

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

BETHANY DePAUL, ARLENE QUARANTA,  
and MEREDITH QUARANTA, individually  
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KIMBERLY-CLARK CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:24-cv-00271

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs Bethany DePaul, Arlene Quaranta, and Meredith Quaranta (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, allege the following against Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation (“Defendant” or “Kimberly-Clark”) based upon the investigation of Plaintiffs’ counsel, information and belief, personal knowledge, and a review of publicly available information.

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiffs bring this class action against Defendant Kimberly-Clark for the claims set forth herein arising from Kimberly-Clark’s intentional, reckless, and/or negligent acts and omissions in connection with the discharge, distribution, and/or disposal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and their constituents (collectively referred to in this Complaint as “PFAS Chemicals” or “PFAS”), which have caused the contamination of real property and drinking water supplies owned and used by Plaintiffs and other members of the proposed classes set forth below (the “Class”).

2. Kimberly-Clark’s conduct has caused Plaintiffs and members of the Class to be exposed to PFAS Chemicals via, *inter alia*, ingestion of PFAS-contaminated water. As a result,

Plaintiffs and members of the Class have suffered injury to their bodies and property, including subclinical cellular injuries that have substantially increased Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's risk of developing cancers and other diseases and conditions linked to PFAS Chemical exposure, as well as a loss of enjoyment of their real property because of the contamination of their soil and drinking water wells.

### PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Bethany DePaul is a Connecticut citizen domiciled in New Milford, Connecticut. Plaintiff DePaul's real property and drinking water well supply have been contaminated with PFAS Chemicals. For years, including during the applicable statute of limitations periods, Plaintiff DePaul ingested water from her drinking water well located on her real property, now known to be contaminated with PFAS Chemicals. As a result of her ingestion of PFAS-contaminated water from her drinking water well contaminated by Kimberly-Clark, Plaintiff DePaul has experienced subclinical cellular changes in her body that have substantially increased Plaintiff DePaul's risk of cancers and other diseases linked to PFAS Chemical exposure.

4. Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta is a Connecticut citizen domiciled in New Milford, Connecticut. Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's real property and drinking water well have been contaminated with PFAS Chemicals. For years, including during the applicable statute of limitations periods, Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta ingested water from her drinking water well located on her real property, now known to be contaminated with PFAS Chemicals. As a result of her ingestion of PFAS- contaminated water from her drinking water well contaminated by Kimberly-Clark, Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta has experienced subclinical cellular changes in her body that have substantially increased Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's risk of cancers and other diseases linked to PFAS Chemical exposure.

5. Plaintiff Meredith Quaranta is a Connecticut citizen domiciled in New Milford, Connecticut. For extended periods of time, including during the applicable statute of limitations periods, Plaintiff Meredith Quaranta resided on Arlene Quaranta's real property. For years, including during the applicable statute of limitations periods, Plaintiff Meredith Quaranta ingested water contaminated with PFAS Chemicals from the drinking water well located on Arlene Quaranta's real property. As a result of her ingestion of PFAS-contaminated water contaminated by Kimberly-Clark, Plaintiff Meredith Quaranta has experienced subclinical cellular changes in her body that have substantially increased Plaintiff Meredith Quaranta's risk of cancers and other diseases linked to PFAS Chemical exposure.

6. Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation is a Delaware corporation based in Texas that maintains its principal place of business at 351 Phelps Dr, Irving, TX, 75038-6507. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant Kimberly-Clark improperly used, stored, emitted, discharged, disposed of, and/or distributed PFAS Chemicals in and around New Milford, Connecticut.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2)(A) because this is a class action with aggregate claims exceeding \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and Plaintiffs and most members of the proposed Class are citizens of states different from Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

8. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation because Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation transacts business in the United States, including in this District, is licensed to do business in this District, and has committed, and continues to commit, tortious acts in this District which have caused, and continue to cause, harm to Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because Defendant Kimberly-Clark transacts significant business in this District and because a substantial part of the conduct giving rise to this complaint took place within this District.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

I. PERFLUORINATED ALKYLATED SUBSTANCES EASILY SPREAD AND PERSIST IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

10. Perfluorinated Alkylated Substances (“PFAS Chemicals” or “PFAS”) are artificial chemicals resistant to, *inter alia*, biodegradation, atmospheric photooxidation, direct photolysis, and hydrolysis.

