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COURTNEY M. PRICE  
VICE PRESIDENT  
CHEMSTAR

MR 60372  
00274D

American  
Chemistry  
Council *Good Chemistry  
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July 10, 2002

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The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Clarification of VCCEP Sponsoring Organization for Benzene, o-Xylene, and m-Xylene

Dear Administrator Whitman:

I am writing to clarify that since the initial VCCEP sponsorship submissions in June 2001, the American Chemistry Council Benzene Team and the American Chemistry Council Toluene & Xylene VCCEP Consortium have combined into one group – the Benzene, Toluene, and Xylene (BTX) VCCEP Consortium (the “Consortium”). The combining of these groups does not alter the original list of sponsoring companies nor does it impact the plans to submit individual assessment for benzene, toluene, and xylene. Andrew Jaques is the technical contact for the new combined Consortium. He can be reached at 703-741-5627 or at [Andrew.Jaques@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Andrew.Jaques@americanchemistry.com), if you have any questions regarding the Consortiums’ VCCEP activities.

Sincerely yours,

cc: U.S. EPA, Document Control Office (7407)  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Stephen Johnson, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances

Charles Auer, Director  
Chemical Control Division  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

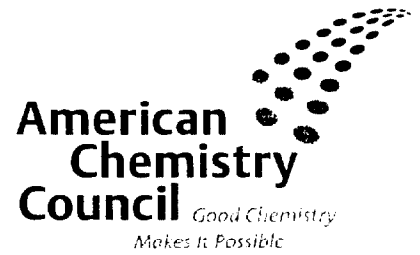
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VICE PRESIDENT  
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June 25, 2001

**BY HAND**

The Honorable Christine T. Whitman  
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

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RE: OPPTS-00274D; Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program,  
65 Fed. Reg. 8 1699. December 26, 2000

Dear Administrator Whitman:

The American Chemistry Council Benzene Team (Team) is submitting this letter to indicate its commitment to sponsor benzene in Tier 1 of EPA's pilot Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP). Sponsoring companies include: ATOFINA Petrochemicals, Inc.; BP Amoco Chemical Company; Chevron Phillips Chemical Company; The Dow Chemical Company; DuPont; Equistar Chemicals; ExxonMobil Chemical Company; Koch Industries, Inc.; Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC; Shell Chemical Company; Sterling Chemicals, Inc.; and, Sunoco, Inc.

The following table provides the information regarding the sponsored chemical.

**Sponsored Chemical for VCCEP Pilot – Tier 1**

Chemical	CASRN	Start Date*	Submission Date**
Benzene	71-43-2	12-15-01	6-30-02 to 12-15-02

\* The start date is intended to allow Team members to attend EPA-sponsored workshops on exposure requirements before undertaking significant efforts in that area. We understand that EPA currently contemplates workshops extending into the fall of this year.

\*\* A range is stated because of uncertainties concerning the requirements of the program, particularly as they pertain to exposure information. The **timeline** also will depend on the amount of exposure information available from other sources and the time required to obtain that information. See previous note and additional explanation in this commitment letter.

The Team understands that sponsoring benzene in Tier 1 of the VCCEP pilot means that the Team and its member companies have made a voluntary commitment to provide hazard and exposure data on benzene, consistent with the requirements of Tier 1 of the pilot program. As recognized in EPA's announcement of the pilot program,



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commitments are not enforceable agreements or contracts. In making this commitment, the Team and its members agree to:

- Develop a Hazard Assessment of Tier 1 studies (existing and new studies as needed) and existing higher tier hazard studies.
- Develop an Exposure Assessment, Risk Assessment, and a Data Needs Assessment.
- Prepare a Peer Consultation Document and provide three hard copies and an electronic copy to EPA.
- Make a good faith effort to start and finish all work in a timely manner and within the time period specified.
- Make the above-mentioned Tier 1 documents on hazard and exposure data provided under this program publicly available.
- Judge existing hazard studies not conducted per Good Laboratory Practices (GLPs) guidelines based on their merits.
- Generate any new hazard data using GLPs and current test guidelines as of the date the testing is conducted.
- Cooperate with other potential benzene sponsors in performing the tasks described above.

The Team has a number of questions and concerns pertaining to the exposure information that EPA expects to receive at Tier 1 of the pilot program. Many of these questions we hope will be addressed in the workshops that EPA intends to sponsor. One issue, however, warrants mention now. In the case of benzene, most (and perhaps virtually all) of the potential exposures to children pertain to activities unrelated to the manufacture, processing, use or disposal of benzene as a discrete (Class 1) chemical substance. Other sources include automotive gasoline and other combustion sources, exposure from products containing benzene in a complex mixture (e.g., gasoline and other Class 2 substances), and exposure from natural sources, (e.g. combustion emissions, biogenic sources).

Based on comments made by Mr. Steve Johnson to the American Chemistry Council on May 11, 2001 and in Mr. Johnson's letter of June 22, 2001 to Ms. Sandra Tiry of the American Chemistry Council, it is the Team's understanding that EPA does not expect Class 1 producers to submit exposure data pertaining to activities that are outside their control, such as those activities identified for benzene in the preceding sentences, beyond readily available public information for Tier 1. This is a critical point. Although while Team members intend to cooperate in good faith, they cannot fairly be expected to provide data and information that are beyond their capacity to generate or provide.

The Team will seek the cooperation of Class 2 producers, and would certainly welcome their participation in the pilot program. The cooperation of Class 2 producers may be an important factor in any decision to sponsor benzene under the pilot beyond Tier 1.

Also, it is the Team's understanding that EPA intends to hire a credible third-party contractor to conduct the Peer Consultation Process and that this will be an independent scientific review. We urge the Agency not to deviate from that plan.

The technical contact for this activity is:

Courtney M. Price  
Vice-President, CHEMSTAR  
American Chemistry Council  
1300 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22205  
Phone: 703-741-5600  
Fax: 703-741-6091  
E-mail: [courtney\\_price@americanchemistry.com](mailto:courtney_price@americanchemistry.com).

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this commitment.

Sincerely yours,

Courtney M. Price  
Vice-President, CHEMSTAR

cc: OPPT Document Control Office  
Mr. Stephen L. Johnson, US EPA OPPT  
Mr. William H. Sanders, US EPA OPPT  
Ms. Mary Ellen Weber, US EPA OPPT  
Mr. Charles M. Auer, US EPA OPPT  
Benzene Team