

Chemours (Formerly DuPont) Pompton Lakes Works Site

Pompton Lakes, Passaic County

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Program Interest #: 007411



SITE HISTORY

The Chemours Pompton Lakes Works site is located at 2000 Cannonball Road in Pompton Lakes, Passaic County, New Jersey. It was formerly owned by the E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company and is still commonly referred to as the DuPont Pompton Lakes Works site. The site occupies approximately 588 acres in Pompton Lakes Borough and Wanaque Township. Two major drainage areas, the Wanaque River and Acid Brook, run through the site from north to south. The site is situated in a predominantly residential and commercial area, but is also located near undeveloped areas, an interstate highway (Route 287), and state-owned forest.

The former DuPont Pompton Lakes Works facility operated between 1902 and 1994. It is currently vacant except for an office and support buildings. Lead azide, aluminum and bronze shelled blasting caps, metal wires, and aluminum and copper shells were manufactured at the site. Historic manufacturing and waste management practices resulted in contamination of the on-site and off-site soils, sediments, and ground water. Soils and sediments in Acid Brook and the surrounding flood plain leading to Pompton Lake were contaminated with lead and mercury, and lead and mercury contaminated soils were identified at several residential properties located along Acid Brook. Discharges from the site also contaminated the Wanaque River sediments. Ground water is contaminated with chlorinated volatile organic compounds, primarily tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethylene, or PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE), and a plume of contaminated ground water has migrated in a southeasterly direction into a residential area between the former DuPont facility and Pompton Lake. These residences receive potable water from the Municipal Utility Authority and no potable wells were identified to currently exist within the ground water plume area.

Due to the widespread on-site and off-site contamination, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have required Chemours to thoroughly investigate the extent of the contamination at the facility and off-site areas and implement appropriate remedial actions. USEPA and NJDEP are coordinating regulatory reviews of all required reports and work plans. Significant investigation and remediation has been conducted for the soils, sediments, and ground water; however, additional remedial actions are required to fully address the historic site discharges. Summarized below is the work conducted on-site and off-site to date.

ON-SITE SOIL CONTAMINATION

Chemours completed its investigation of the extent of the contamination in the soil at the former DuPont Pompton Lakes Works site and is in the process of evaluating remedial actions to address it. Soils impacted by site-related contaminants have been addressed by interim remedial measures at some of the 202 areas of environmental concern. NJDEP and USEPA are reviewing Chemours' Corrective Measures Study for the on-site soil.

GROUND WATER EXTRACTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM

In 1998, Chemours completed installation of an on-site ground water extraction and treatment system designed to prevent the continued off-site migration of contaminated ground water. Six extraction wells operate near the southern boundary of the site, pumping a combined average of 130-140 gallons per minute. The extracted water is sent through an air stripper to remove the chlorinated volatile organic compounds, and the treated water is reinjected into the shallow aquifer via a series of infiltration galleries along the southeastern portion of the site. The levels of chlorinated volatile organic compounds in the off-site shallow, intermediate and deep ground water monitoring wells have shown decreasing trends, with significant reductions seen in the shallow off-site wells.

VAPOR INTRUSION INVESTIGATION AND MITIGATION

Sub-slab soil gas testing performed by Chemours in 2008 revealed there were elevated levels of site-related chlorinated volatile organic compounds in the soil gas beneath seven homes situated above the off-site shallow ground water contamination plume. The presence of chlorinated organic vapors beneath buildings in the ground water plume area raised concerns about the occupants' possible exposure to these contaminants through "vapor intrusion." Later that year, NJDEP and USEPA approved Chemours' Vapor Interim Remedial Measure Work Plan, which included a proposal to proactively install vapor mitigation systems (also known as subsurface depressurization systems) as a protective measure at structures located within the shallow ground water plume area. In 2009, USEPA and NJDEP approved Chemours' plan to conduct vapor intrusion sampling at homes whose owners had not allowed access to install vapor mitigation systems. As of November 2018, vapor mitigation systems were operating at 337 residences, and four residences were undergoing long-term indoor air monitoring as an alternative to having a system installed. Chemours is evaluating additional treatment technologies to address the contaminants in the off-site shallow ground water plume and in 2016 had proposed a hydraulic surcharging pilot study. NJDEP denied Chemours' Permit-by-Rule application for the pilot study in November 2018 after concluding the contaminant levels in the shallow aquifer are decreasing and the study is currently not warranted.

REMEDICATION OF SOILS AND SEDIMENTS IN ACID BROOK AND WANAUKE RIVER

In 1997, DuPont completed the removal of sediments in Acid Brook and the soils impacted along the brook including residential properties. Soils and sediments were restored with clean soil. Chemours has also remediated contaminated soil both on-site and off-site in the Wanaque River Valley. Chemours is performing additional remedial work in the Wanaque River that is focused on sediments in the river bottom and soil along the river banks in sections of the river located on the former DuPont Pompton Lakes Works site.

REMEDICATION OF POMPTON LAKE/ROTARY PARK/ACID BROOK DELTA

Since 2016, portions of Pompton Lake and several nearby areas adjacent to Lakeside Avenue have been undergoing remediation to remove contaminated soil and sediments. The soil remediation phase of the project entailed excavating soil contaminated with mercury, lead and other metals and backfilling the areas with clean soil. This phase of the project included Rotary Park, the woodlands adjacent to and west of Rotary Park, and other adjoining areas. The sediment remediation phase of the project entailed the dredging, processing and off-site disposal of contaminated sediments containing mainly mercury and lead from the Acid Brook Delta and two areas within Pompton Lake referred to as "Area A" and the "Island Area." Dredged areas were covered with an "ecological layer", a six-inch layer of sand to facilitate biological growth. The dredging of Pompton Lake and restoration activities were completed in September 2018. A long-term monitoring program is being developed to assess the impacts of the dredging and restoration on the lake's ecosystem over an initial five-year period.

Additional information about this site is available on NJDEP's and USEPA's web pages:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/community/sites/dupont_pompton_lakes/

<https://www.epa.gov/nj/chemours-pompton-lakes-works-site-pompton-lakes-nj-0>

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