11. PFAS Chemicals’ resistance to these (and other) forces causes them to persist in the environment for long (if not indefinite) periods of time, earning them the nickname “forever chemicals.”

12. Thousands of PFAS Chemicals have been developed and produced, but the two most widely used PFAS Chemicals are Perfluorooctanoic Acid (“PFOA”) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (“PFOS”).

13. PFOA and PFOS were developed in the 1940s and 1950s and have been added to and/or used in products such as metal coatings, clothing, furniture, adhesives, food packaging, paper products, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces, insulation of electrical wire, and many other products due to the ability of PFO and PFOS to repel water, dirt, oil, and grease, resist heat, and protect surfaces.

14. PFAS Chemicals easily cycle through the environment via air, water, soil, and sediments, with primary sources of contamination stemming from manufacturing sites.

15. PFAS Chemicals are water soluble: Once PFAS Chemicals enter a body of water, they easily spread throughout the body of water or water system and remain unless and until the

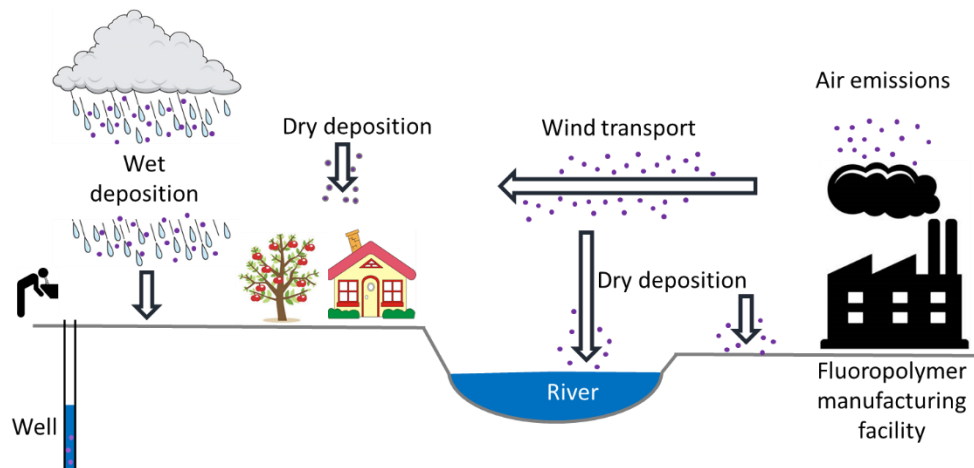
PFAS Chemicals are actively removed. As a result, drinking water contamination is a common way people are exposed to PFAS Chemicals.

16. Typical water treatment and filtration systems do not filter PFOS and PFOA from contaminated water due to the chemicals’ physical and chemical properties.

17. Likewise, chlorine and other disinfectants that are often added to drinking water systems are not capable of removing, and do not remove, PFOS or PFOA.

18. PFAS Chemicals also spread through the air. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“CT DEEP”) has recognized that “[i]ndustrial emissions and solid waste incineration may release PFAS to the air, which can then travel long distances before eventually settling back down onto land through a process called 'atmospheric deposition' or through contaminated snow and rainwater,” which is part of why PFAS is such “an environmental problem.”<sup>1</sup>

19. The following graphic illustrates how stack emissions containing PFAS Chemicals lead to environmental PFAS contaminations:



<sup>1</sup> <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Remediation--Site-Clean-Up/Contaminants-of-Emerging-Concern/DEEP-PFAS-Homepage>

20. The EPA has studied PFAS transport through the air, confirming that PFAS air emissions, transport, and deposition can lead to the contamination of surface and ground water.<sup>2</sup>

21. PFAS Chemicals also spread via the groundwater. PFAS Chemicals can leach into soil and, from there, enter groundwater systems. Once PFAS have contaminated groundwater, they can spread through aquifers, which are layers of water-bearing permeable rock, sand, or gravel from which groundwater can be extracted.

