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Controversies: Dow

- In October 2023, it was reported that Dow was discharging toxic substances violating European water directives. A joint investigation by Platform Investico and Het Financieele Dagblad showed that the companies concerned were discharging their toxic substances into waters that were "already heavily polluted." This included Tata Steel, Shell, and Dow. The 12 affected companies had outdated permits, had not conducted mandatory environmental assessments, or did not comply with water quality tests, according to FD and Investico's data analysis.

- In October 2023, Dow Chemical filed an application with the Madhya Pradesh High Court, seeking the removal of its name as a respondent in the Bhopal gas tragedy case. The company also called upon the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to withdraw its affidavit, which demanded that Dow deposit Rs 100 crore to cover the remediation costs of the polluted site.

- In September 2023, a Dow subsidiary told a federal court that they should not have to help cover costs that could exceed $500 million to clean up a toxic chemical spill of a Norfolk Southern-operated train in East Palestine, Ohio. This was in a case where Norfolk Southern sued Dow and several other companies. Dow argued it could not be held liable because the chemical it was transporting was 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate and is not considered hazardous by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- In August 2023, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) settled over 100 permit violations by Dow Chemical for just $120,000, despite each violation potentially carrying a daily fine of $32,500. These violations all occurred before a major explosion at Dow's Plaquemine plant on July 14, 2023.

- In July 2023, after the 14th July explosion, it was revealed that over the past four years, Dow Chemical's Iberville Parish plant had had ten emergency incidents involving unauthorised pollutant releases, with half occurring at the Glycol 2 unit. Despite multiple incidents involving toxic chemicals like ethylene oxide, Dow had faced minimal penalties.

- On July 14, 2023, an explosion followed by subsequent fires occurred at Dow's Louisiana Operations' Glycol 2 plant in Plaquemine, Louisiana, resulting in the release of ethylene oxide and other compounds. Explosions at the facility in Iberville Parish shook homes in the nearby state capital, Baton Rouge.

- In March 2023, New Jersey sued Dow Chemical and other companies for contaminating the state's drinking water with 1,4-dioxane, a suspected carcinogen. The lawsuit sought damages and penalties for polluting water supplies and harming

public health. 1,4-dioxane, used as a solvent stabiliser, is hard to remove from groundwater, leading to high cleanup costs.

- In January 2023, a study by the Minderoo Foundation showed that only 20 companies are producing more than half of the world's single-use plastic waste, with Dow coming in third place.

- In 2023, Dow topped the Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index. Almost 100% of all emissions came from the Freeport facility in Texas. The report was prepared based on 2021 public emissions data by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

- In 2023, Dow ranked 8th in the Toxic 100 Air Polluters Index. The report was prepared based on 2021 public emissions data by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

- In December 2022, an article by Al Jazeera Media Network revealed that now Dow-owned Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) used front and 'dummy' companies to secretly continue selling their products after the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, killing and harming many thousands of people.

- In November 2022, a Westminster Hall debate on potential UK support for investigations into the Bhopal gas explosion was held.

- In October 2022, Indonesia's food and drug agency, BPOM, revoked the licenses of two local firms for producing syrup-type drugs linked to child deaths due to acute kidney injury. Impurities were found in one of the solvents used, propylene glycol, which was allegedly provided by Dow Chemical Thailand. Dow Chemical Thailand denied supplying these companies and stated its product does not contain toxic substances.

- In October 2022, a chemical release of the substance Dowtherm A (biphenyl) from Dow in Midland was reported. The event was investigated, and no community health impacts were reported.

- In October 2022, around 50 women survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy conducted a demonstration in New Delhi ahead of a Supreme Court hearing on a curative petition seeking increased compensation for the victims. The victims expressed concerns that the Indian government might withdraw from the petition. The petition aims to secure additional compensation for victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy beyond the $470 million already paid by Union Carbide.

- In April 2022, a gas leak from a Dow-owned chloralkali facility in Plaquemine, Louisiana, led to the sickening of around 35 people. In May 2022, a victim of the gas

leak who was hospitalised with severe chemical exposure reactions filed a personal injury lawsuit relating to the caused injuries. In September 2022, an Olin Chemical subsidiary (an Olin/DOW merge) violated Louisiana pollution and emergency reporting laws by underplaying the severity of a potentially dangerous chlorine gas leak in spring 2022, state regulators allege. The Olin subsidiary was given 30 days to explain what happened and faced up to $32,500 per day per violation in penalties.

- In September 2022, a study conducted on toxic pollution in waterways in the USA, Wasting our Waterways, showed Dow's Freeport plant was listed as #2 in toxicity-weighted releases for data from 2020. (This differs from the 2023 Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index data, in which Dow was listed at #1.) Dow Chemical's Freeport, Texas, plant, which is the company's largest discharger of toxic wastewater, is upstream of a community that is 63% minority, with about half of the population living in poverty.

- In August 2022, a worker with a transportation service company was badly hurt and later died while working in the train yard at the Dow Chemical plant in Plaquemine, Louisiana.

- In July 2022, a study conducted by the Campaign Law Center of Industry's efforts to scuttle and discredit key legislation introduced to tackle plastic pollution in the US found that Dow Chemical had spent more than $10 million in lobbying expenditures, including on the plastics bill since it was introduced in 2020.

- In April 2022, the Ballico-Cressey School District, California, sued corporate giants Dow Chemical and Shell Oil, alleging that the companies manufactured and sold agrochemicals containing toxic 1,2,3-TCP or 1,2,3-trichloropropane that contaminated a school's water supply after having been sprayed on nearby fields.

