

## Controversies: Westlake Chemical

- In June 2022, Westlake Chemical Corporation subsidiaries agreed to pay **\$110 million** to reduce harmful air pollution at three U.S. chemical facilities in Louisiana and Kentucky. The companies also agreed to pay a \$1 million civil penalty.
- In March 2022, the US Department of Labor issued **\$139,000 in penalties** to address workplace safety deficiencies after six workers were injured in a flash fire at Westlake Chemicals in Sulphur, Louisiana in September 2021.
- In February 2022, **a fire broke out at a chemical production facility** in Westlake, LA, jointly operated by Lotte Chemical and Axiall, a Westlake Chemical subsidiary. No injuries were reported.
- In January 2022, **six people were injured by an explosion** at Westlake Chemical's south plant. Plant officials said an empty ethylene dichloride tank exploded.
- In January 2022, Westlake Chemical **ranked 30 in the USA's Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index** and **41 in the USA's Toxic 100 Air Polluters Index**.
- In October 2021, workers were evacuated without injury after a tower containing mineral oil caught **fire at Westlake Chemical's facility** in Gallman, Mississippi.
- In September 2021, **six workers were injured in an explosion** at the Westlake Chemical plant.
- In April 2021, Westlake Chemicals and Axiall were among nine Lake Charles companies that **will pay \$5.5 million for contaminating the northern Calcasieu River** estuary with their improper waste disposal practices over the past century.
- On 30 November 2020, a 350,000 USD **settlement regarding the mercury pollution** of the **Ohio River** was made, compelling Eagle Natrium – a subsidiary of Axiall Corporation, which in turn is a subsidiary of Westlake Chemical – to install treatment technology designed to eliminate the violations of releasing more mercury into the Ohio River than allowed under the company's permit. The settlement also compels the company to pay 195,000 USD to a trust fund set up to reduce the methylmercury pollution of the Ohio River, and 25,000 USD in civil penalties to the US Treasury.
- On 12 July 2020, **three workers were injured** at a Westlake Chemical plant manufacturing chlorine in Marshall County, West Virginia. There is no information available regarding the circumstances of the injuries.

- Between 2018 and 2022, [Westlake Chemical paid almost 113 million USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.