

Controversies: Arkema

- In December 2023, the environmental cleanup responsibility of the old Wellman Dynamics site in Iowa. A previous owner of Wellman Dynamics, WDC Acquisitions, alleged that Arkema, as the successor to past owners of the plant, owes a duty to WDC to dispose of solid and hazardous wastes in a manner that prevents their release into the environment and that it has failed to do so in a timely and effective manner.
- In April 2023, Arkema was fined [\\$15,097 for Environmental violations at Clear Lake, Harris County, Texas](#), as they failed to prevent unauthorised emissions. Specifically, Arkema released 123.06 lbs of volatile organic compounds ("VOC") and 5.23 lbs of carbon monoxide in December 2017.
- In March 2023, 13 towns from southwest of Lyon decided to launch a collective action [seeking compensation for remediating PFAS contamination caused by Arkema and Daikin](#) manufacturing facilities in the Rhone prefecture.
- In March 2023, more than two dozen companies, including Arkema, [faced a toxic liability lawsuit](#) as Birmingham City in Alabama joined the Birmingham Water Works in suing the companies for contaminating drinking water sources.
- In February 2023, the town of Wayland joined 12 other Massachusetts municipalities to file a [toxic liability lawsuit against Arkema and other PFAS manufacturers](#) seeking reparations for contamination of water sources.
- In January 2023, the city of Thornton, Colorado, filed a demand for a jury trial in a [toxic liability case against Arkema and other PFAS manufacturers](#) for contamination of water sources. The case was filed in the district court of South Carolina.
- In January 2023, [Arkema's Lyon plant was identified as a test site for the French government's plan to restrict production and release of PFAS](#). The plan was welcomed by the Metropolitan Government of Lyon but also criticised for its low ambitions.
- In January 2023, eggs collected from 3 municipalities around Arkema's Lyon plant in France were shown to [contain PFAS 16 times higher than safe levels](#). Residents were advised to avoid consuming eggs from these localities. The study of eggs from chicken coops in private homes was carried out by regional and local government departments.
- In 2023, [Arkema was ranked 47 in the Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index Report 2023](#). The report was prepared based on 2021 public emissions data by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

- In November 2022, [an electric fire caused an explosion](#) at Arkema Chemical's plant in Jarrie, France. No casualties or chemical spills were reported.
- In November 2022, it was found that the 20 top spenders among petrochemical and oil and gas companies are funding US electoral candidates and hiring lobbyists to dilute climate and plastics regulation.
- In October 2022, the prefecture of Rhone ordered Arkema to [phase out the use of PFAS](#) chemicals in its manufacturing processes by 2024.
- In September 2022, Arkema agreed to pay [\\$60,000 in civil suits](#) to settle serious air pollution allegations levelled against its plastics plant in Mobile, Alabama. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management said it had increased the fine by \$5,000 because of a previous air pollution violation by the company in 2020.
- In September 2022, [four workers were evacuated to a hospital](#) by firefighters after they sustained serious injuries due to exposure to dimethyl disulfite following an accident at Arkema Chemical's plant in Lacq, France.
- In June 2022, residents living near the Arkema and Elkem Silicones facilities in south Lyon, France, along with Notre affaire à tous, [filed an appeal](#) seeking action against the manufacturers for contaminating the environment with PFAS chemicals.
- In May 2022, the Massachusetts Attorney General sued Arkema and 12 other manufacturers of [PFAS-containing firefighting foam](#) for damages to communities across Massachusetts.
- In May 2022, [the City of San Diego filed suit](#) against twenty-four chemical companies, including Arkema, responsible for manufacturing, distributing, supplying, and/or selling aqueous film-forming foam (AF).
- In May 2022, a Texas judge issued an order certifying a class of nearly 28,000 people involving 10,000 properties in a suit filed in the aftermath of the [2017 fire and explosions at the Arkema plant](#) in Crosby, Texas. The properties were contaminated by tainted floodwaters after the low-lying Arkema site was inundated by Hurricane Harvey.
- In May 2022, a news investigation [found potentially toxic levels of PFAS compounds in soil, water, and human breast milk](#) samples taken from a South Lyon region with two chemical plants run by Arkema and Daikin.
- In March 2022, the city of Portsmouth, Ohio, sued Arkema and other companies, alleging that their [products contaminated their drinking water with toxic chemicals](#).

- In March 2022, a former Ohio firefighter [filed a class action lawsuit](#) alleging that chemical giants, including Arkema, owed damages arising from exposure to PFAS-containing firefighting chemicals.
- In March 2022, [Bucks County, Pennsylvania, filed a lawsuit against several manufacturers of PFAS chemicals](#), including Arkema, seeking penalties and compensation for remediating contaminated areas.
- In February 2022, [15 Massachusetts firefighters filed a federal lawsuit](#) naming 25 companies, including Arkema, alleging harm due to exposure to PFAS chemicals.
- In November 2021, the North Carolina Attorney General [filed four separate lawsuits](#) against 14 manufacturers — including Arkema — due to PFAS-containing Aqueous Film Forming Foam.
- In May 2021, [four lawsuits against five companies — including Arkema](#) — were filed in the New Jersey Federal Court, alleging that chemicals emitted by these companies caused birth defects, cancers and other illnesses in dozens of people.
- In March 2021, a [fire broke out](#) at Arkema subsidiary Sartomer America's chemical plant at the Tightsqueeze Industrial Park in Chatham, Virginia, creating a "chemical smoke cloud".
- In November 2020, [the State of New Jersey sued](#) Arkema and another company over widespread pollution of drinking water and other natural resources by perfluorinated chemicals along the Delaware River.
- In February 2020, a [trial began regarding a fire and an explosion](#) at an Arkema plant in Houston, Texas, following a flooding in 2017. The incident resulted in the evacuation of 200 residents, and 21 people, including first responders, were sent to the hospital. Later, toxic substances were found in soil, water and ash samples [miles away from the plant](#). The company was accused of violating multiple environmental protection laws and was subject to a state lawsuit that sought one million USD in reparations. The company, CEO and plant manager were accused of recklessly releasing chemicals into the air due to the fire. Arkema and its vice president of logistics each faced a felony assault charge for allegedly misrepresenting the danger that the unstable chemicals at the plant posed to the community, but [these charges were later dismissed](#). The plant has previously been penalised several times; Arkema was once fined 90,000 USD for ten serious safety violations found during an inspection.
- Between 2019 and 2023, Arkema and its subsidiaries paid [over 600.000 USD in environmental liabilities for 10 cases](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.