## II. PFAS CHEMICALS ARE HARMFUL TO HUMAN HEALTH.

22. Human exposure to PFAS Chemicals can occur in several ways, including drinking water contaminated with PFAS, breathing air containing PFAS, and eating certain foods that may contain PFAS.

23. PFOS and PFOA accumulate in humans' blood and organs, including the kidneys and the liver, and interfere with the human body's functions, including the functions of organs and immune systems, leading to adverse health outcomes.

24. Peer-reviewed studies reflecting the most recent and best scientific understanding of PFAS Chemicals' impact on human health consider *any* amount of PFAS Chemical exposure, including exposure to PFOS and PFOA, to be hazardous to human health. In fact, negative health effects may occur because of exposure to PFOA or PFOS in drinking water at levels near zero and below most laboratories' ability to detect at this time. In other words, exposure to a detectable amount of PFAS Chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS, is hazardous to human health.

25. The following is a non-exhaustive list of adverse human health outcomes that can result from exposure to PFOS and PFOA, many of which can manifest years after exposure:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/cmaq/simulating-pfas-fate-and-transport-air-cmaq>

- a. reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women;
- b. developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth-weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes;
- c. increased risk of kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer;
- d. reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response;
- e. interference with the body's natural hormones and liver enzymes;
- f. increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity;
- g. changes in liver enzymes;
- h. increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women;
- i. interference with; and
- j. suppression of vaccine response (decreased serum antibody concentrations) in children.

26. PFOA has additionally been observed to cause Leydig cell tumors, pancreatic cancer cell tumors, and hepatocellular adenomas in rats.

27. PFOS has additionally been observed to cause potentially human relevant tumors, including hepatocellular tumors in male and female rats and pancreatic islet cell carcinomas in male rats.

28. Concerns over potential adverse health effects from PFAS Chemicals on humans grew in the early 2000s with the discovery of PFOA and PFOS in laboratory studies of human

blood. In 2009, the EPA published provisional health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, based on evidence available at that time. The EPA noted that levels of 0.04 ppb in tested sites were “not of concern,” and the EPA set the PFOS provisional health advisory at a level of 0.2 ppb and the PFOA provisional health advisory at a level of 0.4 ppb.<sup>3</sup>

29. In 2016, the EPA issued a revised health advisory, “identify[ing] the concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur over a lifetime of exposure [as] 0.07 parts per billion (70 parts per trillion) for both PFOA and PFOS.”<sup>4</sup>

30. On June 15, 2022, the EPA released four drinking water health advisories for PFAS, updating and replacing its 2016 PFOA and PFOS advisories based on new science. The updated EPA advisory stated, “some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS in water that are near zero and below EPA’s ability to detect at this time.”

31. The EPA continues to enact more stringent PFAS regulations in order to “prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.”<sup>5</sup>

### III. KIMBERLY CLARK USED PFAS CHEMICALS IN ITS MANUFACTURING PROCESSES AT THE NEW MILFORD FACILITY.

32. Kimberly-Clark has operated and produced paper goods at the manufacturing facility at 58 Pickett District Road, New Milford, Connecticut (the “New Milford Facility”) since the late 1950s.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/pfoa-pfos-provisional.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-05-25/pdf/2016-12361.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>



33. The New Milford Facility is situated on a nearly 60-acre parcel bordering the Housatonic River, a body of water that is 149 miles long and spans almost 2,000 square miles from its source in the Berkshires, through Connecticut, to Long Island Sound.

34. Kimberly-Clark describes the New Milford Facility as “an integral part of New Milford for 50 years,” employing over 350 workers making diapers and tissue products for popular household brands such as Kleenex, Scott, and Huggies.<sup>6</sup> The New Milford Facility operates on a large scale, producing nearly one million cartons of Kleenex facial tissues per day.

35. Many products Kimberly-Clark manufactures and sells under the Huggies, Kleenex, and Scott brands are types of products known to traditionally utilize and/or contain types of PFAS Chemicals in their manufacturing processes.

36. For example, PFAS Chemicals have traditionally been used in the outer lining of diapers—which Kimberly-Clark manufactures under the Huggies brand name—to prevent liquid from soaking through them.

