

AGENDA  
MEETING OF THE MCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 8, 1977  
Washington Hilton (Map Room), Washington, D. C.

- I. Opening Remarks and Introduction of Guests
- II. Minutes of Meeting of January 11, 1977
- III. Business Items:
  - (a) Approval of Director's Alternate:  
Charles E. Brookes (for Robert D. Goodall)
  - (b) Report of Membership Committee  
Nease Chemical Company, Inc.
  - (c) Proposed Benzene Study Relative to OSHA Regulation (Attachment)
  - (d) Appointment of Committee Members (Attachment)
- IV. Report of Director of Government Relations
- V. Reports of Committees: (Attachment)
  - (a) Chemical Regulations Advisory Committee  
George Dominguez, Chairman  
Discussion leader: Richard E. Heckert
  - (b) Government Relations Committee  
Don A. Goodall, Chairman  
Discussion leader: John M. Henske
  - (c) Labels and Precautionary Information Committee  
Charles J. (Charlie) O'Connor, Chairman  
Discussion leader: Andrew J. McNeill
- VI. Information Items by Directors
- VII. Report of the President

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Next Meeting of the Board of Directors - 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 8, 1977,  
Lakeway Inn, Austin, Texas

CMA 071432

Proposed Program  
on  
OSHA Benzene Regulation

Purpose

NIOSH has proposed that the permissible exposure levels for benzene be reduced from 10 ppm to 1 ppm. The basis for this reduction is questioned. The purpose of the proposed program is to develop a sound technical base for a position by industry on potential regulation and to advance that position with OSHA and NIOSH.

Program

An ad hoc planning group composed of representatives of fourteen producers and users of benzene, having reviewed readily available information, have recommended that a special project on benzene be established within MCA to prepare and present to OSHA and NIOSH information and recommendations on benzene occupational health exposure regulations. This program would encompass two principal objectives as dictated by the criticality of timing. The first objective with highest priority would address the following areas:

1. From a review of information available (primarily in the public literature), assess the hazards associated with various levels of exposure with the view to relating to NIOSH recommendations and OSHA proposals. The background papers, deliberations, and resolution of the November 9-11, 1976, international workshop on toxicology of benzene in Paris may be of especial value. The consensus was that outside expertise should be hired for this task.
2. Consolidate and organize other currently available data to arrive at appropriate conclusions to be presented to OSHA. This is meant to apply primarily to epidemiologic studies carried out in various companies, but not publicized from a concern that they did not represent a large enough base. Adding them together may provide a more convincing picture. Again it was felt that outside expertise should be sought to consolidate the information.

Individual members would be encouraged to conduct and report monitoring observations to enable an assessment to be made of the impact of different permissible exposure levels.

3. React to details of criteria documents, standards, or guidelines.

A longer-term objective would be to assess the desirability of undertaking appropriate additional research, industry epidemiology studies, and economic studies in conjunction with, or independent of, programs within other trade associations.

#### Supervision

The program would be supervised by a Special Project Unit consisting of one representative from each subscribing company, plus an MCA staff representative who would also serve as a project manager. Due to the expected numbers, they might wish to designate a working group containing a mixture of toxicologists and/or physicians, industrial hygienists, epidemiologists, and regulatory affairs personnel.

It was agreed that close supervision by legal counsel should be provided for.

#### Funding

The benzene special project would be fully financially supported by participating companies with costs to be distributed on the basis of nominal benzene production capacity and use. In spite of great uncertainties, the following budget is proposed initially:

Legal counsel	\$ 50,000
Review of information for assessment of hazard	100,000
Collation and assessment of epidemiologic information	100,000
MCA supervision	100,000
Contingencies	<u>150,000</u>
Total	\$500,000

Stipulations

Any scientific information developed from this program is to be fully disclosed, without restriction. For purposes of consistency and control, however, all releases would be made solely through MCA.

Any interpretation or recommendation stemming from this project attributable to MCA, or any unit thereof, shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

The foregoing requirements would not preclude private scientific interchange of non-competitive information useful to the advancement of the program, nor relevant private communication within and among subscribing companies. It would be an obligation to inform the MCA staff representative on a current basis about all such interchanges and communications other than those internal to the company.

Operation

The Special Project Unit would be governed by MCA practices and policies, including the requirements of the "General Principles Applicable to the Structure and Operations of Committees."

MCA  
EC - 1/11/77  
BD - 2/8/77

CMA 071445