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Long-term study of chloroprene workers shows no link to cancer mortality

LaPlace, LA – A study [published in November in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*](#) followed nearly 7,000 workers at chloroprene-handling facilities across United States for approximately 70 years and concluded “the risk of death from lung or liver cancer is unrelated” to exposure to the chemical. The peer-reviewed scientific journal is dedicated to workplace health and safety.

The study reviewed lifetime data on over 1,300 employees of the Neoprene-producing facility near Reserve in St. John the Baptist Parish along with approximately 5,500 employees of a facility in Louisville, Kentucky and found they experienced below-average rates for all cancer deaths compared with the U.S. and parish/county averages.

The study, authored by researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and funded by the International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers, follows up on a previous study published in 2007 with similar results. Authors of the study say the additional 17 years of data on workers’ health outcomes included in the update make it a “more reliable and informative evaluation” of mortality patterns.

Other research completed by the Louisiana Tumor Registry shows residents living near the Reserve plant do not experience elevated rates of those cancers compared with state averages.

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About Denka Performance Elastomer

Denka Performance Elastomer LLC acquired DuPont’s Neoprene manufacturing operations at the Pontchartrain Works site in LaPlace in November 2015. DPE employs around 240 manufacturing jobs associated with the Pontchartrain Works production site.

DPE intends to make strategic investments in the Pontchartrain Works facility while adhering to a key DPE guideline to develop and supply products that are safe and environmentally friendly. DPE considers the safe production and handling of materials and products and the prevention of their unauthorized

release into the environment as its most important mission as a chemical manufacturer.