



BOROUGH of PAULSBORO

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January 15, 2014

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor
Post Office Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Subject: Drinking water contamination in Paulsboro

My dear Governor:

I am writing you to ask you to have the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) respond immediately to a public health issue that has been ignored for too long in the Borough of Paulsboro.

The Solvay Solaxis facility in neighboring West Deptford has contaminated our public water supply system and our river and creek sediments with hazardous waste, including perfluorochemical compounds (PFCs), with particularly high levels of the PFC perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA). These toxic PFCs have entered the Borough of Paulsboro's groundwater, have migrated to the Borough's public drinking water supply wells, and permeate Mantua Creek and the Delaware River in and adjoining Paulsboro.

In recent years, PFCs have been linked by independent scientists to a range of serious adverse health effects, and those effects may be especially of concern for children and the elderly. The PFC levels registered in Paulsboro's drinking water – particularly of PFNA – are among the highest measured anywhere in the country. Yet nothing has been done to protect Paulsboro's residents from Solvay's hazardous waste.

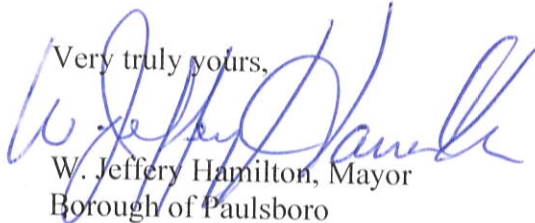
DEP has overseen some limited remedial activity at the Solvay facility itself, but has not required Solvay to do anything about our drinking water other than to conduct sampling. We have put Solvay on notice that we intend to compel them to clean up this imminent and substantial harm to our drinking water and river and creek sediments through a citizens' suit under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and other laws, but we need your immediate help to protect and inform our citizens while we pursue relief in federal court. Solvay, for its part, has responded by canceling its January 6, 2013 meeting with us to review sampling results, despite earlier promises to engage in collaborative and constructive talks.

Accordingly, I respectfully ask that you take the following actions as soon as possible:

1. Direct DEP Commissioner Bob Martin and DOH Commissioner Mary E. O'Dowd jointly to conduct a public information session in the Borough of Paulsboro to inform our residents about the quality of our drinking water and the nature of health risks associated with PFCs.
2. Direct Commissioner O'Dowd to undertake blood studies of a scientifically appropriate group of long-term residents of the borough to determine whether and to what extent PFCs, which persist and bioaccumulate in the bloodstream, are detected.
3. Direct Commissioner Martin to use his authority under New Jersey's Spill Act and other laws to force Solvay to provide or fund substitute drinking water sources for our residents while we seek long-term relief in court.
4. Direct Commissioner Martin to reconvene the department's Drinking Water Quality Institute and have it develop appropriate standards for PFCs in drinking water based on sound science.
5. Direct Commissioner Martin and Commissioner O'Dowd to convene a meeting among DEP, DOH, Solvay, and the Borough and its professionals to identify additional measures that are needed to ensure that Paulsboro's residents are both safe and informed.

Governor, we urgently need your leadership to protect our residents.

Very truly yours,



W. Jeffery Hamilton, Mayor
Borough of Paulsboro

- C:
- The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney, Senate President
 - The Honorable John J. Burzichelli, Assemblyman (District 3)
 - The Honorable Celeste M. Riley, Assemblywoman (District 3)
 - The Honorable Bob Martin, Commissioner (DEP)
 - The Honorable Mary E. O'Dowd, Commissioner (DOH)
 - The Honorable John A. Giovannitti, Council President
 - The Honorable Joe Kidd, Council Member
 - The Honorable Larry Haynes, Sr., Council Member
 - The Honorable Gary C. Stevenson, Council Member
 - The Honorable Jennifer Turner, Council Member
 - The Honorable Alfonso G. Giampola

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