

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **SUFFERING POMPTON LAKES RESIDENTS & ENVIROS DELIVERED URGENT REQUEST TO GOVERNOR CHRISTIE**

***Community members and environmental leaders hand delivered an emergency request at State House to Governor Christie to nominate Pompton Lakes DuPont Works site as a federal Superfund site***

**Trenton, 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, and New Jersey Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility 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 10,000 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.

"This a historical landmark day as we venture to Trenton with an emergency request to Governor Chris Christie to nominate our community's toxic legacy to be designated to the Superfund National Priority List. We believe that full federal control of the DuPont Works site will bring true oversight, ensure that a goal will be set for a high standard residential cleanup, and finally bring our residents a "true voice" and real community participation," said **Citizens for A Clean Pompton Lakes Executive Director Lisa Raggiola**. "Our health, quality-of-life and financial well-being has suffered catastrophically, and without this designation, future generations and our environment will continue to suffer. The time is now for positive change to provide hope for a brighter future."

The urgent request comes at a critical time when families in over 400 homes continue to breathe in toxic vapors that rise into their basements from contaminated groundwater, locals unknowingly fishing in the mercury and lead laden Pompton Lake, and residents living in fear everyday that they will become another cancer victim from the decades of poison in their community.

"The suffering community of Pompton Lakes deserves justice once and for all and Governor Christie has a chance to step-up and help the residents," said **Robert Spiegel, Edison Wetlands Association's Executive Director**. "Additionally, the State can easily save taxpayers' dollars by designating this site as a federal Superfund site. There is a multi-billion dollar polluter legally responsible to pay for the cleanup."

Based on the human health risks from the DuPont site, it clearly qualifies as a national priority for the NPL. But USEPA's Superfund listing policy calls on State Governor's to either initiate listing via a request to EPA or to concur with EPA's recommended listing.

“We call on Governor Christie to recommend to USEPA that the DuPont site be listed as a national priority,” stated **New Jersey Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility Director Bill Wolfe**. “This will secure additional federal resources and provide greater community involvement for Pompton Lakes residents poisoned by DuPont. Residents need to know government is on their side protecting them, not polluters.”

The 570-acre DuPont Works site operated a munitions plant from 1902-1994 manufactured included lead azide, aluminum, or bronze shell blasting caps and produced metal wires, aluminum and copper shells where E. I DuPont De Nemours dumped chemicals into the soil and waterways. The responsible party left a serious toxic legacy which blighted the community with soil, water, groundwater and vapor intrusion contamination. This site has been managed under the USEPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program for decades and has a co-lead by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. To-date, no true clean-up has ever taken place and the situation worsens each day, from health fears to drastically diminishing property values.

In support of their efforts, **Lois Marie Gibbs, “Mother of Superfund” and Director of Center for Health, Environment and Justice**, said, “This site received a USEPA Hazard Ranking Score back in 1982 scoring at 68+, which is two and a half times the qualifying score of 28.5 to be considered for a Superfund designation. Superfund established in 1980 was created for sites just like Pompton Lakes where clean up needs to occur quickly to protect public health and the environment. Governor Christie needs to stop allowing DuPont to decide what happens and request USEPA to place the site on the Superfund list once and for all. Enough is enough, the good citizens of Pompton Lake have for more than two decades been exposed to cancer causing chemicals. It time for the Governor to take action to protect these hard work, church going, New Jersey citizens.”

"The people of Pompton Lakes have suffered far too long from the pollution from the DuPont site. The only way all of those families will be protected is to make sure the community gets the proper clean up it deserves by putting the site on the Superfund list," stated **Jeff Tittel, Director of New Jersey Sierra Club**. “NJDEP has mismanaged this site for years, and it has only worsened with toxic chemicals spreading under people's homes. We are asking Governor Christie to protect the people of Pompton Lakes by nominating this site for the Superfund list. This only way this site will get cleaned up and Pompton can get revitalized."

Over several months, the accompanying [Change.org](http://change.org) petition entitled, “Stop DuPont Chemical from Poisoning NJ Families,” has gathered over 10,000 signatures. The petition can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/d7ccl9n>.

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**\*\*COPIES OF THE LETTER AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST\*\***