



DuPont Pompton Lakes Works Contaminated Sites/Neighborhoods Pompton Lakes, New Jersey

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SITE HISTORY:



- DuPont operated a munitions plant from 1902 – 1994 . Products included lead azide, aluminum, or bronze shelled blasting caps and operated processes produced metal wires and aluminum and copper shells.
- The total site encompasses 630 acres of land in Pompton Lakes and Wanaque.
- There are two parallel valleys (Wanaque River and the Acid Brook) run through the site north to south.
- Land use in the vicinity of the site is predominately residential with some commercial, but also includes undeveloped areas, an interstate highway (Route 287) and a state-owner forest
- E. I DuPont De Nemours dumped chemicals into the soil and waterways. While the company closed their explosives site almost 20 years, it has yet to clean up the mess it left behind. The closed work site is still owned by DuPont.



OUR FIGHT:



- For decades, families like mine have been suffering from the toxic pollution left in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey by E. I. DuPont De Nemours.
- Hundreds of families living in over 400 residential homes suffer from contaminated soil, groundwater and poisonous gases in the soil that migrate up into our basements, known as vapor intrusion.
- The air we breathe inside our homes is filled with TCE and PCE, and the full extent of all this pollution in our community is still not fully understood. The lake we used to swim and fish in is lined with high levels of lead and mercury.
- Two years ago, the NJ Department of Human Health and Senior Services released a shocking report with the ATSDR. It found a "significantly elevated" cancer rate in the region potentially linked to contamination from the Pompton Lakes Works DuPont explosives site.
- Pompton Lakes residents in the DuPont Plume were the first in history to obtain the right to hire their own third party NJDEP-approved contractors to test and vapor mitigate their homes. This permission was granted because of the lack of trust in the polluter's contractor.
- To-date we continue to wait for a cleanup plan. In the last three decades, we are aware of only three groundwater pilot studies being implemented and all three failed.



OUR GOAL:



- EPA to perform a full independent investigation of the DuPont site and our neighborhoods
- A Superfund National Priorities Listing:
 - We recently discovered that there was a Hazard Ranking performed on the DuPont site by the EPA back in 1982.
 - Our HRS score was 68+, well over the 28.5 qualifying score to be considered for Superfund Designation.
 - This did not include our serious mercury contamination issues or our vapor intrusion contamination.
 - We are seeking a Superfund designation to ensure a full investigation and residential clean-up of this site and our residential areas

Please sign and share our petition on Change.org :

"Stop DuPont Chemical from Poison New Jersey Families"

<http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-dupont-chemical-from-poisoning-new-jersey-families>

HEALTH IMPACTS:



Past exposures, Property values, Responsibility of Environmental Regulatory Agencies...

Pompton Lakes needs a full independent investigation of the DuPont site, our contaminated neighborhood and our contaminated waterways.



- Over 430 homes' property values have significantly dropped. Many families have been refused by several banks to refinance their mortgages because their homes are not worth enough due to the contamination and vapor intrusion. Others cannot sell their homes because they have a vapor mitigation system and cannot get an NFA.
- The responsible party in Pompton Lakes, DuPont, should have to compile a **Property Value Plan** for the residents of Pompton Lakes. It has been done before when the our initial soil contamination was discovered in the late 1980s in the residential area known as "DuPont Village" here in Pompton Lakes.
- We are battling for a true high residential clean-up and believe without a Superfund designation we have a slim chance of seeing this occur when we have others in our community asking for the DuPont site **zoned "recreational/conservation" to receive only an industrial clean-up.**
- **Natural Resource Damages Compensation** has not been addressed and must be analyzed in Pompton Lakes.
- To-date we have **9,650 signatures on our Superfund designation position:** "Stop DuPont Chemical from Poisoning New Jersey Families," and has been submitted to USEPA and our elected officials, yet the **USEPA has not take any action** after several repeated requests from the community.

