

# **THE TEFLON TOXIN**

## **THE ONGOING STORY OF HOW PFCS ARE SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

**Sharon Lerner**

# The Teflon Toxin



In this series, [Sharon Lerner](#) exposes DuPont's multi-decade cover-up of the severe harms to health associated with a chemical known as PFOA, or C8.



PART 1

## DuPont and the Chemistry of Deception



PART 2

## The Case Against DuPont



PART 3

## How DuPont Slipped Past the EPA



PART 4

## The Teflon Toxin Goes to Court



PART 5

## DuPont Found Liable in Teflon Toxin Trial



PART 6

## Toxic Firefighting Foam Has Contaminated U.S. Drinking Water



PART 7

## New Teflon Toxin Causes Cancer in Lab Animals



PART 8

## How DuPont Concealed the Dangers of the New Teflon Toxin



PART 9

## Teflon Toxin Contamination Has Spread Throughout the World



PART 10

## DuPont May Dodge Toxic Lawsuits By Pulling a Disappearing Act



PART 11

## The Teflon Toxin Goes to China



The  
Intercept\_

# POISONING THE WELL

Toxic Firefighting Foam Has  
Contaminated U.S. Drinking Water





## PFC CONTAMINATION IN U.S. DRINKING WATER



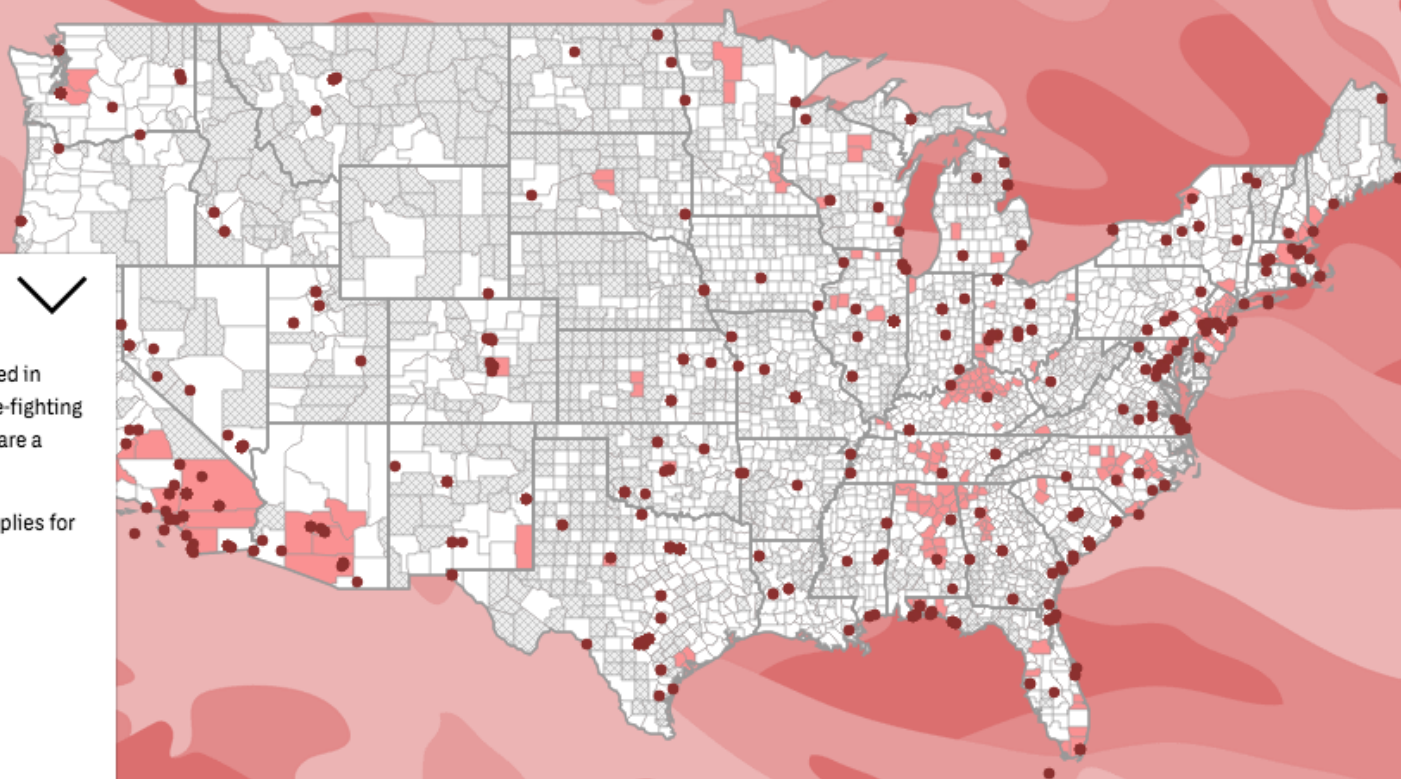
Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) have been used in hundreds of products, including Teflon and fire-fighting foams. U.S. military fire or crash training sites are a potential source of contamination.

