



June 8, 2001

Mr. George D. Cato
Deputy General Counsel
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199

OR2001-2413

Dear Mr. Cato:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 148276.

The Texas Department of Health (the “department”) received a written request for the “Sara Tier 2 Reports” regarding 78 named facilities.¹ You do not contend that the requested information is excepted from public disclosure, but rather have sought a decision from this office pursuant to section 552.305 of the Government Code, which allows governmental bodies to rely on third parties having a privacy or property interest in the information to submit their own arguments as to why the requested information is excepted from public disclosure.

This office did not receive any comments from the companies whose records are at issue indicating that they wished to have their respective records withheld from the public. Consequently, this office has no basis on which to conclude that any of the information at issue is excepted from required public disclosure under the Public Information Act. Accordingly, we conclude that the department must release the requested information in its entirety.

¹You inform this office that you inadvertently submitted the records pertaining to “RohMax USA, Inc. as being responsive to the request. Because the requestor did not seek records pertaining to RohMax USA, Inc., this ruling does not address these particular records.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, within 10 calendar days of this ruling, the governmental body will do one of the following three things: 1) release the public records; 2) notify the requestor of the exact day, time, and place that copies of the records will be provided or that the records can be inspected; or 3) notify the requestor of the governmental body's intent to challenge this letter ruling in court. If the governmental body fails to do one of these three things within 10 calendar days of this ruling, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at 877/673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Department of Public Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.--Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the General Services Commission at 512/475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for

contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/RWP/seg

Ref: ID# 148276

Encl. Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Scott Johnston
16 Postal Road
Cream Ridge, New Jersey 08514
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Dale E. Hill
E.I. Dupont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
1007 Market Street
Wilmington, Delaware, 19898
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. John E. Neely
Safety Manager
Crown Central Petroleum Corporation
P.O. Box 1759
Houston, Texas 77251
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. William Sonnier
President
Chusei USA Inc.
12500 Bay Area Boulevard
Pasadena, Texas 77507
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. James S. Alder
Site Director
Celanese Ltd.
1601 West LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75234
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. J. R. Miller
Operation Manager
Air Liquide American Corp.
P.O. Box 3047
Houston, Texas 77253
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Rafael Mendez
Environmental Engineer
Akzo Nobel Chemicals Inc.
13000 Bay Park Road
Pasadena, Texas 77507
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Tim Thompson
Akzo Nobel
300 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Steve J. Poscik
Plant Manager
Fina Oil & Chemical Company
6000 Legacy Drive
Plano, Texas 75024
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Terrence J. Zerr
Manager
FMC Corporation
200 East Randolph Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Carlos I. Diaz
Environmental Manager
Global Octanes Corporation
1000 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002-4915
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Sheila Donnelly
Plant Manager
RohMax USA Inc.
723 Electronic Drive
Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044-2228
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Linda Salinas
Supervisor
TexMark Chemicals
P.O. Box 67
Galena Park, Texas 77547
(w/o enclosures)