

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

REPLY TO:

2107 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE
BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4671

504 BROADWAY
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740
(732) 571-1140

67/69 CHURCH STREET
KILMER SQUARE
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901
(732) 249-8892

<https://pallone.house.gov/>

April 28, 2025

Courtney J. Riley
President and Chief Executive Officer
NL Industries, Inc.
5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700
Dallas, TX, 75240

Dear Ms. Riley:

We write with deep concern regarding the findings outlined in NL Industries' recent legal status report and sediment analysis conducted near the Raritan River in Sayreville, New Jersey. Your preliminary sampling confirms what community advocates and environmental experts have feared for decades: elevated levels of toxic metals—including arsenic, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc—persist in the riverbed at levels that exceed ecological screening thresholds set by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

This is not a new issue. In 2009, the Edison Wetlands Association, Raritan Riverkeeper, and NY/NJ Baykeeper filed a lawsuit against your company, seeking to compel a meaningful investigation and cleanup of contaminated sediments adjacent to your former titanium dioxide facility. In June 2024, a federal court found NL Industries responsible for contributing to the contamination, yet the problem remains unresolved. It is unacceptable that, more than 40 years after ceasing operations at the Sayreville plant, your company has still not remediated its toxic legacy.

Your latest report relies on shallow sediment samples—just 6 inches to 2 feet deep—in a river channel that, in some places, exceeds 15 feet. This limited methodology is inadequate and fails to address the full extent of contamination. Furthermore, dismissing the results as typical for an “urban river” does not relieve your company of responsibility—especially given NL Industries' well-documented history of environmental violations across New Jersey.

The Raritan River is one of New Jersey's most vital waterways, used every day by anglers, boaters, and families who have a right to expect it to be clean and safe. The State of New Jersey continues to invest in restoration, habitat protection, and even fish stocking efforts along this river. But those efforts are undermined when polluters like NL Industries delay full accountability and action.

We urge you to take the following steps without further delay:

- **Complete a full analysis** of sediment contamination throughout the affected portion of the Raritan River, including deeper core samples.
- **Publicly release all findings** from current and future sampling, including past data from 2000 and 2002 that revealed similar contamination.
- **Submit a detailed remediation plan** to both federal and state regulators, and to the public, including a timeline and funding commitments.
- **Commit to full cleanup** of the contaminated sediments, in consultation with NJDEP and community stakeholders.

Generations of New Jersey families have paid the price for NL Industries' pollution. It is long past time for your company to do the right thing—and clean up what it left behind.

Sincerely,


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress


CRAIG COUGHLIN
New Jersey Assembly Speaker