

Controversies: Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)

- On 1 September 2020, nearly 16,000 pounds of [toxic styrene gas leaked from a rail car](#) at SABIC's plant in Selkirk, NY, prompting road closures and a shelter-in-place order for the surrounding area. According to a "notice of violation" that SABIC received from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the leak happened because the company failed to follow its own safety procedures.
- On 10 October 2017, a shipping accident on the coast of Durban's KwaZulu-Natal caused a [massive spill of plastic nurdles](#). The clean-up operation was funded by SABIC who owned the consignment. But the company was accused of [lack of transparency](#) and collusion with the government authorities in an attempt to hide the extent of pollution caused by the accident.
- On 16 April 2016, a [fire](#) at a plant operated by a SABIC subsidiary, Jubail United Petrochemical Co., killed 12 workers and injured another 11. A [video](#) of the incident that was shot and published online shows the extent of the damage caused by the incident.
- In October 2015, SABIC Innovative Plastics paid a [30,000 USD fine](#) to the US Department of Environmental Conservation for violations that occurred at the company's Selkirk plant, which had been fined close to 260,000 USD for violations in 2011, 2013 and 2014.
- In May 2012, SABIC Innovative Plastics US LLC, and its subsidiary SABIC Innovative Plastics Mt. Vernon LLC, agreed to pay an approximately [1 million USD civil penalty](#) and improve leak detection and repair practices to settle alleged violations of the [Clean Air Act \(CAA\)](#) at chemical manufacturing facilities in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, and Burkville, Alabama.