

## **DOH Response to Lackawanna Citizens' Overwatch Project – Toxicologist Assessment Request for WEA Manufacturing site**

Thank you for reaching out to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH). We are truly sorry to hear of the health symptoms former employees and community members have experienced or are currently experiencing. We understand that you are concerned about employee and community exposure related to the WEA Manufacturing facility.

In response to the concerns you raised, PA DOH reviewed all data available to us, including data from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Pennsylvania cancer registry. We were able to assess the rates of 23 common cancers in the municipalities surrounding the facility and compare it with the rest of Lackawanna County, as well as the surrounding counties from 1985 to 2022. This type of analysis is typically the first step taken when assessing whether the area experienced any significant change in cancer rates over time associated with ongoing environmental exposures. This analysis did not indicate consistent change (increase or decrease) in cancer rates in the municipalities surrounding the facilities compared to the rest of Lackawanna County and the surrounding counties. This does not mean that there were no exposures at the facility, but none were identified based on the available information. A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document describing the findings of the cancer assessment is attached and will be posted on our website to make it available to the community.

We understand your request to conduct a cancer risk assessment; however, as discussed in our meeting on March 18, 2025, due to the plant being closed we do not have access to the necessary data to perform a workplace cancer risk assessment (such as individual employee information for all employees and detailed individual chemical exposure data).

In response to the request to provide information on certain chemicals, exposure pathways, and potential health risk, please see below information.

### **Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs**

- [ATSDR Trichloroethylene ToxFAQs](#)
- [ATSDR Sulfur Trioxide and Sulfuric Acid ToxFAQs](#)
- [ATSDR Tetrachloroethylene ToxFAQs](#)
- [ATSDR Nickel ToxFAQs](#)
- [ATSDR Lead ToxFAQs](#)
- [ATSDR Cobalt ToxFAQs](#)
- [ATSDR Cadmium ToxFAQs](#)
- [Vinyl Chloride - ToxFAQs](#)
- [bis-2-ethylhexyl-phthalate.pdf](#)

If there are other chemicals of interest, an alphabetized list of available Toxicological Profiles can be found here: [A-Z Index of Tox Profiles | Toxicological Profiles | ATSDR](#).

You also requested advice on exposure pathways that may have impacted employees. Since we do not have individual employee exposure data, we are unable to expand upon which exposure

pathways were most likely to have occurred or are of greatest concern. The links provided above include chemical exposure pathway information for specific chemicals of interest.

PA DOH is committed to transparency and to continuing to support the community; however, we are unable to support private legal actions or provide legal guidance outside of the Department.