

AR 226-1679

May 19, 2001

Christine T. Whitman
EPA Administrator
1101 A
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Ross Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

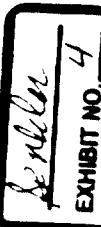
Dear Ms. Whitman,

I am writing you this day to inform you of some criminal actions of which I have detailed knowledge. These actions are the direct result of informed decisions by the DuPont Company to deny, cover-up and otherwise circumvent the legal process as it pertains to environmental releases and/or disposal of known toxins, carcinogens and embryo toxins. Cover ups are now a way of life at DuPont.

I worked for the DuPont Company and have direct knowledge of their ongoing efforts to cover-up dangerous situations at or near various plant sites across the US. I have chosen to contact you anonymously because I fear for my safety as a result of what this company might do to me if my identity were known. While I worked for them, I regularly tried to do the right thing in reporting violations to management and was regularly threatened by their corporate goons for doing so. I did nothing wrong; I only demanded that they follow existing law which they publicly said they were doing. The reality was a different matter.

I no longer work for DuPont. I cannot be party to a company that deliberately poisons children, other innocent persons and even their own employees and then lies and threatens people to cover up their actions. They violated laws set up to protect the greater public good. Despite a very public face of a caring company concerned with their employees and the betterment of the human condition, DuPont's reality is a far different matter. Every action, every decision or non-decision is motivated solely by the accumulations of money for bonuses for a very select few in the hierarchy of the company. Everything is cloaked in secrecy. DuPont has even chosen, in one case, to poison its own employees rather than inform them of severely contaminated drinking water which they consume everyday.

Specifically, I describe below in some detail what can be readily verified with just a cursory investigation on your part. Considerably more illegal activity is ongoing but might require more investigation to ferret out the truth. As to why DuPont continues to arrogantly ignore the law, I can only say what I knew as a reality in my time there. We were regularly told never to acknowledge any situation that DuPont spend even a nickel to rectify. Many times, we were directly told to falsify data and reports to paint a different public picture than the private reality we knew to be true. Some individuals chose to go along with the company's illegal activities, some still are doing so. Some, such as myself, chose not to do this. That is why some of us, including myself, no longer work for them.



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Upper and middle managers knew of and directly planned the denial of reality and cover-ups of incriminating data and information. In more than one instance, lawyers from "downtown" confiscated any references to well known illegal acts occurring at some sites.

Below is a summary of some of these activities:

1) Washington Works Site at Parkersburg, WV. Ammonium perfluorooctanoate (C8) is the contaminant of note at this site. C8 has totally contaminated this site and nearby town and environs. The site and local drinking water supply is seriously contaminated with C8. C8 is a well known and very serious carcinogen. Site and corporate management have known for years that C8 has caused these damages and that their own workers were drinking the contaminated water. Not only have they done nothing to notify either the workers or the local and state people of the situation, they formed a high level group, headed by Sr. VP Joe Miller to "handle the problem." Corporate lawyers were sent around to personally rifle through files and confiscate any documents mentioning C8, its effects and properties. We were told after 1999 "never to even use the word C8 in conversation or in documentation" presumably because management was very actively involved in covering up this nasty and despicable situation. While other chemicals are at least equally serious at this site, DuPont management's response to the C8 situation is clearly illegal and immoral.

2) Waynesboro, VA. Elemental mercury and methylated mercury are the major contaminants here. The known span of the contamination is well over 200 miles downriver of the plant. The South River and the south fork of the Shenandoah River beds and banks are severely contaminated with mercury. DuPont knows about this in great detail and is currently employing a deliberate policy of denial and avoidance to duck responsibility for the mercury releases and their effects.

3) Martinsville, VA. Several organic solvents - including carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, phenol, phenyl and many known dangerous acids - constitute the bulk of the contamination here. A policy of deliberate denial has been instituted to avoid responsibility. The contamination is very severe and is the direct result of unrestricted dumping on open ground of these solvents (and more) on a multi-thousand ton basis. The contamination has left the site and has already severely contaminated the nearby river.

4) Chambers Works, Deepwater, NJ. This site is the mother of all pollution and environmental contamination, and of corporate denial of responsibility. A witches brew of contamination is leaching daily into the nearby Delaware River and has been for decades from recklessly constructed "secret" landfills right on the river banks. The "official" policy at Chambers Works has always been to deny any knowledge of everything. In addition to the usual chlorinated solvents, heavy metals (including gives of tetraethyl lead) and anilines, diamines, benzenes, mercury and arsenic are regularly released into the river through a series of SMWUs (landfills) which DuPont denies even

exist. A casual walk (if you dare) on the river's beach reveals orange and purple liquids oozing from the sand into the nearby river. The groundwater and underlying aquifer are so severely contaminated that only Divine intervention can cleanse them at this point. Yet, DuPont vehemently denies there is even a problem.

5) East Chicago, IN: High levels of arsenic in the groundwater leaving the site are the main culprit here. DuPont denies that they had anything to do with it as it steadily flows into a nearby housing development.

6) Edgemoor, DE: Lead, arsenic, and mercury are regularly leeching into the nearby Delaware River from this plant but DuPont does nothing.

7) Newport, DE: High levels of arsenic, lead and barium are the principals here. Of course, there is a policy of denial to the level and the severity of the problem. This plant sits in a highly populated area.

I could go on and on but I trust you get the picture of what is going on at the DuPont Company. Like I said, their actions are not only clearly illegal, they are immoral. I respectfully demand that your agency do what is required to rectify the contamination and prosecute those responsible for it. If you have any respect at all for the law, that is what must happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen who is sick of the lies and cover ups

Co: Editor, The News Journal, Wilmington, DE
Mr. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Environmental Law Project
Office of the President, AFL-CIO
IBDW
Mr. Don Hewitt, 60 Minutes
Mr. Larry Kane, KYW/CBS 3, Philadelphia
Editor, The New York Times
Editor, The Philadelphia Inquirer
Office of the CEO, DuPont Co.