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DuPont Statement on University of Pennsylvania Little Hocking Area C8 Study
Penn study finds no relationship between elevated C8 levels and health effects

PARKERSBURG, W.Va., Aug. 15, 2005 -- DuPont supports the scientific approach taken in one of the first community exposure studies measuring PFOA, also known as C8. The results are consistent with existing scientific data that there are no human health effects known to be caused by exposure to PFOA. Conducted by Dr. Edward A. Emmett, and discussed at a public meeting held this evening in Vincent, Ohio, the study provides the Little Hocking, Ohio, community with a more complete understanding of the potential exposure to PFOA.

As noted in his presentation to the public, Dr. Emmett made a number of recommendations aimed at reducing potential exposure to PFOA. DuPont already has a number of actions underway that address many of Dr. Emmett's recommendations. For example, since 1999, DuPont has reduced emissions of PFOA at its Washington Works facility by 98 percent, and is aggressively installing state-of-the-art water treatment systems.

"We want to provide residents of the Little Hocking community with the same assurance we have given our own employees that, based on research of DuPont and other workers, no human health effects are known to be caused by exposure to PFOA," said Bill Hopkins, Washington Works plant manager. "At the same time, Dr. Emmett's study raises important questions that have been echoed in the community. We believe the independent Science Panel created in the settlement is designed to evaluate and address those concerns."

In February, the company funded an independent Science Panel to design and conduct a health study in Ohio and West Virginia communities near the Washington Works plant to assist in evaluating any potential links between exposure to PFOA and human disease. DuPont funded this independent study as part of a settlement agreement the company entered into that resolved a class action lawsuit filed in Wood County, W. Va.

DuPont is conducting a two-phase employee health study on PFOA for workers at its Washington Works site. Results from the first phase of this study indicate no association between exposure to PFOA and most of the health parameters that were measured. From the DuPont study, the only potentially relevant association is a modest increase in some, but not all, cholesterol fractions in some of the highest exposed workers. It is unclear if this association is caused by PFOA exposure or is related to some other variable. DuPont is consulting with medical and other scientific experts to design and conduct appropriate follow-up testing.

In addition to these health related studies, DuPont has agreed to finance, construct and install a carbon filtration system designed to remove PFOA from the water supplied by the Little Hocking Water Association (LHWA) to its customers. DuPont anticipates this system will be operational within a few months. The company realizes that recent information on the amount of PFOA found in the blood of LHWA customers may be of concern. Therefore, DuPont will finance an interim program to make bottled water available to persons living within the service area until the carbon filtration system is operational. This interim measure will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking and will be administered by the LHWA. DuPont continues to believe that the water currently supplied by LHWA is safe and that there is no health risk involved in drinking or cooking with the water.

DuPont also has agreed to provide state-of-the-art treatment technology for five other public water providers nearby, even though their levels of PFOA are significantly lower than LHWA. Work is well underway for the other five providers. DuPont stands ready to accelerate implementation, and will work with any of the water authorities that desire to do so.

DuPont will continue to work with state and federal regulators to address questions about the safety of PFOA. At the same time, the company remains confident that its operations are safe for the community and the environment.

DuPont is a science company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by creating sustainable solutions essential to a better, safer, healthier life for people everywhere. Operating in more than 70 countries, DuPont offers a wide range of innovative products and services for markets including agriculture, nutrition, electronics, communications, safety and protection, home and construction, transportation and apparel.

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