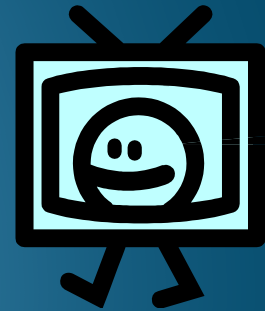
COMMUNICATION:



Regulatory agency's communication and community outreach of site history, sampling, property access, and mitigation options:

Improvements are sorely needed in the way information is communicated to the public. Recommendations are as follows:

- Utilize Pompton Lakes public television cable station Channel 77 for all pertinent information.
- Making use of the Borough of Pompton Lakes robo-call system to reach out via telephone to our residents.
- An improvement in the works: The EPA has agreed to make sure that our library repository is up-to-date on all historical documents in relation to the DuPont contamination. This was achieved by a resolution submitted to the EPA by the Pompton Lake Community Advisory Group (CAG).
- Many people have communicated to us that they are unaware of the progress being made on sampling, the investigation of the DuPont site itself and there is a lack of public input at this time.



COMMUNICATION:

(cont.)



- Public Hearings should be held when decisions are being made on all aspects of the DuPont contamination as mentioned. To-date we have only had one public hearing in the history of the DuPont contamination which occurred on 1/5/12 here in Pompton Lakes, NJ.
- Technical Data: Due to the complexity of this information it should be mandatory for a technical advisor to be provided to assist the citizens' groups.
- Utilize citizens' action group: in our case, Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes as well as the Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group (CAG), to disseminate information to the public. We have and will continue to disseminated important contamination-related information at our CAG meetings but we can only disseminate information that is share with us.



BILINGUAL INFO:



Necessity of Fact sheets, presentations in Spanish or other languages to non-English speakers...

Personal Experience:

I recently was invited and attended a parent meeting of the HeadStart program which runs a daycare facility in the community of Pompton Lakes. Many there were fluent in Spanish and have difficulty staying up on contaminated-related news in Pompton Lakes due to the language and cultural barrier.



HeadStart Parents:

- Asked valid solid questions
- Want to be involved and become educated on the contamination issues.
- We invited them to the next Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group open public meeting which will be held on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7 pm. Ruth Paez, Secretary, Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes and PLCAG member, will assist in translation to Spanish during our meeting.

Our suggestions:

- All critical information relating to all contamination issues be done in English and Spanish in Pompton Lakes.
- An evaluation of the diversity in languages must be conducted by the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator so that the appropriate signage is posted and fact sheets are distribute in multiple languages.

PLUME ISSUES:



The newly created NJDEP/EPA Process for Sub-Slab and Indoor Volatile Organic Sampling must be revised to reflect that the residents are not responsible for any testing costs:

- The "10" chemical soil sub-slab testing option must be removed.
- The "61" chemicals must be mandated and performed on all DuPont plume and barrier area residential properties.
- The release of this document was a slap-in-the-face to the affected residents and the community of Pompton Lakes

Property tax relief for the plume residents:

- The polluter should pay all residential property taxes for the homes located in the "plume /barrier areas" as a fine until the contamination (plume) is cleaned up
- This would accelerate the clean-up time because they (DuPont) would be responsible for payment of the property taxes of our homes each year until the clean up of their site and our neighborhoods are completed
- Implement a 0% Mortgage Relief Program for residents living in the DuPont plume/barrier areas

Any and all previous "closed door" agreements with either DuPont, Pompton Lakes Municipality, and or NJDEP will not be honored. New agreements will be developed in conjunction with the plume resident's input and approval only.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REMAIN.....



ALL CITIZENS HAVE A BASIC RIGHT TO A SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT!

In 2008, we learned that nearly 1,500 men, women and children who occupy over 425 homes are at risk from toxic contaminants coming into their homes. Concern for the safety and well-being of our residents has been lacking for over two decades. Community change is needed immediately.

Honest answers are needed to these questions:

- Can they clean our neighborhoods in a reasonable amount of time (5 years)?
- Can the contamination be cleaned-up in our lifetime?
- Can the site and our neighborhoods be cleaned to the highest residential standards? If so, how long will it take?

No one should have to live in contamination! The residents of Pompton Lakes should not be subjected to losing their life savings because of this toxic horror story! In many cases our residents' homes are all they have. They should be given the option to move to a clean and safe environment to live out their lives without bearing the financial burden.

The community of Pompton Lakes needs relief now and has been waiting two decades too long!

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