



INDUSTRIES

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: October 30, 1973  
From: W. R. Harris  
Location: 7 West - General Office  
Subject: TCA-VCM Epidemiological  
Progress Report

NOV. 7 1973

Route To: ~~Dr. C. J. Sindlinger~~  
Mr. R. H. Blair  
Mr. A. G. DeMarco  
Return to W. R. Harris

Attached is the latest VCM epidemiological progress report. This will keep you somewhat updated on the progress of this study.

You will note in Zeb's letter that he mentioned the Lake Charles plant is providing this information to TCA as they have requested. You will also note in the last sentence, second paragraph of Zeb's letter that they are gathering data on exposures and maintaining records on the amount of time each employee spends in the VCM plant at Lake Charles and he notes that this was previously suggested for Caribe on his last visit there. Are we now following this procedure?

Please advise.

W. R. Harris

mg

Attach.



INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

WEH 20

Date: October 25, 1973  
From: Zeb G. Bell, Jr.  
Location: 19 East  
Subject: TCA-VCM Epidemiological Progress Report

To: R. E. Widing

Attached is the progress report from TCA on the epidemiological study for the period August 20-October 11, 1973. We were notified that our operation at Caribe is one of those for which the exposure period is too short to be of any value to the epidemiological study and has been deleted. The Lake Charles plant has been requested to provide information to TCA and they want to have the plant fill out a form questionnaire or permit them to microfilm the records. There would be no contact or discussion with the employee if they microfilmed the employment records. Lake Charles has decided to fill out the questionnaire in lieu of the microfilm route.

You can see that the data requested from industry is not always available which does not come as a surprise since vinyl chloride was thought to have low toxicity. We are continuing to gather data on exposures and maintain records on the amount of time each employee spends in the VCM plants at Lake Charles and this was previously suggested for Caribe on my last visit there.

TCA wants some guidance on following of terminated employees. It would be my opinion that they take the approach of checking driver's licenses and see how productive this is. Since the population under study is going to be very small, we should determine how many of the workers are still alive to make the study most meaningful. Those terminated employees who have died will present another challenge since it will be necessary to establish the cause of death. I do not think that we should contact the terminated, retired employees directly unless we are willing to indicate to him the reason for his being contacted. This becomes even more complicated when one seeks information from relatives of past employees who have subsequently died. I feel that we have very much at stake and a very thorough survey of the employee's status is indicated although there are some potential problems that may arise if the approach is not well thought out. In other words, we need the information but at what risk.

  
Zeb G. Bell, Jr.

cc: R. E. Hanna  
✓ W. R. Harris  
J. L. MacMillan/L. F. Sargent

RECEIVED  
OCT 26 1973  
CARIBE



MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009 (202) 483-6126

October 24, 1973

To: TECHNICAL TASK GROUP ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

Subject: Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.  
Progress Report No. 2 for Period  
August 20 - October 11, 1973

Gentlemen:

Distributed herewith is the subject report.

Please note their request for possible MCA guidance on the persistence of follow-up efforts on terminated employees, and be prepared to express your views on this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth D. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth D. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Staff Representative  
Technical Task Group on  
Vinyl Chloride Research

KDJ:mb

Enclosure

cc : Dr. D. P. Duffield  
Mr. D. M. Elliott  
Dr. Tiziano Garlanda

SL 072176

MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

VCM EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

PROGRESS REPORT

October 15, 1973

Prepared by

Tabershaw-Cooper Associates, Inc.  
2180 Milvia  
Berkeley, California 94704

SL 072177