

## Controversies: Solvay

- In December 2022, two Solvay directors, including a former director, were indicted by the Alessandria prosecutor for failing to take adequate steps to [remediate and contain PFAS pollution from the company's plant](#) in Piedmont, Italy.
- In November 2022, a Solvay company town in Tuscany, Italy, was divided over conducting a health study to inquire into the health impacts caused by [decades of dumping mercury-tainted waste](#) by Solvay onto a local beach. Responding to a shareholder question in 2022, Solvay admitted to having discharged wastes containing 20 tons of neurotoxic mercury onto the Tuscany beach each year for the four years ending 2021.
- In November 2022, the Jura prefecture (France) administration ordered Solvay Tavaux to comply with pollution standards, acting on findings in June 2022 of [releases of water pollutants eight times above authorized limits](#).
- In September 2022, it was revealed that in the US, Solvay spent [\\$730,000](#) in 2021 on lobbying at the federal level—an amount that was three times higher than what was spent in 2020. The company had already spent more than that in the first half of 2022, according to D.C.-based lobby watchdog group Open Secrets.
- In September 2022, [Solvay faced more than 25 PFAS-related lawsuits](#) in the United States, some of which were led by attorney Robert Bilott and dubbed the PFAS industry's worst nightmare.
- In September 2022, Solvay agreed to spend [15 million euros](#) on an investment to slash marine discharge of limestone residue from its soda ash plant in Italy, ending a dispute with activist shareholder Bluebell Capital Partners.
- In June 2022, Delaware State and the US federal government reached a [\\$41.6 million settlement](#) with 21 defendants, including Solvay-Cytec, for the clean-up of a 27-acre superfund site in the state.
- In March 2022, an Ohio court certified a class of Ohio residents who had [0.05 ppt of any PFAS in their blood serum](#). This opinion was delivered in a lawsuit brought by an Ohio firefighter against manufacturers of PFAS products, including firefighting foam.
- In January 2022, [Solvay ranked 48 on the Political Economy Research Institute's Toxic 100 Air Polluters Index](#).

- 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 into a 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 was liable for breach of environmental representations and warranties when it was sold to Solvay in 2001, recognizing 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 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. About 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 of 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 investigations found elevated levels of PFAS and PFOA in [drinking water](#) and [blood](#) in the region.

- Between 2018 and 2022, [Solvay and its subsidiaries paid about half a million USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.