# CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

Glen H. Hiner GE Plastics January 1990

#### **BACKGROUND**

- Public Perceptions At A Critical Point:
  - 3 Out Of 4 Americans Consider Themselves Environmentalists
  - Environment Is 3rd Most Important Concern/Issue Behind Crime And Drugs
  - Industry Ranks Second-To-Last Or Last In Opinion Leader And Public Polls
    - Industry Produces Useful Products But Cost Of Progress Is Too High
    - Industry Credibility Seriously Low
    - Inability To Self-Regulate Perceived As An Issue

Sources: Gallup, ORC, Cambridge Reports



#### **BACKGROUND**

- Continuing Series Of Incidents Raise Public Concern
- Earth Day And Valdez Principles
- Without Industry Spokesman We Can Only Expect Continuing Decline



#### **BACKGROUND**

- November CMA Communications Plan Proposal:
  - Five-Year Program
  - Four Principal Audiences
  - \$50 Million Budget
  - Ad Hoc Committee Formed
- Acceleration Of Communications Identified As A Priority



# PUBLIC PERCEPTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Adopt The Proposed 5-Year External Communication Plan
- Commit Funding For 1990 At \$7.9 Million
- Approve Member Participation And Payment:
  - 50% CMA Reserves
  - 50% Determined By Finance Committee
- Continue Public Perception Research To Select Final Ad/Message
- Kick-Off Program As Proposed Preceding Earth Day
- Commit Funding For 1991 At \$9 Million Pending Report Of 1990 Results At November Meeting



#### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

#### **■** Goals

- Improve Public Perception Of The Chemical Industry
- Introduce Responsible Care
- Raise Awareness Of Industry Commitment And Progress
- Define Measurements For Future Industry Performance



## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- **■** Targeted Audiences
  - General Public Broad Reach
  - Opinion Leaders
  - Business And Finance
  - Government (Local, State, Federal)
  - Allied Chemical Industries





# **KEY QUESTIONS**

- Can We Have An Impact?
- Why Sooner vs. Later?
- What Are The Consequences Of Inaction?



#### FIRST YEAR COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- **■** Advertising
- **■** Syndicated Video Release
- Localized Radio Tie-In

Serves As Pilot Program For Longer Range Campaign



#### **MESSAGE PLATFORM**

- **■** Responsible Care Introduction
- Acknowledge Public Perceptions
- Balance Contributions And Progress vs. Problems
- **■** Initiate Awareness Process
  - Industry Has A Plan
  - Working Toward Measurable Improvement



#### **MESSAGE TESTING**

- Determine Public Perception Of Ads
- Identify Most Favorable Approach
- **■** Fine-Tune Message
- Public Advisory Panel
- **■** Focus Groups
  - 3 Groups
  - -Qualitative/Emotional
- **■** Intercepts
  - 10 To 12 Cities/300 Interviews
  - Quantitative/Projectable



#### **INITIAL FOCUS GROUP**

- Prototype ad testing/methodology
- 9 consumer participants
  - 5 male/4 female
  - 24-60 age range
  - Labor teacher management home retired occupational profile
- Communication to public gets credit
  - Important to remind of industry contributions
  - Acknowledging problems gains credibility
  - Skepticism . . . Actions speak louder than words
  - Concerned about what the follow-up will be



#### **AUDIENCE SEGMENTATION/MEDIA**

- National Reach
- **■** Opinion Leaders
- **■** Reach & Frequency
- 4-Week Impact Period



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#### **MEASUREMENTS**

- Readership Evaluation/Studies
- **■** In-Bound Telemarketing
- Targeted Telephone Surveys
- Benchmark Studies Used Longer Term



# **TIMETABLE**

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■ Brochure Fulfillment & Post Measurement																•	•	•	•	•	•	•

### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM COST:	\$7,880,367
Readership And Evaluation Studies	30,000
Media Placement	7,778,847
Intercept Interviews	16,050
Focus Groups	10,220
Final Revisions For Publication, Video, Radio Production	26,500
Preparation Of Comprehensive Layouts For Four (4) Ads, Video And Radio	13,500
Creative Concepts, Rough Ad Layouts	\$ 5,250
DESCRIPTION	