

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 30**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator NELLIE POU**  
**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Memorializes Administrator of EPA to expedite cleanup of Garfield Ground Water Contamination site and provide for temporary relocation of residents affected thereby.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the Administrator of  
2       the United States Environmental Protection Agency to expedite  
3       cleanup of the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site and  
4       provide for the temporary relocation of residents affected  
5       thereby.  
6  
7   **WHEREAS**, The E.C. Electroplating Corporation conducted operations  
8       in the City of Garfield, New Jersey, from the 1930s until 2009; and  
9   **WHEREAS**, In 1983 a partially buried vertical storage tank at the E.C.  
10      Electroplating property failed, releasing an estimated 3,640 gallons  
11      of chromic acid directly into the shallow aquifer and deeper  
12      bedrock aquifer; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Cleanup efforts by the E.C. Electroplating Corporation  
14      were terminated in 1984, less than one year after the spill, and at a  
15      time when more than 70 percent of the contamination was not yet  
16      extracted from the site; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, After 10 years of investigation, the United States  
18      Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finally recognized the  
19      Garfield Ground Water Contamination site as one of the most  
20      hazardous in the nation by adding it to the National Priorities List  
21      pursuant to the “Comprehensive Environmental Response,  
22      Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980,” 42 U.S.C. s.9605; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, The Garfield Ground Water Contamination site is located  
24      in an area of mixed residential and commercial use in the City of  
25      Garfield and is marked by a chromium groundwater plume that  
26      extends westward from the E.C. Electroplating property to the  
27      Passaic River; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, The chromium groundwater plume is now suspected of  
29      having migrated across the Passaic River to areas within the City of  
30      Passaic and EPA officials are currently investigating these areas for  
31      contamination; and  
32   **WHEREAS**, The contamination has already resulted in the seepage of  
33      hexavalent chromium into the basements of a growing number of  
34      homes and businesses in the City of Garfield; and  
35   **WHEREAS**, Hexavalent chromium is extremely toxic and is known to  
36      cause cancer and nervous system damage; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, As a result of the severe and widespread pollution  
38      throughout the contaminated community, property values have so  
39      declined that many residents who wish to evacuate cannot sell their  
40      homes, rendering any chance of independent evacuations a financial  
41      impossibility; and  
42   **WHEREAS**, With its recent designation as a site on the National  
43      Priorities List, the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site is  
44      now eligible for federal funding to be used for cleanup efforts and  
45      related costs, including costs associated with the temporary  
46      relocation of those residents affected by the contamination; now,  
47      therefore,

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**BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General Assembly concurring):*

1. The Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency is respectfully memorialized to take all appropriate actions to facilitate the expeditious cleanup of the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site. The Administrator is further memorialized to develop and implement a plan that would provide funding for the temporary relocation of any residents on or around the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site who are at risk of being affected by the contamination.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, each member of the United States Congress elected from this State, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

## STATEMENT

This concurrent resolution memorializes the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to take all appropriate actions to facilitate the expeditious cleanup of the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site and to develop and implement a plan that would provide funding for the temporary relocation of any residents on or around the site who are at risk of being affected by the contamination.

In 1983 a partially buried vertical storage tank failed at an electroplating facility located in the City of Garfield, releasing an estimated 3,640 gallons of chromic acid directly into the shallow aquifer and deeper bedrock aquifer. The contaminated site is located in an area of mixed residential and commercial use in the City of Garfield and is marked by a substantial chromium groundwater plume, which is now suspected of possibly having migrated under the Passaic River to areas in the City of Passaic.

The contamination has already resulted in the seepage of hexavalent chromium into the basements of a growing number of homes and businesses. Hexavalent chromium is extremely toxic and is known to cause cancer and nervous system damage. With its recent designation as a Superfund site, the Garfield Ground Water Contamination site is now eligible for federal funding to be used for cleanup efforts and related costs, including costs associated with the temporary relocation of those innocent residents affected by the contamination.