

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Statement in Response to PEER
February 15, 2012**

Protecting public health is EPA's highest priority and we agree that sites that pose a risk to communities must be addressed. There are a variety of cleanup programs on the state and federal level available to accomplish that goal, including the federal Superfund program. States have their own cleanup programs and sites can be cleaned up using authorities under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The sites mentioned by PEER in its statement today are being handled under New Jersey's cleanup program or under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Placing sites on the Superfund list is a decision made using a number of factors, not just their hazardous ranking score. One important factor is whether the site is being addressed under another cleanup program, as is the case with these sites.