



August 3, 2015

## **SENT VIA EMAIL:**

Ellen J. Kullman
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company
1007 Market St.
Wllmington, DE 19898

Mark P. Vergnano
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Chemours Company
1007 Market St.
Wilmington, DE 19898

Dear Ms. Kullman and Mr. Vergnano:

We are writing out of a deep concern for safety in DuPont's current plants, and in the former DuPont plants spun off July 1 into Chemours. We propose that our two unions and your two companies work together to improve protections for our members, other DuPont employees, and the communities surrounding your facilities.

Our unions represent hourly employees in a number of current and recent DuPont plants, including the LaPorte, Texas plant where four workers were killed by a November 15, 2014 methyl mercaptan release, and the Yerkes plant near Buffalo, where one worker was killed and another seriously injured by a flammable vapor explosion on November 9, 2010. And, while we do not represent employees in the Belle, WV, where a worker was fatally poisoned by phosgene gas on January 3, 2010, we care deeply for their safety and the safety of the surrounding community that would be at risk from a larger release.

We know you must be as saddened by these events as we are. You must also be concerned for the reputation of the company. DuPont was once a leader in safety. The recent LaPorte accident in particular has called the image of safety leadership into question. As David Michaels, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA put it: "DuPont promotes itself as having a 'world-class safety' culture and even markets its safety expertise to other employers, but these four preventable workplace deaths and the very serious hazards we uncovered at this facility are evidence of a failed safety program."

Our unions once had a good relationship with DuPont on safety. In fact, the United Steelworkers Union worked closely with DuPont on the rulemaking effort that led to the OSHA Process Safety Standard. Yet in the past eight months, DuPont has been cited for serious, willful and repeated violations of that standard at LaPorte, Deepwater New Jersey, and Darrow Louisiana. The July 23 Chemical Safety Board interim report on the LaPorte tragedy revealed numerous additional safety failures.

Safety and health experts from our unions routinely visit workplaces and work closely with employers to identify and correct hazardous conditions. But in recent years DuPont has granted access to its facilities only when the National Labor Relations Board has ordered it, and then more than a year after the original request.

In contrast, the USW and the ICWUC have established strong partnerships with many employers, including Alcoa, Goodyear, ArcelorMittal, United States Steel, Merck and the U.S. Department of Energy. We believe those partnerships have saved lives and improved working conditions. Our unions operate extensive safety education programs, with classes on every topic from effective safety and health committees, to the new globally harmonized system for chemical labeling, to process safety management. The importance of active worker and union participation is widely recognized by safety and health professionals, researchers, regulators, and in voluntary standards and codes of practice.

Our unions have the right and the moral responsibility to represent our members on matters of safety and health. We would greatly prefer to exercise that right and responsibility through a collaborative relationship with DuPont and Chemours at the corporate and the plant levels, rather than through OSHA complaints and NLRB charges. We are confident that a close and mutually respectful relationship can improve safety far more effectively.

We would welcome a chance to discuss this with you. Alternately, your safety and health departments can contact ours. Our contact information is appended to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Leo W. Gerard

International President, United Steelworkers

Frank Cyphers

President, International Chemical Workers

Union Council