

Controversies: Solvay

- In August 2021, private [residents from West Deptford, New Jersey, filed an environmental lawsuit](#) in a district court against Solvay and other manufacturers alleging that the defendants had contaminated their private wells.
- In May 2021, Sierra Club entered in lawsuit with the state of New Jersey aimed at forcing the company to [clean up severe water contamination](#), accusing Solvay of hiding information on the PFAS chemicals they produce using trade secret laws.
- In April 2021, a report by Edison, Solvay's predecessor at the Spinetta Marengo plant in Italy, accused Solvay of lapses in erecting [anti-pollution barriers](#) leading to contamination outside the facility. Solvay claims that the International Chamber of Commerce arbitration tribunal determined that Edison is liable for breach of environmental representations and warranties when it was sold to Solvay in 2001, recognising that Edison deliberately made false representations to Solvay at the time of the acquisition.
- In March 2021, a federal judge in New Jersey sustained a proposed class action by residents of a New Jersey town overruling objections brought by Solvay and Arkema to the suit accusing them of [polluting their drinking water](#) with discharge from their factories.
- In February 2021, Solvay agreed to conduct an environmental investigation of PFAS contamination in and around a former PFAS-producing facility. Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control had filed the claims [after finding the toxin in the region's water sources](#).
- In January 2021, Solvay ranked 46 on the [Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index](#). Solvay, however, claims that they are not on the Top 100 Water Polluters Index.
- In November 2020, the State of New Jersey [sued Solvay](#) for evading responsibility for toxic pollution from its plant in West Deptford, New Jersey. Allegedly the company has disregarded damage and risk to the public by PFAS. In relation to this, [Solvay forbade the state agency](#) to disclose the chemicals' effect on health and the environment to the public. However, [internal studies showed](#) that the company has known about the severe health risks with the chemical for at least 15 years.
- In August 2020, a [small chemical spill was reported](#) after a minor fire broke out at the Solvay plant in Oldbury, England. No injuries were reported.

- In March 2019, the state of New Jersey ordered five companies including Solvay to [fund the clean-up of chemicals](#) used at manufacturing sites that contaminated drinking water. 3M, DuPont, DowDuPont, Chemours, and Solvay were held accountable for pollution with PFAS chemicals under the state's Spill Act and other environmental laws. Solvay's West Deptford facility was among the contaminated sites where the state spent 3 million USD on investigations and clean-up that it sought repayment for from Solvay. The companies [declined to pay](#) for the clean-up. The company's own investigations found elevated levels of PFAS and PFOA in [drinking water](#) and [blood](#) in the region.
- In September 2018, [issues with a furnace](#) caused smoke at a plant in Havre de Grace, Maryland. The plant was operated by Cytec, a subsidiary of Solvay.
- As of the end of 2016, seventeen civil proceedings were brought before the Civil Court of Livorno (Italy) by past workers and relatives of deceased workers at Solvay's Rosignano site in Italy, seeking damages (provisionally quantified at 9 million EUR) in relation to [diseases caused by exposure to asbestos in facilities](#). Solvay claims that there are 19 proceedings, past or still pending, debated in civil court for facts dating back to the 1970s and 1980s related to some former Solvay employees of the Rosignano plant, allegedly exposed to asbestos in those years. Some of them also worked for companies other than Solvay. In almost all cases, judicial decisions have not recognized Solvay's responsibility as an employer for the damages claimed by these former workers or their families. Solvay has never produced asbestos, and the problems resulting from the dangerousness of its use unfortunately involve much of Italian construction and industry because asbestos has been widely used since the early 1900s.
- In May 2016, [a fire broke out](#) at a plant in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that was operated by Cytec, a subsidiary of Solvay. No injuries were reported, but three persons were taken to the hospital as a precaution.
- In February 2016, [Solvay was fined 440,000 GBP](#) (close to 590,000 USD) after a dangerous gas cloud was released from its plant in Oldbury, England. The incident occurred 2009. Workers and residents that came into contact with the gas reported having breathing problems. Solvay states that this controversy happened more than 10 years ago in another context, management and structure, which could therefore question the presence of this elements in the list. Solvay believes that the equipment failure that led to the incident could not have been foreseen and that all safety requirements have been put in place quickly and following procedures.
- In December 2015, the Assize Court of Alessandria, Italy, sentenced three Montedison/Ausimont managers to imprisonment and awarded [civil damages of around 400,000 EUR](#) (450,000 USD) (Ausimont was acquired by Solvay in 2002). Solvay claims that the decision of the Assize Court of Alessandria (also confirmed by the Cassation

Court decision of 2019) considered that the origin of the contamination at Spinetta was historical and attributable to the past owners/managers of Montedison and Ausimont (not of Solvay). In the several criminal and civil proceedings (including the arbitration) so far, no evidence has ever been provided or found that Solvay managers were aware of the historical contamination nor that Montedison/Ausimont managers had ever shared this information with Solvay's managers after 2002.

- Between 2012 and 2021, Solvay and its subsidiaries paid close to [2.4 million USD in penalties for 26 environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.