

Controversies: BASF

- In October 2023, Singleton Schreiber and Fitzpatrick, Skemp & Butler [filed two class action lawsuits](#) in Wisconsin Federal Court against BASF, 3M, and several other corporations. The companies were alleged to be responsible for the contamination of private water supplies in the Town of Campbell after manufacturing firefighting foam (AF) or its components containing toxic PFAS compounds.
- In September 2023, the Utah Court of Appeals ruled that a former **BASF Corp. employee's ailments were directly caused by years of chemical exposure** while working for the manufacturer. The judge ordered BASF to pay the employee, Bradley West, compensation for past and future medical expenses and total disability compensation.
- In September 2023, **a fire broke out at the BASF-TotalEnergies petrochemical plant in Port Arthur, Texas**, forcing it to shut down indefinitely. The fire resulted in the collapse of an extractive dissolution tower. All employees were safely evacuated, and no casualties were reported. The incident is currently under investigation, and its cause is yet to be determined.
- In August 2023, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and BASF finalised a settlement regarding natural resource damages at the Ciba-Geigy Superfund Site in Toms River. The agreement increased the amount paid to the DEP's Office of Natural Resource Restoration **from \$100,000 to \$500,000** for natural resource damage assessment and project oversight costs.
- In August 2023, it was reported that for four decades U.S. state regulators and the Environmental Protection Agency had **ordered but failed to stop BASF from discharging up to 72,000 gallons of toxic waste-contaminated groundwater daily** from its Wyandotte plant into the Detroit River. Officials informed citizens that it would be another three years before BASF began construction of what is being called the permanent remedy to prevent mercury, benzene, PFAS, and other pollutants from reaching the waterway.
- In July 2023, a lawsuit was filed in Kankakee County Circuit Court against current facility owner Kensing LLC and former owner BASF Corporation. The lawsuit alleged hazardous air pollutants were emitted above regulatory thresholds. The Attorney General's office also filed two consent orders, which require the companies to pay a total of **\$178,000 in civil penalties**.
- In June 2023, **a fire broke out** during maintenance work in the BASF plant at Ludwigshafen. Two employees of an external company sustained burns.

- In June 2023, Ohio dropped in rankings for EPA toxic chemical risk data from 2nd to 4th. [The principal facility responsible for the fall was the BASF facility in Elyria, Lorain County](#), as it received a risk score four times higher than the second-riskiest.
- In 2023, [BASF was listed third in the list of the USA's top 100 Air Polluters](#). 80% of these emissions came from just two facilities in Geismar, Louisiana, and Elyria, Ohio. The report was prepared based on 2021 public emissions data by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- In 2023, [BASF ranked ninth among the USA's top 100 Water Polluters](#). Almost all toxic releases came from two facilities: Geismar, Louisiana, and Wyandotte, Michigan. 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, the state Department of Environmental Protection announced it had entered into an [agreement with BASF](#) 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, whereby the U.S. agreed to pay 10% of BASF's costs to clean up contaminated sediments in the Hudson River sediments.
- 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 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 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Louisiana found more than [75 per cent of hazardous releases](#) came from just five facilities, including 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 [\\$15 million judgment](#) for nonpunitive damages.

- In June 2022, BASF 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 that Bayer and BASF had been working through lobby firms to actively push for the EU-Mercosur deal, through which they would benefit from 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 2022, in a **study** conducted on toxic pollution in US waterways, BASF was ranked 7th among the top 50 facilities by toxicity-weighted releases (2020).
- 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 Pro Publica. The area's residents have more than 4 times the EPA's acceptable cancer risk over their lifetimes, the report stated.
- In November 2021, Mid-County in Texas was identified as a prominent toxic hotspot, with some areas having 190 times the EPA's acceptable cancer risk. **BASF Total Petrochemicals was 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 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 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 six polyamide 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 methyl diethanolamine and 50 kg of its breakdown product, diethanolamine, leaked into the Rhone via cooling water channels.
- 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. 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 a number of major chemical producers [broke important aspects of the EU's key chemical safety regulation REACH](#) by not completing important safety checks.

- Between 2019 and 2023, BASF and its subsidiaries paid [over 50 million USD in environmental liabilities for 30 cases](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.