

# Opposition in Toms River to Ciba-Geigy Superfund site proposal

TED GOLDBERG | JANUARY 26, 2023 | [ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, WATER](#)

'Make no mistake, nobody's off the hook,' DEP commissioner says

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State environmental officials heard from residents Wednesday night during a public hearing in Toms River, where people criticized a new settlement proposal for the former Ciba-Geigy property that is now a Superfund site controlled by the BASF company. The infamous chemical plant polluted groundwater for decades, resulting in a \$13 million settlement for families affected by cancer.

"How do you account for all the people who've died as a result of the cancers that they contracted from what went on here, to even consider letting people come onto this property? It's absolutely insane," said Barry Bendar of Forked River.

The settlement proposal addresses damage to the environment. BASF would pay \$100,000 and most of the Ciba-Geigy site would become an open space after cleanup.

“I understand the concern being raised by residents and neighbors of this facility. Make no mistake, nobody’s off the hook,” said the state Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn LaTourette.

LaTourette said that BASF’s commitment to cleaning toxic groundwater and the \$100,000 payment are part of ensuring accountability. “The first part took place years ago when the DEP took action to hold Ciba-Geigy accountable, paying well over \$300 million over the course of many years, to ensure the cleanup,” he said.

**BASF      CHEMICAL PLANT      CIBA-GEIGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION      FORKED RIVER**

**SHAWN LATOURETTE      SUPERFUND SITE      TOMS RIVER**