



WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS

Attend WVDEP's Public Hearing and Comment on The Chemours Company's Water Pollution Control Permit Application

Chemours Washington Works is a fluoropolymer manufacturing facility located in Washington, WV. Fluoropolymers are a group of PFAS, a broad class of toxic long-lasting chemicals also known as “forever chemicals.” WVDEP is holding a public hearing and accepting public comments on a water pollution control permit application for this facility. You can attend the public hearing on March 4th to ask questions and make verbal comments. You can also submit written comments by March 14th.

Who? The Chemours Washington Works facility is a fluoropolymer manufacturing facility located just outside of Parkersburg in Wood County, WV. In the early 2000s, this facility, formerly owned by DuPont, severely polluted drinking water supplies with PFOA (C8), a toxic PFAS¹. That contamination led to a class action lawsuit and a health study linking the consumption of PFAS-contaminated drinking water to several cancers². Despite these lasting community health impacts, this facility continues to disregard their permit limits and discharge toxic chemicals into the Ohio River. Last year, EPA issued the facility an administrative order on consent that documented permit discharge exceedances up to 3117% for two PFAS, HFPO-DA and PFOA³.

What? Chemours has applied for a second National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Water Pollution Control Permit for this facility, Application No. WV0117986. This permit would allow Chemours to construct a new finishing line at the Washington Works facility that would wash and separate perfluoroalkoxy alkane (PFA) solids so they can be dried, extruded, and packaged as product. PFA solids are better known by DuPont's brand name, Teflon® PFA.

Why is this important? This permit will allow Chemours to discharge more PFAS into the Ohio River. PFAS, or per- and polyfluorinated substances, are a class of toxic chemicals that can cause human health impacts at very low levels. The following issues are of concern for surrounding communities:

¹ <https://www.levinlaw.com/dupont-c8-litigation>

² http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/prob_link.html

³ [https://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf/Advanced%20Search/FFDC5208E597305E8525899E004D1706/\\$File/The%20Chemours%20Company%20FC%20LLC_Washington%20Works_CWA%20AOC_April%2026%202023.pdf](https://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf/Advanced%20Search/FFDC5208E597305E8525899E004D1706/$File/The%20Chemours%20Company%20FC%20LLC_Washington%20Works_CWA%20AOC_April%2026%202023.pdf)

WVDEP is pushing ahead with a new permit for new discharges from this facility, when the current water pollution permit for the facility is expired. The Chemours Washington Works facility already has an existing NPDES permit, Permit No. WV0001279, which allows discharges of PFAS into the Ohio River. That permit expired in July 2023. WVDEP should be working to reduce PFAS discharges from all the facility's discharges instead of rushing to allow Chemours to discharge even more PFAS into the Ohio River. WVDEP should reject this permit application and incorporate it into the re-issuance of the existing NPDES permit.

More PFAS discharges in overburdened communities. Communities surrounding this facility are already overburdened by the health impacts from PFAS exposure⁴. Furthermore, Parkersburg and Wood County have some of the highest rates of low life expectancy and disability in the nation⁵. WVDEP must prioritize public health, and not allow this facility to discharge any more PFAS.

Inadequate PFAS discharge limitations and monitoring. WVDEP's draft permit would only impose limits on two PFAS—HFPO-DA, and PFOA. Although the permit requires monitoring for 38 other PFAS, there are no limits, the facility simply needs to report the levels at which they are discharging those chemicals. But prior testing shows that additional PFAS can be expected in the discharges from this new facility. When permitting this facility, WVDEP should include discharge limitations for all PFAS that may be present in the discharges.

When and How? WVDEP is holding a virtual public hearing on Monday, March 4th, 2024, from 6-8 pm. At this hearing, WVDEP will provide information, answer questions, and accept official comments. To register for the virtual public hearing, you can:

- Complete this form: <https://forms.gle/9wCZZphmcwh4xtEw7>
- Call Terry Fletcher at 304-926-0499 ext. 49720 by 5 p.m. the day of the hearing

WVDEP is also accepting public comments on this permit application until 5pm on Thursday, March 14th, 2024. To submit public comments, you can:

- Comment online through WV Rivers' Action Alert tool: <https://bit.ly/42V0AUU>
- Email DEP.Comments@wv.gov with the subject 'Application No. WV0117986'
- Mail written comments referencing 'Application No. WV0117986' to:
Director, Division of Water and Management, DEP

⁴ http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/prob_link.html

⁵ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

ATTN: Sharon Mullins, Permitting Section
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304-2345