37. Kimberly-Clark historically manufactured diapers at the New Milford Facility.

38. PFAS Chemicals are also typically used in the manufacture of toilet paper and facial tissues as wetting agents and for other purposes. Kimberly-Clark manufactures tissue paper and sells tissue paper products under the Kleenex and Scott brand names.

39. Kimberly-Clark currently manufactures tissue paper at the New Milford Facility.

40. Prior contamination incidents in the United States corroborate Kimberly-Clark’s use of PFAS Chemicals in the tissue paper manufacturing process. For example, Kimberly-Clark previously manufactured tissue paper at a facility located in Fullerton, California, which Kimberly-Clark closed in 2020.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://investor.kimberly-clark.com/news-releases/news-release-details/kimberly-clarks-energy-independence-project-begins-providing>

41. Upon the closing of the Fullerton, California Kimberly-Clark tissue paper plant in 2020, local officials discovered that a large drinking water well located adjacent to the Fullerton Kimberly-Clark site (which supplied over 75% of the drinking water supply for local water agencies) was contaminated with dangerous levels of PFAS Chemicals, requiring immediate remediation to make the drinking water safe for human consumption.

42. Kimberly-Clark manufacturing processes result in substantial air emissions which exit the Kimberly-Clark facility via emissions stacks. These emissions include PFAS Chemicals.

43. Kimberly-Clark also owns a 165-acre landfill site located on Kent Road in New Milford (the “New Milford Landfill”) located up the road from the New Milford Facility. According to publicly filed records with CT DEEP, Kimberly-Clark dumped “short fiber paper sludge”—a byproduct of the paper manufacturing process notorious for containing high concentrations of PFAS Chemicals—at the New Milford Landfill. It is likely that PFAS Chemicals in the short fiber paper sludge dumped at the New Milford Landfill have leached into the surrounding area.

IV. KIMBERLY-CLARK CONTAMINATED NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS’ LAND AND WATER WITH TOXIC PFAS CHEMICALS.

44. Kimberly-Clark’s manufacturing practices caused stack emissions containing PFAS Chemicals to go airborne, travel, and ultimately deposit PFAS Chemicals on the real property and in the drinking water wells of Plaintiffs Bethany DePaul and Arlene Quaranta and the members of the Class.

45. The PFAS Chemicals deposited by Kimberly-Clark’s stack emissions contaminated the soil and drinking water wells located on Plaintiffs’ and members of the Class’s properties.

46. The contamination of the drinking well water on the properties of Plaintiffs Bethany DePaul and Arlene Quaranta and members of the Class caused individuals ingesting water originating from those wells to be exposed to unsafe levels of PFAS Chemicals.

47. This progression of contamination (*i.e.*, air to soil to groundwater) is consistent with other known examples of stack emissions depositing PFAS Chemicals.

48. Stack emissions are those gases and solids that come out of the smokestack after the incineration process. PFAS from the smokestack can attach to particles or dissolve in rain and snow, which are then deposited to land and water from the air – a process known as atmospheric deposition.

49. Stack test data from states like North Carolina, New Hampshire, and New York have confirmed PFAS emissions from smokestacks and that sources include PFAS manufacturing facilities and large industrial users of PFAS-containing products.<sup>7</sup>

50. North Carolina also discovered atmospheric deposition of PFAS many miles downwind from a manufacturing facility,<sup>8</sup> indicating that emissions from manufacturing facilities like Kimberly-Clark’s New Milford Facility can cause PFAS contamination throughout a widespread area.

51. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, manufacturer of advanced plastics containing PFAS, is one example of how readily PFAS can travel through stack emissions. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”) has reported that:

[I]n 2004, Saint-Gobain conducted stack tests using testing and analytical methods that had recently been developed to evaluate the potential PFOA emissions from three coating towers at the facility. Upon review of the emissions detected, Saint-Gobain reported to NHDES that the emissions from the entire facility were predicted to exceed the ambient air limits (AALs) established in Env-A 1400,

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/PFAS-Response/Workgroups/Air-Quality/FAQ-Air-Quality-Related-Issues.pdf?rev=c3f0d4f04a9699d288ab5b38f056>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/faq/categories/pfas-related-air-quality-issues>

