



For Immediate Release
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Delaware Riverkeeper Network Petitions Federal Agency to Address Contaminated Drinking Water in New Jersey

***NJDEP takes no action on perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs)
despite known toxic health effects***

Bristol, PA - Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) filed a Petition with the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on August 2nd, requesting the Agency to conduct a public health assessment of perfluorononanoate acid (PFNA) and other perfluorinated chemicals in the water supply for communities located near the Solvay Solexis Inc. facility in Thorofare/West Deptford and near Paulsboro, NJ. The ATSDR is a federal public health agency, part of the Public Health Service in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that works to prevent exposure and adverse human health effects from pollution releases in the environment. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/com/pha.html>

DRN focused the Petition on Paulsboro because the raw groundwater that feeds the water supply for Paulsboro was found to contain extremely high levels of PFNA, a dangerous chemical that has toxic health effects in humans and is bioaccumulative. PFNA is in the family of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) that is being investigated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is recognized as a contaminant of concern that is so dangerous it is subject to programs to phase out, control, and monitor its use.

EPA set a Provisional Health Advisory for short-term drinking water exposure to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), two of the most widely distributed PFCs, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued an Occurrence Study for PFOA in New Jersey public drinking water in 2007 and established a PFOA drinking water guidance level of 0.04 ppb based on lifetime health effects. In 2009, NJDEP

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conducted a second occurrence study on PFCs, including PFNA, but the report has not been released yet.

“Delaware Riverkeeper Network is sounding an alarm bell by filing this Petition with ATSDR. We received files under an open records request that shows that many of New Jersey’s water supplies are contaminated with perfluorinated chemicals. The highest level found in raw groundwater tested by NJDEP in 2009 was 96 ng/L in Paulsboro -- an extraordinarily high level. The highest level in surface water was in Brick Township. We submitted a letter to NJDEP on July 25 calling for immediate action on getting these chemicals out of New Jersey’s water but have had no response. Due to the urgency of this drinking water issue, we have now filed with this federal agency to try to get some action on these toxic chemicals in these communities’ groundwater,” said **Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network**.

In addition to NJDEP’s sampling that revealed PFCs in raw water supplies, data collected by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and published in a report in July 2012 revealed very high levels of PFNA in surface water in samples between 2007-2009 in the Delaware River: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/contaminants-of-emerging-concernJuly2012.pdf>.

Available information strongly suggests that the source of the PFNA in the Delaware River beginning at River Mile 88/90 was the Solvay Solexis plastics plant in West Deptford/Thorofare, NJ, on the Delaware River near River Mile 90. Fluorocarbons and fluoroelstomers are manufactured there using PFNA in their patented product. At this location, near River Mile 90, Solvay Solexis is reported to have the second highest production capacity for PVDF (2002) in the world and is known to have emitted huge quantities of PFNA. <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es0512475> According to a Solvay Solexis report to EPA, a large percentage of PFNA used in manufacturing at the facility is exhausted to the air or released as wastewater. <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/pfoa/pubs!/Solvay%20Solexis%20report.pdf>

Extensive independent studies have concluded that there is a probable link between exposure to PFOA and testicular cancer, kidney cancer, and four other diseases, based on studies in these communities and other information. (http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/pdfs/Probable_Link_C8_Cancer_16April2012_v2.pdf) The Panel has also found many other health impacts in human populations exposed to PFOA in drinking water (<http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/index.html>). PFNA studies report similar health effects but at lower doses.

“We are making what we have learned public, hoping public concern will make NJDEP do something about PFCs in the State. It’s scandalous that the current Administration has shut down the Drinking Water Quality Institute, the agency that was working on developing safe drinking water standards for PFOA and investigating other PFCs. This has really hidden this drinking water pollution issue from the public, prolonging exposure and risk, and that is wrong and simply can’t be tolerated,” said Carluccio.

A copy of DRN’s letter to NJDEP is at: <http://bit.ly/njdepltr>

A copy of DRN's investigative Memo regarding PFNA and other PFCs is at:
<http://bit.ly/pfnamemo>.

To view the ATSDR Petition go to:
<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Letters/ATSDR%20Petition%20Final%208.2.13.pdf>

To view the full file of documents DRN received under New Jersey's Open Public Records Act:
http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Reports/Perfluorinated_Chemicals_in_NJ_Drinking_Water.pdf

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