

Gelman Becomes a Superfund: Scio Township Breathes a Sigh of Relief, and Prepares for More Work Ahead

More than 50 years since Gelman Sciences began disposing of 1,4 dioxane on its property on Wagner Road in Scio Township, the Environmental Protection Agency has designated the “plume” of dioxane-tainted groundwater as a Superfund site on the National Priorities list. “With this Superfund designation, EPA will use its statutory authorities to hold the company responsible for near- and long-term actions to more expeditiously address possible risks to human health and the environment,” said EPA Regional Administrator Anne Vogel [in their press release](#).

1,4-dioxane is a byproduct of the medical filters produced by Gelman. It is thought that thousands of pounds of dioxane were discharged into soil, surface water, seepage lagoons, and in one deep well injection site on the Gelman property. According to US House of Representatives member [Debbie Dingell](#), “Our communities and local officials have raised concerns about the spread of the 1,4-dioxane plume and the risks it poses for decades, since the contamination was first detected in 1985. This designation reflects the hard work the community put in, and we refused to let this issue be ignored.”

Township Trustee Kathy Knol, who has been the Board’s point person on this issue for 8 years, stated: “This promising outcome is the result of collective work by many people over many years. I am proud of the contribution made by the independent well testing conducted by the Township, which detected dioxane in drinking water wells beyond the previously acknowledged boundaries of the plume. Scio Township will be working collaboratively with the EPA as the process of cleanup moves forward.”