

DuPont and 3M, accused of contaminating drinking water with PFAS, reached a large settlement agreement to avoid lawsuits for damages to public health.

Three companies accused of contaminating water are seeking the settlement of claims in the US for \$1.185 bn. With this payment, Chemours, DuPont de Nemours and Corteva would settle a class action lawsuit. EFE. On Friday, the three chemical companies Chemours, DuPont de Nemours and Corteva agreed to pay 1,185 million dollars to settle a class action lawsuit in the United States where they were accused of contaminating drinking water with toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often referred to as "forever chemicals".

The agreement reached at a South Carolina court, still subject to court approval, is the most substantial settlement up to date in a PFAS contamination case. And it comes at a time when the country's justice system is tightening the net around big companies involved in this environmental and health crisis, including 3M.

Chemours, Dupont and Corteva, which were once part of the same company, were sued in a class action lawsuit brought by some 300 communities across the country against a group of manufacturers and sellers of a foam product used to put out fires whose PFAS, they argue, leaked into their water supplies.

A law firm representing the complainants and negotiating the deal with the companies, Napoli Shkolnik, said that this "monumental" settlement agreement - thanks to which they avoid trial and do not accept responsibility - "symbolizes the unspoken acceptance" of their part in the PFAS pollution crisis.

After the deal was announced, Chemours soared 24% on Wall Street, DuPont 7.31% and Corteva 3.82%, while 3M revalued 8.75%.

Dupont and associated companies continue to face significant liabilities for the personal injuries and cancer they have caused to countless Americans, including firefighters and military personnel who developed cancer, property damage claims from homeowners, and other municipal resources they have harmed, such as airports.

These substances have been used for 70 years for their non-stick and waterproofing properties in a variety of products, and chronic exposure, even at low levels, is associated with harmful health effects, such as thyroid disease, liver damage and various types of cancer.

The judge hearing the class action lawsuit in South Carolina, Richard Gergel, has another 4,000 cases related to PFAS contamination that have been centralized in this court, according to The Wall Street Journal, and starting next Monday he will oversee a trial against the other defendants, including 3M.

In recent years, and in separate cases, more than a dozen US state prosecutors have sued chemical companies that manufacture PFAS, and some of them have obtained substantial

individual compensation: Minnesota, for example, obtained \$850 million from 3M in a deal signed in 2018.