

DRAFT

Minutes of April, 1996 Meeting
Washington, DC

The meeting was convened at 0800 on Tuesday, April 23. In attendance, in addition to the full Committee, were Dr. Paul Wambach of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Mr. Daniel Skoch of Brush Wellman Inc. (Brush). The Chairman reminded everyone that time allocations set forth in the written agenda were estimates for planning purposes only and were to be construed as quite flexible. He invited Mr. Skoch to present any industry observations that might be pertinent prior to addressing the written agenda.

Mr. Skoch described recent organizational changes at Brush which were addressed, in part, to a perceived lack of communication within the company on health issues and related legal matters. Under the reorganization Mr. Skoch would have responsibility for coordinating these matters. The medical, legal and industrial hygiene operations would be reporting directly to him. Dr. Eisenbud expressed his discomfort at being served a subpoena to produce all of his files and appear for deposition on a few days notice, although he acknowledged the assistance by Brush attorneys in assuming the physical chore of assembling, cataloging, transporting and returning his files to him. Mr. Skoch explained that the problems were due to an extraordinary set of circumstances and that efforts were underway to prevent a repetition, although the trend was to allow plaintiff's attorneys almost unlimited access to files and records. Dr. Eisenbud acknowledged that, also, based upon his experience with a class action suit against the Government in which the whole staff at Rocky Flats was engaged full time in reviewing documents for classification status in order to facilitate their availability.

Dr. Kottin requested comments on the draft minutes of the January meeting. Dr. Eisenbud suggested clarification of the acid mist paper on page 5 and the industrial hygiene article on page 6. Subject to correction of these two items the minutes were approved as circulated.

CABST

Dr. Miller reported on the CABST meeting held the previous day. Dr. Frome's analysis of the National Jewish Center (NJC) data on BLP testing produced results similar to those found in analysis of the Oak Ridge data. The proposed BAL protocol was reviewed and revised. The laboratories were given a one month review period for comments or suggestions on the revised protocol after which it would be published in final form. A decision on the cut-off point for positive-negative categorization of BLPT was also deferred until expiration of

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the comment period. In general it was felt the meeting was productive and evidenced a considerable degree of consensus.

NIOSH NGK STUDY UPDATE

Dr. Eisenbud reported a conversation with Dr. Sanderson of NIOSH who indicated the study had been completed and was undergoing internal NIOSH review.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ISSUES

Dr. Eisenbud observed that industrial hygiene data was being used by epidemiologic researchers apparently without recognition of the accuracy or bias existing in that data. He had written a letter to Dr. Kottin suggesting a meeting with consultants to address what revisions in data gathering might be in order. Dr. Deubner stated that he wanted to assure himself that any new analytical method would be appropriate for review of the NJC epidemiologic findings. A meeting in Boston with Dr. Deubner was suggested but no decision reached.

Dr. Deubner reviewed the proposed program of particle size distribution and chemical activity of respirable fractions of beryllium suggested for the Tucson and Elmore plant sites. He noted that Dr. Eisenbud had been invited to participate in a meeting with ITRI representatives to review the program.

NJC EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORT

Dr. Deubner distributed copies of a letter by Dr. Trichopoulos and a response from Dr. Kreiss. It was agreed that Dr. Kreiss was not receptive to Dr. Trichopoulos' suggestions and no further effort was in order. A list of the specific comments supplied by Brush Wellman to Dr. Kreiss on the draft of her report is attached to the agenda for the meeting as Tab E.

Dr. Deubner described a proposed set of changes at the Elmore plant site in response to the NJC Elmore report. These included establishing three zones of risk; high, low and medium. Access to high risk zones would be restricted. Inter-zone transfers of materials and people would be monitored. Standard Operating Procedures would be redrafted for clarity and would be better enforced. It was agreed to furnish copies of new MSDS sheets to BISAAC for information.

