



## Upcoming Activities

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed its [fifth five-year review](#) for the Ciba-Geigy Chemical Corporation Superfund site in Toms River, New Jersey in February 2023. During this review, EPA determined that the cleanup plans are protective of people's health and the environment in the short-term. The cleanup will be protective in the long-term once deed restrictions that designate future land uses across the site and prevent any intrusive activities in the capped areas of the site are established.

BASF Corporation (BASF), the current property owner, is addressing the groundwater contamination including the basins which are still a source of contamination of the groundwater. The local community is served by a public water supply, so no one drinks untreated groundwater. The contaminated groundwater is treated and discharged on-site.

Currently, the structures on the site include pipes associated with the groundwater collection system, the groundwater treatment plant, cleanup facilities, and the recently added solar power arrays. The site is also fenced and guarded, so access is limited.

### State of New Jersey Natural Resource Damages

There is a proposed Natural Resource Damages settlement between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the property owner of the Ciba Geigy Superfund site, BASF.

EPA is not a natural resource trustee and is not directly involved, except to ensure that any proposed claim will not impact a Superfund cleanup. The agreement will not impact EPA's cleanup.

For more information, visit: <https://dep.nj.gov/basf/>

### Solar Project Provides Energy to Low-Income Homes

In 2019, BASF leased 166 acres for a 35 mega-watt direct current (MW DC) grid-tied solar array system. The project is within the footprint of the former industrial part of the site and connected to a substation on site. A 2MW DC net metered solar array powers the groundwater treatment system. All solar arrays on site are ground mounted and do not penetrate the on-site caps. BASF completed the project in early 2021 and construction has already begun on the third system, a 5-MW DC solar project that will provide energy to low-income homes in the community.

## Site Background

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The Ciba-Geigy Chemical Corporation site is located in Toms River, New Jersey. The site was once owned and operated by the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation before it was bought by BASF in April 2009.

The site covers approximately 1,400 acres, 320 of which are developed. The rest of the site are cleared areas, Pine Barrens, and wetlands. From 1952 to 1990, Ciba-Geigy manufactured dyes, pigments, resins, and epoxy additives.

EPA placed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1983 and began investigating the site in 1984 dividing its cleanup into two parts: the groundwater and the source areas. EPA focused its cleanup efforts on treating the contaminated groundwater first which included closing private wells and starting to pump and treat the water. Currently, about 800,000 gallons of groundwater are treated each day and discharged to the ground on site.

After addressing the groundwater EPA moved on to the source areas. Under EPA oversight, Ciba-Geigy dug up more than 47,000 buried drums and disposed of them off site. The contaminated soil was treated using bioremediation, a process that uses natural microorganisms to digest contaminants and break them down into non-hazardous components. The soil was then placed under caps located onsite. The source cleanup was completed in 2012 and EPA continues to oversee BASF as they clean up the groundwater.

All commercial operations at the site ended in December 1996 and most of the manufacturing buildings were demolished afterwards. Sludge and process wastes were disposed of in several locations on the site, including a stacked drum disposal area originally believed to contain approximately 35,000 drums and a 12-acre filtercake disposal area containing wastewater treatment plant sludge and process wastes.

Wastewater treatment operations contaminated several areas of the site including backfilled lagoons near the Toms River and two basins. Contamination from these areas and several others on-site, referred to as source areas, leached into the groundwater. Site groundwater flows east towards the Toms River and adjacent wetlands. The site is bordered by light industrial, commercial, residential, and recreational areas. There are 180 residential units less than half mile to the north of the site and more than 250 residential units less than half mile from the site's southern boundary. The West Dover Elementary School is next to the site along the southwestern fence line.

## EPA Contact Information

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