



Halley v. Honeywell
United States District Court Settlement
May 2015

From the early 1900s to 1954, the Mutual Chemical Company operated a "chrome ore" processing plant on Route 440, where Home Depot is now located. The plant produced chromium products that were used as a key ingredient in stainless steel and in heating and cooling systems. In June 1954, Mutual Chemical closed the plant and in August 1954, Mutual was purchased by Allied Chemical.

In 2009, Honeywell, the successor to Allied, completed the remediation of the former Roosevelt Drive-in site where most of the residue from the plant was placed prior to 1954. The drive-in site is across the street from Home Depot. The company also is in the process of cleaning up areas to the north and south of the former drive-in site.

In 2010, a number of Jersey City residents sued Honeywell, claiming that chrome residue had diminished their property values. As Honeywell continues to make progress cleaning up these sites and preparing them for reuse and redevelopment, the company is committed to resolving all matters related to this historic contamination. Therefore, it has negotiated a settlement of this litigation with the lawyers representing the plaintiffs.

The settlement identifies two classes of **residential property owners** (properties with one to four family homes) who are entitled to a portion of the settlement. People who owned these residential properties at anytime between May 17, 2010 and October 1, 2014, and who are in either Class A or Class C (see map on back) are part of the class settlement. Other Jersey City residents also brought claims against PPG related to neighborhoods close to the PPG Garfield Avenue plant. This settlement does not affect those claims against PPG.

The amount of money for each property owner will be determined by the number of owners who participate. It is estimated that owners could be eligible to receive an award of about \$1,850 for each property.

Honeywell and the plaintiffs filed papers with the court asking for preliminary approval of the settlement. The court gave preliminary approval on May 1. By June 1, the Claims Administrator (Garden City) will mail notice and claims forms to each residential property in the two classes, publish a notice in the *Jersey Journal*, and set up a settlement information website. For more information, residential property owners should visit the website that will be established by Garden City, or follow the instructions in the notice and claims forms that they receive.

The lawsuit has not affected the ongoing cleanup west of Route 440 or the schedule for 2016 completion.

Honeywell also has cleaned up the former Foodtown site on Ocean Avenue and the New Jersey City University site on Route 440 under the supervision of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and has largely completed the remediation of Hackensack River sediments. We are committed to continuing to work with the Jersey City community while we safely remediate those sites for which we are responsible.

