

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 are 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 has 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 designing remedial actions to address it. NJDEP will restrict the use of any part of the property that may present a threat to human health.

ON-SITE 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 off-site migration of contaminated ground water. Over the past two decades, the concentrations of contaminants in the plume have varied but the overall size of the plume has not changed. 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 aquifer via a series of infiltration galleries along the southeastern portion of the site.

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REMEDIATION OF SOILS AND SEDIMENTS IN ACID BROOK AND WANAUQUE RIVER

In 1997, Chemours completed remediation of the contaminated soils and sediments in Acid Brook. Contaminated soil and sediments were removed from the brook and several adjacent residential properties and replaced 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 that are located on the former DuPont Pompton Lakes Works site.

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 provided access to install vapor mitigation systems. As of September 2017, vapor mitigation systems were operating at 333 residential properties in the off-site residential area. Chemours is evaluating additional treatment technologies to address the contaminants in the off-site shallow ground water plume.

REMEDIATION OF POMPTON LAKE

Since 2016, portions of Pompton Lake have been undergoing remediation to remove contaminated soil and sediment. The first phase of work included excavation of approximately 3,160 cubic yards of soil contaminated with mercury, lead, and other metals. This phase of the project included Rotary Park, the woodlands adjacent to and west of Rotary Park that includes Acid Brook (south of Lakeside Avenue), and the area along the south side of Lakeside Avenue moving east to Lakeside Avenue Park. Work also included the dredging of approximately 19,300 cubic yards of contaminated sediments in two areas within Pompton Lake referred to as "the Island Area" and "Lake Area A." The Pompton Lake remediation is approximately 50% complete and expected to continue until late 2018. A long-term monitoring program has been designed to establish baseline conditions and monitor key indicators within the project area over an initial five-year period.

Additional information about the Chemours (formerly DuPont) Pompton Lakes Works 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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