaching an agreement broad enough to cover such exigencies. He expressed firm opinion, however, that his group would not accept any time interval of less than ten years during which any secrecy agreement would be binding.



All present indicated conceptual agreement with an approach to protecting confidential treatment of European research data based upon these general provisions. Each expressed willingness to submit to MCA signed agreements acceptable to their own counsels, and hopefully acceptable to the European group. Mr. Best is to forward copies of such agreements to ICI for review by the European group. Only when stipulations acceptable to the latter have been received from all the American sponsors can the European group make a full disclosure of current project results and proposed follow-up research plans.

2. Report on Conference with European Group and Project Staff - Dr. W. D. Harris

Dr. Harris gave a brief report on his conference with the European group on October 19 in Milan, and of his visit to the project facilities at Bologna on the following day. Copies of the summary of the exposure protocol followed by Dr. Maltoni and his staff were distributed to the group. Dr. Harris expressed his high personal regard for the competence and professional integrity of the research team.

3. Report from Mr. D. C. Elliott

Mr. Elliott announced that, in the absence of suitable secrecy agreements from all in attendance, he would be unable to present any quantitative or complete discussion of the results currently in the hands of the European group. He did express the deep concern of his principals over the implications of the results currently available, and the need to have unresolved issues more fully explored before the next meeting of the 11th International Cancer Congress, scheduled to meet in Florence in October of 1974. He indicated that Dr. Caputo, a coauthor with Dr. Viola of the 1969 paper, would at that time be presenting new and presumably highly damaging data on compounds of mutual interest.

Mr. Elliott extended a warm invitation to the American sponsors to visit (after secrecy agreements have been accomplished) the Bologna research facilities and to examine at first hand the slides and data there on file. He outlined briefly several areas for follow-up investigations that the European group felt must be given consideration.

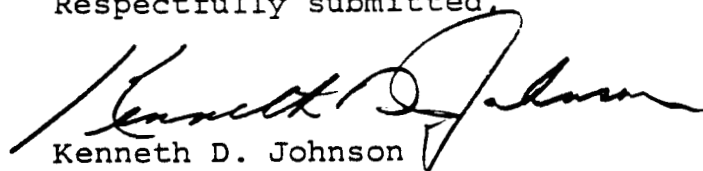
4. Request for Prompt MCA Board Project Approval

A number of those in attendance urged that MCA expedite the steps necessary to secure authorization for the invoicing of sponsors for their first increment of support funds before the close of the year. They indicated that, in a number of instances, their fiscal years ended with the calendar year and that failure to avail themselves of funds already in their 1972 budgets would cause administrative problems in modified budget requests. Mr. Best offered to forward this request to MCA President Driver.

5. Charge to Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators

The members of the Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators were instructed to amend their proposed research protocol to accommodate the views expressed in the current discussions in the light of the information that had been developed since the last meeting of the group, and to expedite the start of a meaningful animal exposure project under American direction and control. They were also asked to proceed promptly with the drafting of plans for epidemiological studies and vinyl chloride metabolism studies to be organized and funded at a later date. They were asked not to let either the technical or administrative problems in the latter projects delay the start of already authorized and funded chronic exposure studies.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth D. Johnson

Secretary

Technical Task Group on Vinyl  
Chloride Research

Minutes Subject to Approval  
December 4, 1972  
KDJ:mkb

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