

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **POMPTON LAKES RESIDENTS AND ENVIROS RESPOND TO GOVERNOR'S REJECTION OF SUPERFUND DESIGNATION FOR DUPONT WORKS SITE**

***Governor Christie rejects Pompton Lakes 10,000 signature petition and echoes talking points of Pompton Lakes puppets. Enviros call on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to step up and enforce cleanup laws on giant polluter DuPont***

**Pompton Lakes, New Jersey** – Community members from Pompton Lakes, New Jersey and several nonprofit environmental groups including Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes, Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group, Edison Wetlands Association, New Jersey Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Center for Health and Environmental Justice and Sierra Club called on Governor Chris Christie to nominate the Pompton Lakes DuPont Works Site for the federal United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). They hand-delivered their request letter along with a supporting petition that has garnered over 10,700 signatures to the Governor's office. The groups are called on Governor Christie to give complete control of the site to USEPA, which will give more authority to the government to control the cleanup and increased community engagement.

**Governor Christie issued the following statement yesterday (reported by Jeff Green of The Record):**

*"I'm familiar with the issue; I've spoken to the DEP commissioner. He believes that the plan DuPont has in place is a good one and that appropriate progress is being made under the primary supervision of the DEP. I would say to the folks of Pompton Lakes, "Be careful what you wish for." There are EPA Superfund sites all over this state that have not been remediated under the supervision of the EPA under any administration. And I think the DEP has a good plan and they're moving forward with it. Now if there are arguments to be made as to how the EPA can improve this, I'm happy to listen to it. But my inclination would not be to turn over another site to the EPA when so many EPA Superfund sites haven't really been remediated under their supervision no matter which administration is in charge in Washington. At least when the DEP's in charge you have people close to home that you can pressure and demand answers from. Try to go down and harass the EPA down there and try to get some answers. Ask the people who live in all the towns that are Superfund sites that haven't been cleaned up. Really that's in the category of be careful what you wish for. I have confidence in Commissioner Martin, he's briefed me on the idea that he believes that things are progressing the right way. I understand it never goes fast enough for the people who live there. But if they really want to see something slow down, give it to the EPA and it will probably slow down pretty significantly then."*

**The community and environmental groups responded with the following statements:**

"People must come before politics. After 25 years of lack of cleanup under the main oversight of the NJDEP and the blatant disregard for human health, we demand the USEPA to step up and enforce the cleanup laws. The placement of the Pompton Lakes DuPont work site on the Superfund National Priorities List must be expedited to ensure the safety of families. We have a man-made disaster here in Pompton Lakes that deserves the same emergency attention as a natural disaster. Governor Christie stated, *'if there are arguments to be made as to how the EPA can improve this, I am happy to listen to it.'* Based on his statement, I am publicly inviting the Governor to meet with me, my community, and our highly qualified technical experts in Trenton to hear more about our plan for the remediation." said **Citizens For A Clean Pompton Lakes Executive Director Lisa Raggiola.**

"The Governor has said he is willing to listen. The Pompton Lake Community Advisory Group and our expert technical experts are ready, willing and able to provide a very clear path forward to address this

cleanup and protect and restore Pompton Lakes. If the Governor is serious about his statements, he will meet the victims of this man made disaster and not only listen but act on their behalf. The families of Pompton Lakes have no interest in hearing that it took 30 years for the NJDEP and Governor to wake up to the plight of the 450 families who are held hostage to poison gas attacks only to be told they need to wait another 30 years for action. With the current state of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's recent demise, the USEPA and its Superfund program are the only agency left that has the resource mandate and federal authority to require a polluter as well-heeled and as politically connected as DuPont to be fully accountable for implementing a complete and protective cleanup of the DuPont site and surrounding community.” stated **Edison Wetlands Association's Executive Director Robert Spiegel**.

"Gov. Christie insults the people of Pompton Lakes, while defending the well documented failures of DEP and DuPont. EPA must stand up and enforce federal clean laws, regardless of the Governor's rhetoric," said **Bill Wolfe, Director of New Jersey Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility**

"DEP has mishandled the site for close to 25 years and things at the site have gotten worse, not better. DuPont doesn't really want to clean up the site; they want to spend as little money as possible. If the Governor cared about the public health and safety he would nominate the site for Superfund so it would get the proper scrutiny and cleanup it deserves. Seems that Governor Christie is more concerned about protecting DEP and DuPont than the people of Pompton Lakes," said **New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel**.

"After over twenty years the state has done a poor job of protecting the citizens in Pompton Lakes. The site has not been cleaned up and the families' homes have been contaminated so much so that they need air vents on their homes to prevent the toxic chemical pollution from seeping into the air of their homes and poisoning their children and unborn babies. The lake is so toxic that no human can even put their hands in the water - rendering this one time beautiful lake unusable for fishing, swimming and other recreational activities. The Governor is just providing cover for DuPont, the polluter, rather than protecting his citizens. Superfund can't do any worse -- to do so EPA would have to sit on their hands for 20 years like NJDEP," stated **Lois Marie Gibbs, "Mother of Superfund" and Executive Director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice**.

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