Regulated Toxic Air Pollutants. NHDES issued an Administrative Order by Consent to Saint-Gobain, which required reformulation of coatings to reduce PFOA content by the end of 2006. Additional stack testing was conducted in 2007, at which time Saint-Gobain demonstrated compliance with the AALs using the information from the stack test and air dispersion modeling. As a result, PFOA emissions were reduced by more than 96% from 2004 levels.<sup>9</sup>

52. In investigating the Saint-Gobain PFAS contamination crisis, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“Dept. of HHS”) also confirmed that “[g]roundwater contamination is presumed to have occurred due to PFAS released from air stacks at the facility depositing on soil and filtering down to the groundwater,” and the “pathway could have been a significant source of exposure, especially in the past before emissions controls were installed.”<sup>10</sup>

53. The Dept. of HHS further warned that humans could still “be exposed today if they come in contact with soil, surface water, or sediment contaminated by past air releases” from the Saint-Gobain facility,<sup>11</sup> indicating that spread by air emissions—which can deposit PFAS Chemicals miles away—results in long lasting risks to human health.

54. The Dept. of HHS provides an explanation of the steps that lead to PFAS exposure from private well drinking water, beginning with stack emissions:<sup>12</sup>

- a. Source – Releases of PFAS from the site into the air.
- b. Transport – PFAS dispersing in air, settling onto the ground, and washing down into underlying groundwater used for drinking water for private wells.
- c. Exposure Point – Drinking water taps of people living in the area using private wells.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.pfas.des.nh.gov/pfas-occurrences/saint-gobain-performance-plastics/site-investigation-history>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Office of Community Health and Hazard Assessment, *Evaluation of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Private Wells near the Saint Gobain Performance Plastics Site in Southern New Hampshire*, November 17, 2023, available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/StGobainPlastics/StGobain-PFAS-private-well-HC-508.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

- d. Exposure Route – Ingestion of drinking water provided by private wells.
- e. Exposed Population – People living or working in the area who drink or drank water from private wells.

55. New Milford, Connecticut has a dominant easterly wind for half the year, during the winter and spring months.

56. The properties of Plaintiffs Arlene Quaranta and Bethany DePaul are located due east of the Kimberly-Clark New Milford Facility, under 3 miles away, and are elevated several hundred feet above both sea level and the Kimberly-Clark New Milford Facility.

57. The elevation levels of Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's properties are consistent with elevation levels likely to experience PFAS Chemical contamination from stack emissions where stack emissions containing PFAS Chemicals exist.

58. Additionally, as the prior stack emission contamination incidents discussed above have shown, 3 miles is well within the area likely to be affected by Kimberly-Clark's stack burning emissions.

59. Kimberly-Clark's New Milford Facility is the only plausible stack-emission emitting industry in the area capable of spreading PFAS contamination to nearby properties' soil and private drinking water wells, like the PFAS contamination by Saint-Gobain.

60. Additionally, the elevation of the properties of Plaintiff DePaul and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta means that is extremely unlikely that PFAS contamination could have come from any source other than stack emissions as there has been no known dumping of materials containing PFAS Chemicals on their properties, and they are not downstream of any body of water known to be contaminated with PFAS Chemicals.

*A. Laboratory Testing Confirms the Soil on Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's Real Property is Contaminated with PFAS Chemicals.*

61. Providing further confirmation of the PFAS Chemical contamination caused by Kimberly-Clark's New Milford Facility are the results of December 2023 testing of soil samples taken throughout the area surrounding the New Milford Facility, including on Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's properties.

62. This testing confirmed the presence of PFAS Chemicals in the soil on Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's real property. Samples were taken from 0 to 6 inches beneath the surface of the ground at five locations in New Milford to the north, south, east, and west of the New Milford Facility (the "Soil Samples"). The five locations of the Soil Samples included Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's two residences and three public parks near the New Milford Facility. The results of the December 2023 testing revealed the presence of PFOA and/or PFOS in all Soil Samples, including as follows:

- a. Soil Sample 1, taken from a park located off of Route 202, West of the New-Milford Facility [GEO-1]: PFOS 6.54 ng/L and PFOA 3.81 ng/L.
- b. Soil Sample 2, taken Lovers Leap Park, located approximately 2 miles South of the New Milford Facility [GEO-2]: PFOA 3.59 ng/L.
- c. Soil Sample 3, taken from Addis Park, located directly across the Housatonic River from the New Milford Facility [GEO-3]: PFOS 6.63 ng/L and PFOA 5.88 ng/L.
- d. Soil Sample 4, taken from Plaintiff DePaul's residence [GEO-4]: PFOS 7.71 ng/L and PFOA 9.57 ng/L.
- e. Soil Sample 5, taken from Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's residence [GEO-5]: PFOS 9.69 ng/L and PFOA 6.52 ng/L.

