



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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**FACT SHEET**

**ALLEGATIONS AND BACKGROUND  
AUGUST 1, 2018 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS**

## **POHATCONG VALLEY**

In the mid-20th century, the American National Can Company operated a manufacturing plant in the Pohatcong Valley, a region that encompasses several towns in Warren County, New Jersey. The Valley sits atop the Kittatinny Limestone Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to thousands of residents. Over several decades, trichloroethylene (TCE) seeped from the American National Can Company site into nearby groundwater, creating a plume of contamination as long as nine miles. This hazardous substance can have lasting effects on the human central nervous system and respiratory tract and has been linked to other serious health conditions. In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the area as a Superfund site. New Jersey is seeking Natural Resource Damages for the injury to the groundwater and to recover its remediation costs from the responsible parties. The defendants are Pechiney Plastics Packaging, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Myset Investment Company, Citigroup, Inc., MRC Holdings, Inc., Rexam Beverage Can Company, and Albéa Americas, Inc.

## **RONSON METALS**

From the 1950s to the 1990s, Ronson Metals Corporation manufactured cigarette lighters at a facility in the Ironbound District of Newark, New Jersey. That process resulted in the discharge of several hazardous substances into the soil and groundwater, including trichloroethylene (TCE). TCE can have lasting effects on the human central nervous system and respiratory tract and has been linked to other serious health conditions. After ceasing operations, the owner and operator ignored their statutory and regulatory obligations and never fully cleaned up the contaminated soil or groundwater. Instead, the owner sold the property to REI Corporation (REI), a property redeveloper, and in a subsequent transaction, REI conveyed a portion of the property to F&M Development Group (F&M). Both REI and F&M then developed the property into individual residences and several warehouses without ensuring the remediation was complete. REI and F&M then sold those residences to individuals without providing notice of the soil or groundwater contamination, exposing the homeowners to harmful vapors. In response, the Department of Environmental Protection installed vapor intrusion mitigation technology to prevent the dangerous vapors from entering the homes. New Jersey is now seeking to recover its costs from the responsible parties, as well as civil penalties for their violations. The defendants are RCLC, Inc. (formerly known as Ronson Corporation), Promector, Inc. (formerly known as Ronson Metals Corporation), REI, and F&M.

## **RUGGIERO SEAFOOD**

For more than a century, the National Lock Washer Company operated a manufacturing facility in the Ironbound District of Newark, New Jersey, which resulted in discharges of petroleum and other hazardous substances into the soil and groundwater. Neither the National Lock Washer Company nor any of its successors, including Charter Manufacturing Company, Inc. and Chiquita Brands International Sàrl, cleaned up the site. The site was later purchased by Ruggiero Seafood, Inc., and in 2004, the Schools Development Authority acquired the property as the site of a new school. SDA then undertook massive remediation efforts, which included the complete excavation and disposal of contaminated soils and other debris to an average depth of 13-feet. It excavated about 60,000 tons of contaminated soil and replaced it with clean structural

fill. It also de-watered, removed, and treated 10.59 million gallons of groundwater and took other protective measures. The SDA's efforts, taken to ensure the safety of the future occupants of the site, were completed at substantial cost. The SDA looks to National Lock Washer Company's successors and other parties to provide reimbursement. The defendants are Chiquita Brands International Sàrl, Charter Manufacturing Company, Inc., and Ruggiero Seafood, Inc.

### **PORT READING REFINERY**

In 1958, the Amerada Hess Corporation opened a refinery in the Port Reading section of Woodbridge Township, New Jersey. The refinery is located on the banks of the Arthur Kill, just south of a Conrail yard, and about 1,200 feet from the closest residential area. In 2013, the Hess Corporation sold the site to Buckeye Partners, which now uses the facility to store and process crude oil and refined petroleum products. Over the years, there have been numerous spills and leaks at the refinery that caused injuries to nearby natural resources. The resources are damaged by, among other pollutants, trichloroethylene (TCE), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), benzene, and metals. These pollutants have been linked to lasting effects on the human central nervous system and respiratory tract, blood disorders, and other serious health conditions. New Jersey is seeking Natural Resource Damages for the injuries to the groundwater, surface water, sediments, wetlands, and biota. The defendants are Hess Corporation and Buckeye Partners, L.P.

### **FORDS MOBIL**

From the 1940s to the early 1990s, several owners operated a retail gas station on King George's Post Road in the Fords section of Woodbridge Township, New Jersey. In the 1990s, the station was converted to an automobile repair service business. When four underground storage tanks were removed in 1998, it was discovered that gasoline-related compounds had leaked from the tanks and contaminated the soil and groundwater. After the owner failed to comply with enforcement actions brought by the Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey sought and obtained court-ordered access to the site to begin soil and groundwater remediation. New Jersey is seeking to recover its costs from the responsible parties. The defendants are Crusader Servicing, Corp., NJ Property Acquisitions, LLC, and the Estate of Gary English.

### **DEULL FUEL**

This case arises from the operation of a manufactured gas plant (MGP) near the banks of the Beach Thorofare, an intracoastal waterway that separates downtown Atlantic City from the marshland of Lakes Bay and Absecon Bay. As part of its operations, the MGP discharged hazardous substances onto the property, which migrated into surface water and sediments. The property was also used for fuel storage and distribution operations. Today, the area remains polluted with numerous hazardous substances, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), naphthalene, benzene, arsenic, cyanide, and lead. Several of these hazardous substances have been linked to blood disorders and other serious health conditions. New Jersey is seeking Natural Resource Damages for the injury to the sediments along the Beach Thorofare. The defendants are South Jersey Gas Company, Deull Fuel Co., Deull Service Corp., McAllister Fuels, and Verizon New Jersey, Inc.