RESULTS OF GENETIC TESTING

Considerable discussion was given to the relative responsibilities of Brush and Drs. Saltini and Kreiss in providing summary information with respect to

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genetic testing at Tucson and at Elmore. Notification of an individual employer's results (i.e. positive or negative) to that employee only, is set forth in a written procedure that was a part of the consent agreement. The broader issue of what does the test result indicate in terms of a worker's relative risk of developing sensitivity and/or disease is considerably less clear. The obligation, (if one exists), to inform prospective employees of the existence of this test and its availability was also discussed. It was agreed that further information about the availability and cost of such a test in the U.S. would be needed before a meaningful recommendation might be developed.

ACID MIST PAPER

Dr. Eisenbud stated his agreement with the conclusions of the paper and the need for its publication but felt that his reservations about the details of sulfur acid exposure at Lorain had not been adequately addressed. Drs. Trichopoulos, Deubner and Eisenbud redrafted the appropriate section of the paper and Dr. Deubner agreed to consolidate these revisions and to prepare a revised document for publication.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL STUDY

Mr. Powers distributed copies of an exchange of correspondence between Dr. Pharo of Mass. General and Brush attorneys in which Dr. Pharo denied ever seeing the BISAC demand for return of available funds, dated July 11, 1985. After being furnished a copy of that letter he promised to look into the matter without further delay.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO PROPOSAL

Dr. Deubner had circulated a proposal from Dr. Farhang Akbar of the Medical College of Ohio for a pilot study of exposure data on beryllium workers. The Committee had reviewed the proposal and noted several questionable aspects. It was the sense of the Committee that the proposal was quite vague, even for a pilot study.

SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Dr. Deubner reported that the surveillance program described at the April, 1986 meeting was undergoing internal review within Brush and no funds had as yet been budgeted for this program. He indicated that consideration was being given to a five year BLPT cycle for retesting, as opposed to the 3 year cycle previously discussed, and that new employees be tested on a two year basis. It was also proposed to modify section 3.1.3 of the draft program to consider asymptomatic patients with granulomata as having a diagnosis of subclinical CBD to conform to the language of 3.1.5.

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REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The deadline for submission of research proposals in response to Dr. Miller's RFP letter is June 1, 1986. It was agreed that a copy of every proposal received would be submitted to each Committee member for review and circulation. After review, comments should be forwarded to Mr. Powers for evaluation among the members.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 1400.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1986

The meeting was convened at 0800. Dr. Milton Rossman of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital was present by invitation to discuss his research findings on beryllium immunology and genetics. He described the possible mechanisms for immunological reaction to beryllium, the systems rejected and the reasons therefore and the efforts underway to evaluate the remainder. He confirmed Dr. Saltini's association of beryllium and the GLU-69 allele in the DP group but felt that there was a multi-genetic phenomenon present with the DR group as a likely source.

After his presentation, Dr. Rossman answered specific questions by the Committee members and participated in a general discussion of beryllium immunology and disease. He stated he would be submitting a proposal in response to the Committee RFP. In response to a question about the NIOSH funded study of beryllium he expressed reservations about splitting the funds between two research groups, questioning whether this in fact provided sufficient funds for either group to be effective.

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF BERYLLIUM TESTING

The need for and desirability of having a national registry of all BLPT and BAL testing data, while not listed on the prepared agenda for the meeting, was again raised for discussion. This concept was first included as a formal agenda item in the Joint DOE-BISAC Meeting held in Washington, DC in February 1982, which was attended by government, labor, industry and medical representatives and was the origin of the CABST. No agreement on the registry issue was reached. Some researchers objected to losing control of "their" data.

The issue has been addressed by BISAC several times since that meeting with a generally favorable reaction but with no practical mechanism for bringing it about. Since industry and the Government (essentially DOE) are the involved employers and have funded much of the research, they would have to provide

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the impetus for such an effort. It was agreed that the medical community, perhaps through BISAC, would have to identify the specific questions that needed to be answered by the accumulated data. Once the informational needs were established the Government and industry (possibly with support of organized labor) would have to set up the procedures to gather the necessary data.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The October meeting was set for Sunday and Monday, October 13 and 14, 1996 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

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