63. Each Soil Sample location is within 3 miles of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's New Milford Facility.

64. Soil Sample GEO-4 and Soil Sample GEO-5—the samples from Plaintiffs' real property—returned results showing dangerous, toxic levels of PFAS Chemicals. The testing results from all five sampling locations are below, with chemical concentrations listed in mg/kg:

DECEMBER 28, 2023 SOIL SAMPLE  
TEST RESULTS

Chemical	SAMPLE GEO-1	SAMPLE GEO-2	SAMPLE GEO-3	SAMPLE GEO-4	SAMPLE GEO-5
PFBS	ND (<0.000274)	ND (<0.000286)	ND (<0.000342)	ND (<0.000378)	ND (<0.000312)
PFBA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFDS	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFDA	ND (<0.000274)	ND (<0.000286)	ND (<0.000342)	ND (<0.000378)	ND (<0.000312)
PFDoA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFHpS	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFHpA	ND (<0.000274)	ND (<0.000286)	ND (<0.000342)	ND (<0.000378)	ND (<0.000312)
PFHxS	ND (<0.000274)	ND (<0.000286)	ND (<0.000342)	ND (<0.000378)	ND (<0.000312)
PFHxA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFNS	ND (<0.0011)	ND (<0.00114)	ND (<0.00137)	ND (<0.00151)	ND (<0.00125)
PFNA	<b>0.000289</b>	ND (<0.000286)	ND (<0.000342)	ND (<0.000378)	<b>0.000638</b>
FOSA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000697)	ND (<0.000623)
PFOS	<b>0.000654</b>	ND (<0.000286)	<b>0.000663</b>	<b>0.000771</b>	<b>0.000969</b>
PFOA	<b>0.000381</b>	<b>0.000359</b>	<b>0.000588</b>	<b>0.000957</b>	<b>0.000652</b>
PFPeS	ND (<0.0011)	ND (<0.00114)	ND (<0.00137)	ND (<0.00151)	ND (<0.00125)
PFPeA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFTA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFTrDA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
PFUnA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
11Cl-PF3OUdS	ND (<0.0011)	ND (<0.00114)	ND (<0.00137)	ND (<0.00151)	ND (<0.00125)
8:2FTS	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
4:2FTS	ND (<0.0011)	ND (<0.00114)	ND (<0.00137)	ND (<0.00151)	ND (<0.00125)
6:2FTS	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
HFPO-DA	ND (<0.00274)	ND (<0.00286)	ND (<0.00342)	ND (<0.00378)	ND (<0.00312)
ADONA	ND (<0.0011)	ND (<0.00114)	ND (<0.00137)	ND (<0.00151)	ND (<0.00125)
9Cl-PF3ONS	ND (<0.0011)	ND (<0.00114)	ND (<0.00137)	ND (<0.00151)	ND (<0.00125)
NEtFOSAA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
NMeFOSAA	ND (<0.000548)	ND (<0.000572)	ND (<0.000684)	ND (<0.000755)	ND (<0.000623)
	<b>0.001324</b>	<b>0.000359</b>	<b>0.001251</b>	<b>0.001728</b>	<b>0.002259</b>

65. The best and current scientific understanding of PFAS Chemicals recognizes the above concentrations found in the soil at Plaintiffs' property as dangerous enough to require immediate remediation, as soil contamination at these levels is likely to cause groundwater and

drinking water well contamination, leading to human exposure to dangerous levels of toxic PFAS Chemicals.

