



September 19, 2022

Shawn M. LaTourette  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
401 E. State St.  
7th Floor, East Wing  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

**Subject: Belgian Investigation and Reports, Solvay PFAS contamination**

Dear Commissioner LaTourette,

Enclosed please find two reports from Belgian investigators. One report is from the University of Liege Faculty of Science Department of Chemistry Mass Spectrometry Lab Research Unit MolSys Prof. G. Eppe , entitled "Request for Identification of Emerging Perfluorinated Substances in Water and Blood Samples from Residents of an Industrial Site". The other is from "University Hospital of Liege Toxicology Department Professor Dr Corinne Charlier - C.Charlier@chuliege.be *Head of Department, Full Professor - Forensic Expert*, entitled "DETERMINATION OF PERFLUORINATED SUBSTANCES IN THE BLOOD OF PEOPLE LIVING NEAR AN INDUSTRIAL SITE".

Delaware Riverkeeper Network brings these reports to your attention because of their relevancy to Solvay's facility in West Deptford, NJ, which has released PFAS compounds into the environment for decades and has employed the use of the "Solvay Replacement" compound (CI-PFPECA) at the facility. CI-PFPECA has been found in various environmental media in the region around the plant, including in drinking water, and, most recently, in soils in more distant regions in New Jersey.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network and other concerned organizations wrote to you on July 1, 2020 (see: <https://bit.ly/3upxxXC>) and October 12, 2020 (see: <https://bit.ly/3tgDWD2>) about reports issued in scientific journals concerning the findings by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and USEPA researchers' discovery of the "Solvay Replacement" (CI-PFPECA) in New Jersey. These reports were used by the Belgian researchers to develop a method to sample the blood of residents in the community where a Solvay manufacturing plant is located in Spinetta, Italy. They also tested discharge water samples from the Solvay Spinetta plant. The Belgian researchers visited the U.S. this spring.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK  
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701  
Bristol, PA 19007  
Office: (215) 369-1188  
fax: (215) 369-1181  
dm@delawareriverkeeper.org  
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

In short, the University of Liege laboratories analyzed discharge water samples from Solvay's Spinetta, Italy plant and found people living near the plant are more exposed to PFOA than the people living further away. They also found that 55% of the Spinetta water samples exceed the health value [HBM-II] (10ug/l) for PFOA set by the German Biomonitoring Commission.

The scientists also analyzed the blood samples of Spinetta residents to see if the PFNA replacement used by Solvay here in West Deptford (CI-PFPECA), also used at the plant there, was present. They found it in 100% of the blood samples from Spinetta residents. They qualify their findings because they did not have the analytical standard and had to develop one from other research that has been done on water (the research findings from the EPA and NJDEP reported in the 2020 journal articles), so they were unable to quantify precisely, only to identify whether or not it was present. These findings raise the question – is Solvay's highly toxic replacement compound in the blood of people who have been exposed to air and water from the plant here? And if so what is it doing to their health? This question is urgently in need of an answer.

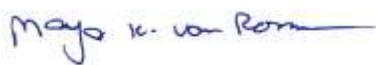
We request that NJDEP and/or NJ Department of Health investigate this issue to find out if people living in the vicinity of the Solvay facility in West Deptford have CI-PFPECA in their blood and what the ramifications are regarding the health effects for those exposed. We also do not know if the currently employed water treatment systems designed to remove PFAS are removing CI-PFPECA from the drinking water for the exposed communities. We request that sampling of finished tap water answer this question.

As we stated in our letters in 2020, "As you know, Solvay was responsible for the release of PFNA into the environment in West Deptford and, as a result, the water supplies for people in the region were contaminated. These residents have been shown to have higher levels of PFNA in their blood, increasing their risk of developing an adverse health effect or disease linked to PFNA exposure. This water crisis has been traumatic and has impacted many lives. Now many of those same people may be exposed to another harmful compound."

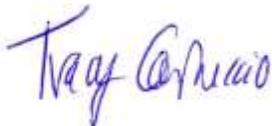
We know NJDEP has taken action to address CI-PFPECA and that research into the chemical and its toxicity continues. We also know that CI-PFPECA is considered to be more highly toxic than PFNA. The need for blood sampling, water testing, and testing of other environmental media for CI-PFPECA around Solvay's West Deptford facility is urgent considering the Belgian scientists' new discovery that this highly toxic compound is in the blood of the people sampled around Solvay's plant in Italy.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health and environmental issue.

Sincerely,



Maya van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper



Tracy Carluccio  
Deputy Director  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network