Facts, Activities and Issues Concerning PFOA/GenX Contamination from Chemours/DuPont Washington Works Plant, Parkersburg, WV

Chemours Washington Works, WV; PFOA – DuPont has been manufacturing Teflon at their Washington Works plant near Parkersburg, WV for decades and Perfluoroctanoic acid (PFOA) was used as a processing aide. DuPont released an unknown amount of PFOA via air and water discharges. PFOA was found in drinking water wells resulting in EPA issuing the first of three Safe Drinking Water Act emergency orders in 2001, and one amended Order to DuPont and now Chemours for PFOA. The Orders required DuPont and now Chemours to assess PFOA exposure in public and private water supplies in West Virginia and Ohio and provide alternate water (or treatment) to systems exceeding the Health Advisory. To date, eight public water supplies have been provided treatment (GAC filters). Approximately 250 private water supplies have been provided treatment or connection to a public water supply. Over 400 square miles have been assessed and the area continues to expand as sampling continues into new areas of concern. Air dispersion and deposition were determined to be the predominant mode of contaminant transport.

GenX – In 2013, the Washington Works facility discontinued the use of PFOA in its Teflon manufacturing process, replacing it with HFPO-dimer acid or GenX since DuPont believed it to be less toxic. Quarterly monitoring conducted by Chemours at EPA's request determined the presence of GenX in the ground water serving a few public and private water supplies near the Washington Works facility. More distantly located water supplies had non-detectable levels of the compound in untreated well water. Carbon filtration, originally installed due to PFOA contamination, effectively decreased GenX from water to below detection limits. Chemours has agreed to continue quarterly monitoring at the water supplies with GenX in the untreated water. Chemours understands that Region 3 will request Chemours to expand sampling if future well water results indicate increasing concentrations in the groundwater.