

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT:
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF
CHARLES M. AUER**

Transcript of Interviews
Conducted by

Jody A. Roberts and Kavita D. Hardy

in

Washington, D.C.

on

23 April 2010

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

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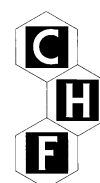
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CHARLES M. AUER

1952 Born in Baltimore, Maryland on 18 June

Education

1974 B.S., Biochemistry, University of Maryland, College Park

Professional Experience

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

1976-1985 Staff chemist, Office of Toxic Substances

1985-1988 Section Chief, Metabolism and Structure Activity Section, Office of Toxic Substances

1985-1988 Branch Chief, New Chemicals Assessment Branch, Office of Toxic Substances

1988-1989 Deputy Director, Health and Environmental Review Division, Office of Toxic Substances

1989-1992 Director, Existing Chemical Assessment Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

1992-2002 Director, Chemical Control Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

2002-2009 Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

2009-Present Charles Auer and Associates, Poolesville, Maryland
President

2009-Present Bergeson & Campbell, P.C., Washington, D.C.
Affiliate

Honors

1979 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1981 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1983 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1985 Dr. Joseph Seifter Memorial Award in Toxicology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- 1987 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 1989 Dr. Joseph Seifter Memorial Award in Regulatory Science, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 1989 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 1989 Lee M. Thomas Excellence in Management Award, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 1991 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 1994 Bronze Medal for Commendable Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 2008 Award for Sustained Outstanding Contributions to International Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 2008 Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Executive, Senior Executive Service
- 2008 Gold Medal, Distinguished Career Service Award, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ABSTRACT

Charles M. Auer joined the EPA's Office of Toxic Substances, before the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was passed, as an entry level chemist doing screening-level risk assessments. He was the first chair of the Structure Activity Team, which was responsible for developing structure activity relationship (SAR) analysis as a method for evaluating new chemicals. While it was clear to Auer that there was never any question that SAR satisfied the legal requirements of TSCA's Section 4 premanufacture review, he witnessed several studies to verify the validity of SAR results, including a joint effort between the EPA and European Union in the early 1990s. By this time Auer was Director of the Existing Chemical Assessment Division, where SARs were not as heavily relied upon. As a division director, Auer found it difficult to prioritize existing chemicals, primarily because Inventory Update Rules were not issued to collect changing hazard and exposure information; the EPA attempted other, more voluntary methods to collect data, to varying degrees of success.

Auer believes that the Office has been very innovating, adjusting to emerging science on toxicity and applying TSCA while staying within its legal limits, and that the key to an effective toxics program is to be as dynamic as the chemical industry.

INTERVIEWERS

Jody A. Roberts is the Associate Director for the Center for Contemporary History and Policy and the Manager of the Environmental History and Policy Program at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Roberts received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Science and Technology Studies from Virginia Tech and holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Saint Vincent College. His research focuses on the intersections of regulation, innovation, environmental issues, and emerging technologies within the chemical sciences.

Kavita D. Hardy is a research assistant in the Environmental History and Policy Program at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. She received a B.A. in Chemistry and Economics from Swarthmore College.

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