The EPA currently monitors drinking water supplies for six PFCs:

- PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid)
- PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid)
- PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid)
- PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid)
- PFHpA (perfluoroheptanoic acid)
- PFBS (perfluorobutanesulfonic acid)

 PFCs detected    No PFCs detected    Not tested

 U.S. Military Fire/Crash Training Area Sites







# GenX



**NEW TEFLON  
TOXIN CAUSES CANCER  
IN LAB ANIMALS**

- Reproductive problems
- Cancer
- Altered immune response
- Changes in the size of liver and kidneys
- Cholesterol level changes

“It’s the same constellation of effects you see with PFOA”

– Deb Rice, retired EPA toxicologist

# A SAMPLING OF GLOBAL PFC CONTAMINATION



## AUSTRALIA

Highest average levels of PFOS in human blood



## CANADA

PFCs in three arctic lakes



## CHINA

Highest level of PFOS ever detected in human blood



## DENMARK

PFOS and PFOA levels in children's blood tied to immune suppression



## FRANCE

PFOS detected in 27 percent of samples from French public water systems



## GERMANY

PFCs detected in drinking water consumed by more than 5 million people



## GREENLAND

Rising PFC levels in polar bears



## INDIA

15 different PFCs detected in the Ganges River



## ITALY

Two chemical plants near the Po River are a major source of PFOA



## JAPAN

PFOA contamination near former DuPont plant



## NORWAY

12 different PFCs detected in samples of food and beverages



## SOUTH AFRICA

PFOA and PFOS were detected in 100 percent of samples from 3 major rivers



## SPAIN

PFCs detected in tap water, river water, and bottled water in Tarragona Province



## SWEDEN

Elevated levels of PFOA and PFOS near military bases



## UNITED KINGDOM

Elevated levels of airborne PFOA in Manchester



## VIETNAM

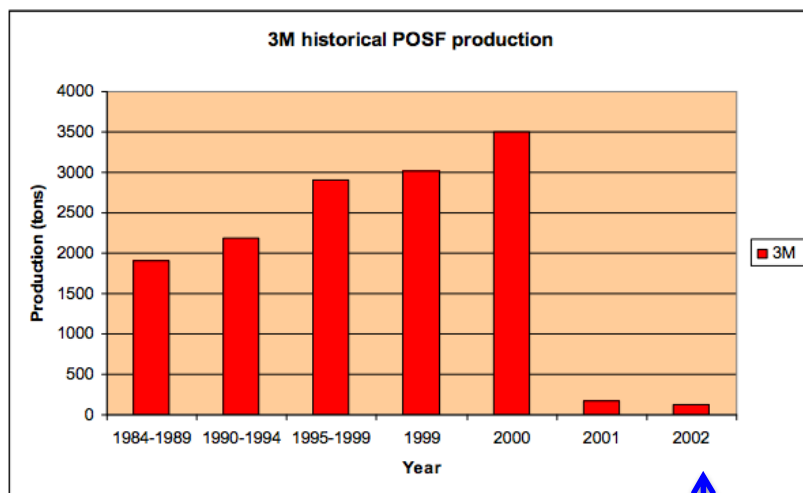
Study found PFCs in 98–100 percent of Vietnamese women giving birth



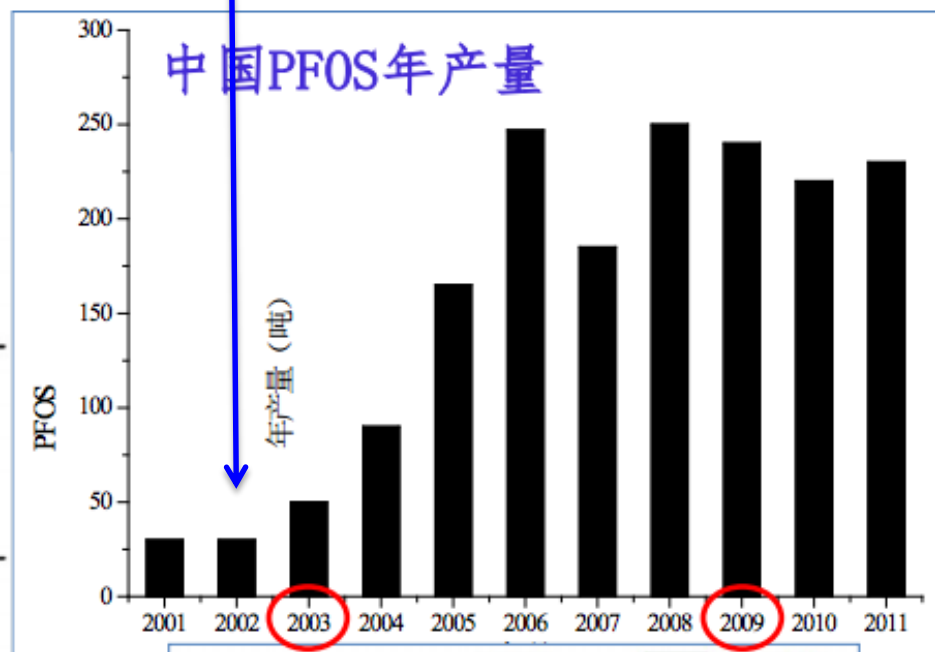


科慕(常熟)氟化物科技有限公司

The Chemours (Changshu) Fluoro Technology Company Limited



Source: 3M (converting 1 kg=2.2 pounds)











M 有机氟材料

M 高性能膜材料

M 特种纤维

M 工程塑料

M 聚氨酯材料

M 电子化学材料





# The Good News

- PFOA/PFOS market/production is shrinking
- Stockholm Convention added PFOS, considering PFOA. PFHxS just proposed
- Awareness of PFCs is growing

# The Less Good News

- Environmentalists/science continue to lag
- Chemicals are still introduced w/o safety info
- No accountability means inadequate cleanup
- PFOA/S just 2 of thousands of PFCs