



INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: September 26, 1980
From: Z. G. Bell
Location: 5 West
Subject: CMA/VCM Research Coordinators Task Group Meeting

To: F. C. Dehn

RECEIVED
SEP 29 1980
Environmental Affairs

See copy of the letter from [unclear] to [unclear] dated 9/26/80
Let's see information only in this final [unclear]

The VCM Research Coordinators T/G met at the Dow Chemical offices in Washington, DC, on September 17, 1980, to discuss the Environmental Health Associates' proposal to update the Fabershaw-Cooper Equitable Environmental Health VCM/PVC study.

The main interest in doing this seven-year follow-up is to concentrate the effort on the whereabouts of the original (1972) cohort and for those that died to determine their cause of death.

~~The finding of higher than normal brain tumors in the original study was never followed up as suggested. Further, the link of vinyl chloride with lung cancer and cancer of the lymphatic system (leukemia) by governmental agencies is still unresolved. The proposed research would not shed any further data on angiosarcomas, but it may not support the animal data that vinyl chloride causes other types of cancer. The attached protocol is included for completeness of this correspondence.~~

The T/G recommended support of the proposal, and cost sharing on a pro-rata basis was also recommended. The total 1979 nameplate capacity would be used for VCM. The pounds of PVC and other uses of VCM would also be used to get the total pounds of VCM and PVC. This should cut PPG's cost by about one-half the original study. The EHA proposal would cost approximately \$220,000. To that figure will be added 20 percent contingencies and the usual CMA administrative fees (15 percent). The total cost over a two-year period would be somewhere around \$300,000 (\$150,000/year). PPG's costs should be between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per year.

If we can gain information to help in future lawsuits, then this effort would be worthwhile.

In addition to the money, we will have to take the original list of individuals submitted by the Lake Charles plant and determine the last known whereabouts of each individual. I will need to help the plants with this effort. A review of each worker history for the past seven years will also be required. These recommendations and a ballot should be forthcoming from CMA in a few weeks.

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As background, the IBT VCM chronic study had 31 sponsoring companies. The University of Louisville research (3 years of support) had only 17 sponsors. All U.S. VCM/PVC producers sponsored the original U.S. epidemiology study.

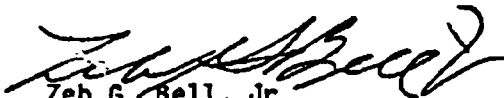
Some companies have stopped production or sold their operations (i.e., Olin, Allied, Monsanto, Unifroyal--PVC, and recently Hooker acquired Firestone's plastics division). CMA will need the records of these companies to complete the follow-up epidemiology work. ICI Americas bought Allied's PVC operations so ICI will be approached for the follow-up data and participation.

At this CMA meeting, the subject of settlement of the IBT VCM study was raised. CMA staff representatives did not know of any progress on this between CMA and IBT. The T/G recommended Mr. Ed Frost approach IBT again and suggest a settlement before the year's end for an amount around \$100,000. Some of the companies want to sue IBT, however, the funds to support this effort are not available. ~~There are a lot of other reasons why industry should attempt to settle rather than bring a lawsuit against IBT.~~ These were discussed in detail.

Other items of interest were Union Carbide has had one angiosarcoma of the liver in 1980, and British Petroleum reported four new cases this year. Since 1972, there have been 17 liver tumors in the U.S. One individual at BFG, Louisville, who has liver cancer is still alive four years after the original diagnosis.

Dr. M. Johnson, BFG Medical Director, summarized the information gained from the University of Louisville research. The only useful clinical chemistry parameter for angiosarcoma was SGPT. The GGPT, SGOT, and alkaline phosphatase were not useful. ~~Neither were the "hands on" physicals of any real value~~ according to Dr. Johnson.

I previously reported the British research on pulmonary function and PVC dust. There has been very little action by governmental agencies on this data. There are no known proposed standards to be issued in the U.S. but Canada is showing some concern.


Zeb G. Bell, Jr.

/ta

Attachment

cc: G. J. Lazarchik

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