- In March 2022, Dow Chemical and other companies suffered a setback when a challenge to the lawsuit filed by West Virginia State universities regarding groundwater contamination caused by Dow's facility in the neighbourhood was dismissed by an Appeals Court.

- In March 2022, Ontario environmental groups reported that Dow Chemical and Imperial Oil, two of Canada's largest plastic makers, had meetings with government officials to weaken the Environmental Assessment Act to ease the way for experimental projects involving the burning of plastic.

- In May 2022, Kern Delta Water District, California, sued Dow Chemical and Shell Oil over contamination of groundwater reserves by 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, a carcinogenic agrochemical. Cleaning up just one of several groundwater banks could cost up to $465 million, according to one estimate.

- In February 2022, Communities for a Better Environment joined a lawsuit against Corteva, Dow, and others by the California Department of Toxic Substances to clean up its agrochemical facility in Pittsburgh. The plant, which is located in a low-income community of colour, has been illegally treating hazardous waste.

- In February 2022, ethylene oxide emissions from two facilities owned by Dow-subsidiary Union Carbide in West Virginia were shown to pose a 300-fold higher cancer risk than the US EPA's national benchmark of 1 in a million, according to a recent re-evaluation of the chemical's toxicity by the agency.

- In January 2022, the families of 1,234 Nicaraguan farmers initiated claims in the Paris Court for compensation from Dow Chemical and two others for health damage arising from DBCP pesticide exposure in banana plantations. US courts refused to execute sentences issued by Nicaraguan courts ruling in favour of the injured farmers.

- In January 2022, Environment and Health officials from Michigan State reminded area residents not to eat eggs or meat from animals raised downstream from Midland along the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers to avoid exposure to possible dioxin contamination caused by Dow's historical pollution.

- In December 2021, survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster pointed to Dow's refusal to clean up the site contaminated by its subsidiary Union Carbide and called out Dow for discriminating against the Indian communities affected by its inaction. That same month, the Government of India told the parliament that Dow Chemical had failed to appear before an Indian court in connection with the disaster despite repeated summons since 2004. Attempts by two farmers to harvest and sell water chestnuts from Union Carbide's abandoned solar evaporation pond in Bhopal were thwarted by residents and activists who pointed out that the pond was contaminated with toxins from the ill-fated pesticide factory.

- In December 2021, a Reuters investigation exposed the failure of a program to clean up the Ganges by the Dow-backed Alliance to End Plastic Waste. Even as the much-touted clean-up flopped, AEPW members were dramatically increasing plastic production.

- In November 2021, Dow Chemical was one of five major corporations whose cancer-causing air emissions cover more populated square miles in the United States than the emissions from any other companies, according to an analysis by ProPublica, a public-interest independent journalism organisation.

- In September 2021, a company owning a property neighbouring an allegedly illegal landfill operated by Union Carbide between the 1950s and 1980 filed a complaint over water pollution from the facility in Charleston, West Virginia.

- In August 2021, despite reductions in ethylene oxide emissions, the levels released by three Louisiana chemical facilities, including Dow subsidiary Union Carbide, continue to pose a cancer risk level that is between 2 to 6 times higher than levels considered safe, according to the US EPA.

- In July 2021, a process upset at a Dow facility in La Porte, Texas, caused a chemical spill that prompted the local fire department to issue an evacuation order for residents within 0.5 miles of the plant. The leaked chemical — hydroxyethyl acetate — can cause severe irritation to the nose and throat and burn human skin and eyes.

- In July 2021, Canadian environmental groups called out the top three plastic producers in Canada, NOVA Chemicals, Dow, and Imperial Oil, for putting their profits before sustainability. The companies are suing the Canadian government to stop federal action that will list plastic manufactured items as "toxic."

- In June 2021, lobby groups representing companies like Dow 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 May 2021, a California appeals court rejected challenges by manufacturers of 1,2,3-Trichloropropane against the state's clean-up standards for the cancer-causing chemical that was added to pesticides and has polluted groundwater in Central Valley.

- In May 2021, lobbyists from BASF, Dow and INEOS, and industry groups crippled Europe's first rules to investigate and regulate the health impacts of widespread polymer pollution, according to EEB, a network of European citizen organisations.

- In May 2021, the USA's top PFAS manufacturers, including Dow, executed a lobbying and campaign donation blitz during the Trump era that resulted in the defeat of key legislation to rein in PFAS pollution, even as the EPA "slow-walked new rules".

- In May 2021, Dow Chemical reportedly created 5.5 million tonnes of plastic waste and ranks high among just 20 companies that are the source of more than half of all single-use plastic items thrown away globally.

- In February 2021, they were allegedly harmed by exposure to DBCP pesticide produced by Dow, and two others filed an opposition in a Delaware court to a motion by the companies to dismiss the farmers' lawsuit, citing the statute of limitations.

- In May 2020, concerns were raised that catastrophic flooding in Michigan could potentially release toxic pollution from sites contaminated by Dow.

- In November 2019, Dow was fined a 98,750,000 USD penalty to compensate the public for damages to natural resources caused by the release of hazardous substances from a Dow facility in Michigan, USA. The company will fund and implement natural resources restoration projects.

- In June 2019, Dow settled with the US Justice Department and the EPA over alleged environmental violations at the company's chemical manufacturing facility in Midland, Michigan. The consent decree required Dow to undertake extensive measures for reducing emissions, spend 1.6 million USD on supplementary environmental projects, and pay a fine of almost 4.6 million USD.

- Between 2019 and 2023, DOW paid more than 110 million USD in environmental liabilities for 34 cases, according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.