



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Catherine R. McCabe
Commissioner

**FACT SHEET
ALLEGATIONS AND BACKGROUND
OCTOBER 2019 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTIONS**

NANES METAL FINISHING

Located in Newark, Essex County
Median Household Income: \$34,826 | % Minority: 90.0

From 1966 until 1994, Nanes Metal Finishing Company, Inc., operated a metal finishing, assembly, and production business at 461-491 Fourth Street. In 2000, DEP discovered a number of chemicals used in the metal finishing and production operations had been discharged to soil and groundwater at the site. These discharges included TCE and PCE. Exposure to these substances has been linked to kidney dysfunction, respiratory tract irritation, and cognitive and neurological effects. Although the company commenced cleanup at the property, remediation has still not been completed, and soil and groundwater contamination remains. DEP is seeking an order requiring the company to finish cleaning up the impacted soil and groundwater and to pay back DEP for the roughly \$500,000 in cleanup costs that it had to incur. The defendants are Nanes Metal Finishing Company, 305 Third Avenue West, LLC, and RZP NJ, LLC.

SAINTE MARIE DRY CLEANERS

Located in Trenton, Mercer County
Median Household Income: \$35,524 | % Minority: 88.0

Walter Zoladz operated Sainte Marie Dry Cleaners in 723-725 Chestnut Street in Trenton, a residential neighborhood. The company's operations led to the discharge of PCE—a hazardous substance—at the site. Zoladz abandoned the property around 2008 without remediating the site, and later owners acquired it in 2014, and again in 2015, without conducting a site investigation. In 2018, DEP discovered that the PCE had migrated off-site and PCE vapor was impacting five residential properties near the location. Exposure to PCE has been linked to kidney dysfunction, respiratory tract irritation, and cognitive and neurological effects. Due to the immediate concern, DEP funded the installation of vapor intrusion mitigation systems, which prevent PCE vapors from entering these homes and harming residents, and which DEP continues to maintain around these residences. DEP is seeking to compel the defendants to clean up the PCE contamination, reimburse DEP for costs in excess of \$400,000, and to pay civil penalties for their failure to remediate the property. The defendants are Walter Zoladz, MCAWCP IV Corp., and CHM Properties, LLC.

SCHOFIELD CLEANERS

Located in Trenton, Mercer County
Median Household Income: \$35,524 | % Minority: 88.0

Schofield Cleaners, Inc., owned property located at 1474 West State Street beginning in 1992, where it operated a dry cleaning business. As part of its operations, Schofield Cleaners maintained underground storage tanks at its property to store dry cleaning solvents containing PCE and PCE byproducts. An inspection in 1997 revealed that one storage tank was in poor condition, and had holes, and subsequent samples of soil surrounding the tank revealed PCE contamination. Exposure to PCE has been linked to kidney dysfunction, respiratory tract irritation, and cognitive and neurological effects. For the next decade, however, Schofield Cleaners failed to comply with

its obligations to remediate the property. So on July 21, 2017, DEP ordered Schofield to remediate the property and to pay a \$105,240 administrative penalty. DEP now seeks to enforce that order, compelling Schofield to remediate the site and to pay the penalty. DEP also seeks civil penalties for Schofield's violation of the order. The defendant is Schofield Cleaners.

260-268 CHESTNUT STREET

Located in Camden, Camden County
Median Household Income: \$26,105 | % Minority: 94.0

This property, 260-268 Chestnut Street, currently has approximately 10,000 cubic yards of solid waste, including scrap metals, construction and demolition debris, fill dirt, and miscellaneous discarded materials—all of which were illegally disposed there. While DEP successfully ordered the previous property owners, William Yocco and Damon Yocco, to remove suspected hazardous materials back in 2013, in the past six years they still have taken no action to remove the remaining solid waste. DEP's action seeks the removal and proper disposal of all solid waste at the property and seeks penalties. The Yoccos sold the property in July, but neither they nor the new owner have made any arrangements regarding removal of the illegal solid wastes. The defendants are prior owners William and Damon Yocco and current owner Andre Webb.

AUTO SCRAP, INC.

Located in Kearny, Hudson County
Median Household Income: \$63,271 | % Minority: 59.0

Auto Scrap, Inc., an auto recycling facility, receives vehicles at its site and dismantles them to sell auto parts and scrap metal. Because Auto Scrap has repeatedly failed to prevent exposure of oil and other fluids into the pervious ground (porous ground that enables oil and fluids to pass into the groundwater) and stormwater, since 2002 DEP has issued orders requiring the company to comply with the Water Pollution Control Act and the terms of Auto Scrap's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit. Auto Scrap has failed to comply with the prior DEP orders, so DEP entered a final order demanding compliance and payment of \$55,000 in penalties. DEP's action seeks to require compliance with that final order. The defendant is Auto Scrap, Inc.

GAS MART

Located in East Orange, Essex County
Median Household Income: \$14,819 | % Minority: 96.5

This property, located at 66-68 North Park Street, is the site of four underground storage tanks (USTs) containing motor fuel. In 2010, the Department determined the site owners failed to comply with regulations governing USTs, including failure to properly test, maintain, and register the USTs. In 2016, the Department ordered the USTs be removed by a remediation professional, and assessed a penalty of \$88,400.00. The Department now seeks to enforce this final order and to collect additional civil penalties for the continued violation of the final order. The defendants are Viathon, Inc. and Robert Comizio, individually and as president of Viathon, Inc.