

Controversies: BASF

- In December 2022, the state Department of Environmental Protection announced they had agreed to restore conditions at the former Ciba Geigy plant in Toms River, New Jersey.
- In October 2022, a federal judge approved a [\\$3.9 million settlement](#) between the United States and BASF. The United States agreed to pay 10.3% of BASF response costs to clean up contaminated Hudson River sediments. BASF owns a property known as the "General Aniline Site" close to the Hudson River. The company bought the site from General Aniline and Film Corp. (GAF) in 1978.
- In September 2022, a report by Environment America showed [Texas to be the nation's largest emitter of toxic substances](#) into streams, rivers, and lakes, with BASF's Freeport plant being the 6th biggest contributor to toxic discharge.
- In September 2022, in a [study](#) conducted on toxic pollution in waterways of the USA, BASF was ranked #7 among the top 50 facilities by toxicity-weighted releases (2020).
- In July 2022, BASF, 3M and nearly 30 other companies [were sued](#) by the City of Fairborn. The lawsuit claimed some of the businesses' products contaminated the city's drinking water supply with PFAS, PFOA and PFOS.
- In July 2022, a study by the USEPA in Louisiana found that more than [75 per cent of hazardous releases](#) came from just five facilities, including Covestro and BASF.
- In July 2022, [US Rep. Debbie Dingell wrote to the US EPA, demanding answers](#) on reports that contaminated groundwater releases from BASF into the Detroit River near Wyandotte's drinking water intake continue "at alarming rates."
- In July 2022, the US Court of Appeals in Missouri confirmed the liability of chemical giants Bayer-Monsanto and BASF for damage to a peach farmer's groves caused by the herbicide dicamba, leaving in place a judgment for nonpunitive damages.
- In June 2022, BASF, with 50.1 million pounds of toxins released into waterways, was [ranked the second largest water polluter](#) in the US based on the US EPA's Toxics Release Inventory data for 2018.
- In April 2022, the city of Portsmouth [filed a lawsuit](#) against BASF and other companies for contaminating the city's drinking water with PFAS chemicals.
- In March 2022, it was found Bayer and BASF have been working through lobby firms to actively push for the EU-Mercosur deal, through which they would benefit through

increased sales of hazardous pesticides, according to a [report by Friends of the Earth Europe](#).

- In March 2022, Bucks County, Pennsylvania [filed a lawsuit](#) against chemical manufacturers including BASF claiming damages for environmental contamination by PFAS chemicals.
- In February 2022, BASF agreed to [stop the manufacture and sale of the pesticide trifludimoxazin](#) in response to a [lawsuit filed](#) by the Center for Food Safety and the Center for Biological Diversity in July 2021.
- In January 2022, a US district judge [restored a lawsuit](#) for compensation by Bayer-Monsanto and BASF, filed by 57 Texas vineyards, to the Texas state court where it was originally filed. The companies had sought to move the suit to a federal multidistrict litigation pending in Missouri. In the original lawsuit, the vineyards sought compensation for Bayer-Monsanto and BASF selling defective seed systems featuring a highly volatile weedkiller that moved off-target and crippled scores of vineyards.
- In January 2022, [BASF was listed at 2 of USA's top 100 Air Polluters Index](#) prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute. Nearly 80% of the emissions were from just two facilities in Geismar, Louisiana and Elyria, Ohio. The index is based on TRI data for 2020.
- In January 2022, [BASF ranked 14 among the USA's top 100 Water Polluters Index](#) prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute. More than half the toxic releases to water were from just one facility in Geismar, Louisiana.
- In December 2021, the region surrounding BASF's Wyandotte plant in Michigan was listed among the seven most polluted areas in the state in a study released by independent investigative journalism platform ProPublica. [People living in the vicinity of BASF's plant have 1.7 times higher cancer risk](#) than is considered acceptable by the US EPA.
- In December 2021, BASF's [footprint of cancer-causing air pollution](#) was larger than that of any other foreign-owned company in the United States. The company also had the fourth-largest toxic footprint among all companies operating in the country, according to an analysis by ProPublica.
- In November 2021, the area around BASF's chemical catalyst production factory in Elyria, Ohio was identified as a [hotspot for industrial air pollution](#), according to a report by ProPublica. The area's residents have more than 4 times the EPA's acceptable cancer risk over their lifetimes, the report states.
- In November 2021, Mid-County in Texas was identified as a prominent toxic hotspot with some spots within the area having 190 times EPA's acceptable cancer risk. [BASF Total](#)

Petrochemicals is identified as one of the top emitters of carcinogens in the Mid-County area.

- In October 2021, [one contract worker died and another was injured](#) after they were exposed to an unidentified chemical substance at the BASF complex in Geismar, Louisiana.
- In October 2021, a New Jersey [federal judge approved a settlement of US \\$100 million in a long-pending asbestos lawsuit](#) ordering BASF and its law firm to pay approximately 20,000 class members between \$3500 and \$30,000 each.
- In June 2021, 57 [Texas High Plains wine grape growers filed suit](#) in Jefferson County District Court seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from Bayer-Monsanto and BASF for selling a defective seed system featuring a highly volatile weedkiller that drifted and crippled scores of vineyards.
- In June 2021, lobby groups representing companies such as Dow, Dupont and BASF worked to [defeat regulations targeting microplastic-borne toxic and persistent chemicals](#) capable of transboundary travel through ocean currents, according to Greenpeace UK.
- In April 2021, emergency personnel — including a Hazmat team — had to be sent to a BASF chemical plant in Greenville, Ohio after a [potential leak was discovered](#) at the site. No injuries were reported.
- In March 2021, BASF declared force majeure for polyamide 6 shipments after a [fire broke out](#) in the PA6 production plant in Antwerp, Belgium. The fire occurred in a reactor building and was quickly extinguished, according to a company spokeswoman.
- In March 2021, a [fire broke out](#) at BASF's northern plant area in Ludwigshafen, Germany. About 650 kg of methyldiethanolamine and 50 kg of its breakdown product diethanolamine leaked into the Rhine via cooling water channels.
- BASF is on the list of top 10 polluting companies according to an index on air, water and greenhouse gas pollution released by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts. BASF ranks number 10 on the [Toxic 100 Water list](#) and 7 on the [Toxic 100 Air list](#).
- In October 2020, BASF announced that it was set to close its Ludwigshafen-based imidazole plant after it discovered that a small amount of the [material had leaked into the nearby River Rhine](#). Imidazole can be harmful to both fish and humans if swallowed, with symptoms including burnt skin and eye damage.

- In 2019, BASF was one of the companies named by environmental charity BUND, a member of the European Environment Bureau, in its investigation where it found that several major chemical producers [broke important aspects of the EU's key chemical safety regulation REACH](#) by not completing important safety checks.
- Between 2018 and 2022, [BASF paid almost 60 million USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.