



Halley v. Honeywell
United States District Court Settlement
November 2014

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 would be entitled to a portion of the settlement. People who owned these residential properties after May 17, 2010 and who are in either Class A or Class C (see map below) are part of the class settlement. The same parties also brought claims related to neighborhoods close to the PPG Garfield Avenue plant. This settlement only affects the litigation between Honeywell and the plaintiffs.

The amount of money for each property owner will be determined by the number of owners who participate. It is estimated that property owners could be eligible to receive an award of about \$1,900 for each property.

Honeywell and the plaintiffs have filed papers with the court asking for preliminary approval of the settlement. If the court agrees, a claims administrator will be appointed. The administrator would then send letters to all eligible residents, about 30 days after approval, with additional information and instructions on how to make a claim.

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



Class A is generally bounded by Kellogg Street between the Hackensack River and Society Hill Drive North; Society Hill Drive North between Kellogg Street and Danforth Avenue; Danforth Avenue between Society Hill Drive North and John F. Kennedy Boulevard West; John F. Kennedy Boulevard West between Danforth Avenue and Claremont Avenue; Claremont Avenue between Route 440 and John F. Kennedy Boulevard West; Route 440 between Claremont Avenue and Culver Avenue; and from the intersection of Culver Avenue and Route 440 continuing Northwest to the Hackensack River.

Class C is generally comprised of the residential development community known as “Society Hill”, which includes the area known as “Droyers Point” within that community, and is generally bounded by Lee Court, Willow Street and Cottonwood Street to the West, Cherry Street to the South, Society Hill Drive North and Kellogg Street to the East and Lyon Court to the North.