

Date: January 26, 2000
TO: BISAC
FROM: M. Powers
SUBJECT: Draft Minutes of November, 1999 Meeting

Enclosed for your review and approval is a draft copy of the subject minutes.

Cc David Deubner, M.D.

NGK-IL-B 07518

BISAC
MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 11 AND 12, 1999

The meeting commenced at eight A. M. Thursday, November 11, 1999. In addition to the full committee, attendance included Dr. David Deubner and Messers Skoch, Kent and Kulanz of Brush Wellman and Mr. Niwa of NGK.

Following his opening remarks, the Chairman suggested Mr. Skoch summarize the industry health-related concerns as Brush currently saw them. Mr. Skoch noted that the current CBD diagnostic criteria provides for a positive diagnosis based on lung sensitization and the presence of a granuloma in the lung with no other evidence of impairment. This has resulted in an increase in the number of CBD cases reported and, in turn, an impression of worsening health conditions in the industry. This perception has been further aggravated by the media use of terms such as "epidemic".

After some discussion, it was agreed that a more complete and medically accurate understanding was needed. The Committee was favorably impressed with the joint ACGIH-Beryllium Industry meeting on September 23, 1999 and felt that such meetings were beneficial in correcting some of the prevalent misinformation affecting the industry.

Dr. Deubner described the changes over the past decade in attempts to prevent CBD through the use of engineering controls, work practices, containment and respirator equipment. Dr. Lockey made several suggestions with respect to respirator usage and the need for avoiding inadvertant contamination when equipment is not in use.

Dr Deubner noted his concern with the recent BLPT data from the Cleveland Clinic and the possibility of false negatives. He stated his intention to retest the Cleveland Clinic data by sending samples to Dr. Rossman for retesting.

Dr. Miller restated his previously expressed concern that the testing protocol agreed upon by the laboratories was not being adhered to in practice. Without a strong commitment from DOE for strict laboratory compliance, there was no way for the industry to assure the availability of meaningful data.

Dr. Kofin reported that the NIEHS council to assess CBD research grants would not convene until February. Dr. Rogers reported no word from either Drs. Suckow or Meyers on their plans to apply for grants and agreed to follow up with them.

Mr. Kolanz described the sampling data that had been developed over the years at the Cardiff facility in Wales and reported that Brush was helping fund the analysis of the data by DOE in order to expedite its progress. There have been no reported cases of CBD at Cardiff in the years that the facility was in operation.

Mr. Kent reviewed the presentation made at the ACGIH-Brush Wellman meeting in September of the Brush Wellman-ACGIH research on particle size sampling. Although the limitations of the study preclude confirmation of the hypotheses suggested, the work represents an important contribution to the overall knowledge of exposure parameters and their possible influence on the development of CBD. The Committee offered a number of suggestions concerning the presentation of the data developed as well as to future research on sampling.

Prompted by the ACGIH-Brush meeting presentations, the Committee and the industry representatives spent considerable time in a free form random listing of research unknowns, areas of possible interest or value or other provocative research ideas that might be worth investigating. Industry representatives agreed to review the list of ideas and prepare a draft summary evaluation for BISAC review.

Friday, November 12, 1999

The meeting commenced at 7:30 A. M.

Dr. Rogers reviewed the paper on beryllium genetics prepared by the Los Alamos National Laboratory group. Copies of the literature references were distributed. The paper presented no significant new data. Dr. Deubner reported that Dr. Saltini was not planning on testing any new groups but was working on completion of the analysis of the data he had developed. The Committee reaffirmed its previously stated position that exchange of data on CBE cases and pooling of information was essential to an understanding of the disease and efforts to achieve this should continue despite the difficulties this presented.

Dr. Deubner described problems he had encountered in obtaining adequate pathology reports. After some discussion it was agreed that Dr. Miller would draft a form to be used in developing the desired information and that a copy of the draft form would be sent to Dr. Askins for his review and comments.

Dr. Deubner described a proposed pilot program to offer the availability of genetic marker testing to prospective employees of the Tucson plant. The program would provide pre-test counseling on the purposes of the test and its limitations and, for those who participate in the program, post-test counseling on the test results and their meaning. All of the safeguards utilized to protect employee confidentiality in past tests would be utilized in the pilot program. The company is currently contacting independent organizations to provide the necessary coordination to carry out the program and assure confidentiality.

Mr. Kolanz reported on the OSHA inspection of the Elmore plant and noted that for an inspection as lengthy and intensive as it was, the number and severity of the infractions found prompted OSHA to be complimentary of the company's efforts.

The NIOSH case control cancer study of the Reading Plant (the Sanderson Study) was reviewed by Dr. Trichopoulos. Since the study is apparently still open to revision, Dr. Trichopoulos agreed to meet with Dr. Sanderson and to point out errors in the study and means of correction.

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Mr. Kolanz agreed to contact Dr. Sanderson and attempt to arrange such a meeting as soon as practicable.

The need for research on CBD therapy and the means of developing such research was discussed. Dr. Lockey agreed to explore the relative roles of the Ohio College of Medicine and Kettering Institute in developing such a program. Dr. Lockey agreed to check on sarcoid papers for relevancy.

It was agreed that Brush Wellman would prepare a time line and agenda for the actions necessary to control the epidemiology of CBD and sensitization of employees in the plant for BISAC review at future meetings.

The Committee agreed to meet again on February 7 and 8, 2000 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon Friday.

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