



NowThis @nowthisnews *Fri Mar 03 23:12:35 +0000 2023*

On February 28, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's behalf, alleging that two companies are responsible for emitting a dangerous chemical, chloroprene, into the air in Louisiana's 'Cancer Alley.' <https://t.co/hpamWuLYPV>

A screenshot of a social media post. The main image shows an industrial facility with tall chimneys and complex piping, situated near a body of water. A teal text box at the bottom left of the image contains the text: "'Cancer Alley' companies are being sued for allegedly causing chemical levels up to 14x the suggested limit". To the right of the main image, there is a vertical sidebar with the following elements: a "NOW EARTH" logo, a globe icon with the text "With support from Climate Power", and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter with the text "EPA" and "AFP via Getty Images".

'Cancer Alley' companies are being sued for allegedly causing chemical levels up to 14x the suggested limit

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The Pontchartrain Works facility, found in LaPlace, Louisiana, is owned by the company Denka, though the land is still owned by the plant's former owner, DuPont. Denka uses chloroprene to make neoprene, a rubber fabric. <https://t.co/rKnQdsEkMX>

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FEBRUARY 28, 2023

**The U.S. DOJ and EPA filed
a lawsuit against 2 companies,
Denka and DuPont**



The EPA lists chloroprene as a hazardous air pollutant and 'likely human carcinogen,' with the exposure limit being 0.2 micrograms per cubic meter. <https://t.co/XFN61XDj1q>

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**They allege that Denka's Pontchartrain
Works facility in LaPlace, LA, is
emitting unsafe levels of a hazardous
chemical, chloroprene, into the air**

The lawsuit alleges that levels of chloroprene in the air 'have been consistently greater than 0.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ since at least 2016, and likely for years before then.' <https://t.co/SR7giczM5z>

The EPA says it has found chloroprene levels in the air around the chemical plant to be as high as 14x the lifetime exposure limit



Chloroprene is used to make neoprene, a fabric found in wetsuits and other items.



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EPA / Green Matters • AFP / Image Source via Getty Images

The agencies say these levels put the people who live around the facility at risk of illness and violate the Clean Air Act.

<https://t.co/UBBn1oFIJI>

In 2015, Denka bought the facility from DuPont (which still owns the land) and cut chloroprene emissions by 85% from 2018-2020



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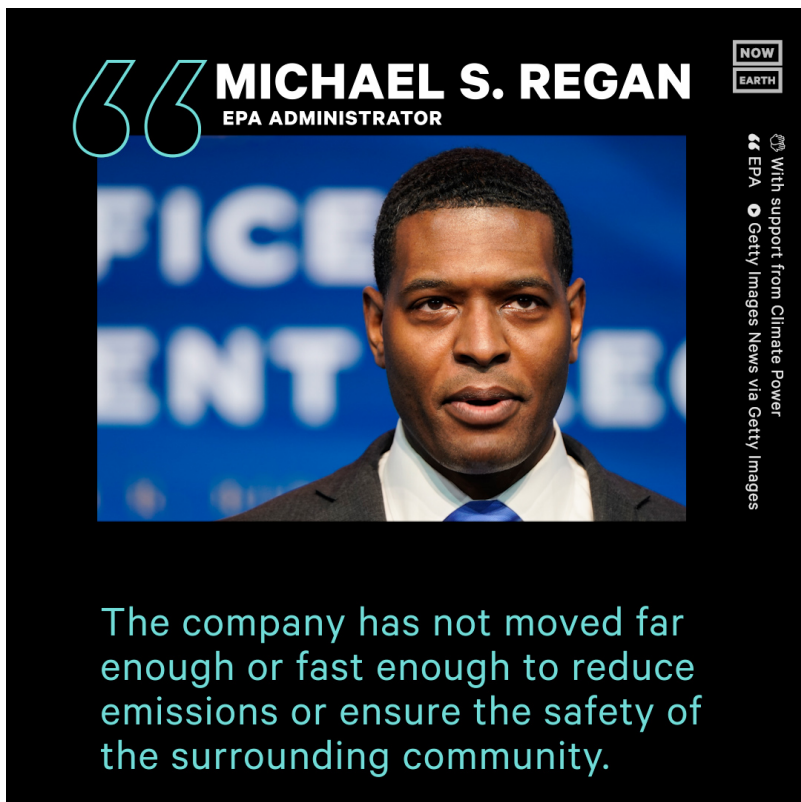
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The Guardian / EPA • AFP via Getty Images

EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan said in a news release, 'When I visited Saint John the Baptist Parish during my first Journey to Justice tour, I pledged to the community that EPA would take strong action to protect the health and...

<https://t.co/ln7gGN5Foe>



...safety of families from harmful chloroprene pollution from the Denka facility. This complaint filed against Denka delivers on that promise. The company has not moved far enough or fast enough to reduce emissions or ensure the safety of the surrounding community. <https://t.co/lanoYejq7N>



This action is not the first step we have taken to reduce risks to the people living in Saint John the Baptist Parish, and it will not be the last.' <https://t.co/zUIjOBNKo4>

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The Guardian • AFP via Getty Images



**EPA is taking an unprecedented step
... to allege an ‘emergency’ based on
outdated and erroneous science the
agency released over 12 years ago.**

DENKA, AS REPORTED IN THE GUARDIAN

According to the Guardian, Denka released a statement disagreeing with the allegations, saying, ‘[Denka] is in compliance with its air permits and applicable law...’

...EPA is taking an unprecedented step – deviating from its permitting and rulemaking authorities – to allege an ‘emergency’ based on outdated and erroneous science the agency released over 12 years ago.’

This was made with support from Climate Power.