

From:

To:

PFASs; ChemG;

Subject:

PFAS soil pollution / Antwerp / 3M

Date:

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Attachments:

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Dear colleagues from the PFAS group,

In attachment an article in a BE newspaper published today about PFAS soil pollution in Antwerp. Here below an automatic translation to EN.

Best regards,

On the left bank of Antwerp, near Zwijndrecht, preparatory works have started for the construction of the Scheldt tunnel, a crucial link in the Oosterweel route. On and around that location, high concentrations of PFOS have been detected. This is a chemical substance used to make carpets and textiles water, dirt and grease repellent, for example. It belongs to the broader group of PFAS. These are so-called forever chemicals. They are very difficult to break down and have been linked in various recent studies to possible health risks, such as hormone imbalance and an increased risk of cancer. The government has known for some time that the soil at this location in Antwerp contains PFOS. But because the contractor for the Oosterweel project, Lantis, is now going to excavate there of all places, organisations such as Bond Beter Leefmilieu and Greenpeace are sounding the alarm. These soils absolutely must not be removed just like that,' they write in a collective statement. The organisations fear that the contaminated soil will be dumped outside the site zone. They see the most extremely contaminated soil ending up in embankments and sound barriers on the left bank, 'wrapped in plastic and with a too thin covering layer'. They outline the scenario of an 'above ground dump' and demand the 'immediate cessation of soil movements'. A 2018 memo, viewed by De Standaard, supports those concerns. It was drawn up by the consortium RoTS (Right Bank Tunnel Specialists). It mentions a number of soil samples in which the concentration of PFOS is substantially above the standard applied by the Flemish waste management company Ovam. In one sample, the concentration is even up to eight times higher. If we compare these results with the much stricter Dutch standards, we see that even the lowest value is still above the standard. Lantis confirms that it expects to find increased PFOS concentrations in certain zones on the site, but says that all contaminated soil will remain 'within the project area'. It will be processed in the verge around the Scheldt tunnel, says Lantis spokesperson Annik Dirkx. According to her, this will be done in a way that has been approved by Ovam. The soil will be covered with waterproof foil, preventing PFOS from entering the underlying soil layers or the groundwater. The most heavily contaminated soil, with concentrations for which this solution may not be used, would be 'processed on site in accordance with the applicable rules'. Not exclusively Antwerp The most important worldwide producer of PFOS is the American company 3M, which has a branch in Zwijndrecht, near the Oosterweelwerf. PFOS was produced there until the early 2000s. Ovam confirms that increased

concentrations of PFOS were found in the soil and groundwater at 3M 'exceeding the standards for industrial sites'. UA researchers have measured PFOS concentrations in soil and in woodlice, worms and tits near 3M "that are among the highest ever reported in the scientific literature," says biologist Lieven Bervoets. The concentrations measured in the eggs of hens from residents in the vicinity of the company far exceed the European consumption standard. The concentrations decrease sharply at a greater distance from the 3M factory. Yet the contamination is not an exclusive story of Antwerp. Biomonitoring research by the Flemish government shows that PFAS can be found in the blood of large parts of the population. In 2014, 77 percent of all 50-to-65-year-olds exceeded values for PFOS and the related substance PFOA "above which an adverse impact on health cannot be excluded," says Ann Colles of Vito, co-author of the study. One per cent even had blood values with proven impact on the body, with a 5 per cent increase in blood cholesterol.

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Sujet :Plan flamand PFAS - questions

Date :Mon, 26 Apr 2021 08:16:36 +0000

De : [REDACTED]

Pour : [REDACTED]

Bonjour [REDACTED]

J'espère que tu vas bien.

Pour info, plusieurs articles sur les PFAS dans la presse flamande ce lundi en lien avec la liaison Oosterweel (la boucle du ring périphérique anversois) et la menace de déversement de sols contaminés par des PFAS.

As-tu des informations concernant le plan d'action flamand PFAS / les mesures mises œuvre en Flandre ?

Bonne journée,

Bât

[REDACTED]



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