

Attachment 1

July 19, 2006 "Note for settling parties" from the Science Panel (1 page)

Note for settling parties

We have prepared some outline protocols for several interlinked research components addressing the potential health effects of exposure to C8 around the Washington Works plant. "C8 Science Panel Community Health Study: Outline Protocols; June 30 2006"

These are not final but we shared them with the settling parties for the express purpose of allowing them to see the overall approach we are taking and the likely timescales for generating findings in the Community Study.

Included in the protocols are some data that should under no circumstances be allowed to fall into the hands of the press, general public or general scientific community. We have received some preliminary data from Brookmar on the survey results of the C8 Health Project, understood by them and us to be confidential, and we have examined it for the purposes of helping us in developing study designs and calculated statistical power only, not to provide meaningful findings. We have included some tabulations of, for example, average blood C8 levels and some prevalences of self reported disease (though not any information on whether or not they correlate – we have not looked at that).

These data were arbitrary subsets of the data as they accumulate, and are not representative of the full database, any tabulations are crude rather than adjusted so are not comparable, the different protocols used the accumulating data at different times, so the data used in different tables may be different. We judge these kinds of data sufficient for our purposes of study design, but not appropriate for any kind of inference about the health or exposure of this population.

Further, complete results will be subject to release and dissemination after careful review and analysis by Brookmar (for a descriptive summary) and the Science Panel (analytical relationships). We understand that Brookmar will make available a full copy of the anonymised data to any interested parties, as soon as they have completed the assembly and quality control of the data.

We would therefore ask the settling parties' counsel not to distribute these draft protocols with the summary of some of the Brookmar data. We will issue a version of our protocols for dissemination without such results.

If for reasons of complying with relevant laws the settling parties decide to share these tables with any regulators we would ask they attach this note of explanation.

The Science Panel
19 July 2006