66. PFAS contamination in soil adversely impacts water supplies. Because PFAS are mobile, they can be transported through rainwater run-off and enter surface water and/or seep through the soil and migrate into groundwater, which leads to PFAS contamination of sources of drinking water.<sup>13</sup>

67. Thus, it is highly probable that the contamination of the soil on Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's real property caused each of their respective drinking water wells to also become contaminated with toxic levels of PFAS Chemicals.

68. Because of PFAS Chemicals' persistence and solubility, the risk of further contamination is ongoing and will remain indefinitely absent remediation and/or filtration.

*B. Laboratory Testing Confirms Plaintiff DePaul's and Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's Drinking Water Wells are Contaminated with Dangerous Levels of PFAS Chemicals.*

69. A November 2023 laboratory analysis of Plaintiff DePaul's drinking water well water showed PFAS Chemical concentrations recognized by the EPA and the scientific community as harmful to human health. The results of this testing are shown below:

<b>PFAS Chemical</b>	<b>Result</b>
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	8.36 ng/L
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	11.7 ng/L
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	3.54 ng/L
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2.73 ng/L
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	12.4 ng/L

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/addressing-challenges-pfas-protecting-groundwater-and-treating-contaminated-sources>



Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	10.4 ng/L
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70. Similarly, a November 2023 laboratory analysis of Plaintiff Arlene Quaranta's drinking water well showed elevated PFAS Chemical concentrations recognized by the EPA and the scientific community as harmful to human health.

71. Finally, a subsequent laboratory analysis of Plaintiff DePaul's drinking water well conducted in late January 2024 (the sample was taken on January 24, 2024) showed even higher concentrations of several PFAS Chemicals, including PFOS, PFOA, and PFHxA:

<b>PFAS Chemical</b>	<b>Result</b>
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	6.6 ng/L
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	15 ng/L
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	5.4 ng/L
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2.8 ng/L
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	15 ng/L
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	14 ng/L
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	5.9
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)	14

72. The predominant winds and topography of the area mean that similar PFAS Chemical concentrations would likely be observed in the water found in drinking water wells located near Plaintiffs' drinking water wells.

V. KIMBERLY-CLARK KNEW ITS PFAS USE POSED A THREAT TO THE HEALTH OF NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS.

73. Kimberly-Clark knew, or reasonably should have known, that PFAS Chemicals are toxic, harmful to human health, resist natural degradation, render air, soil, and drinking water unsafe and/or non-potable, and are capable of being removed from air and water supplies if proper steps are taken.

74. Kimberly-Clark produces a variety of paper products in connection with its large portfolio of brands, including Andrex, Cottonelle, Depend, Huggies, Kleenex, Poise, Scott, U by Kotex, and Wypall. Paper manufacturers, including Kimberly-Clark, have knowingly used PFAS Chemicals in paper manufacturing processes for many decades as a coating to repel grease, oil, fats, water, and other substances from their paper products, preventing absorption of these substances into the paper products.

75. In apparent recognition of the inherent dangers of PFAS use, Kimberly-Clark has recently identified for phase-out its use of PFAS Chemicals generally, with PFOA and PFOS use “restricted” (defined to mean that such “chemicals can only be used if written consent is provided”).<sup>14</sup>

76. Despite this, however, Kimberly-Clark has caveated its restriction of PFAS with the following disclaimer: “We do not add the materials identified on our Restricted Substances List to our products, however, we cannot always eliminate unavoidable traces of compounds that can originate from a variety of sources such as the manufacturing process or simply from the environment.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> *Kimberly-Clark Restricted Substances List*, effective date June 11, 2020, available at [https://www.kimberly-clark.com/-/media/kimberly/pdf/ingredients/st-14665-kimberly-clark-restricted-substances-list\\_june-2020.pdf?la=e](https://www.kimberly-clark.com/-/media/kimberly/pdf/ingredients/st-14665-kimberly-clark-restricted-substances-list_june-2020.pdf?la=e)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.kimberly-clark.com/en-us/brands/not-in-our-products>

VI. KIMBERLY-CLARK INJURED PLAINTIFFS AND MEMBERS OF THE CLASS.

77. Plaintiffs and members of the Class reside near Defendant's New Milford Facility.

78. Kimberly-Clark's conduct alleged herein has caused injury to Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's bodies, real property, and water supplies.

79. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to recover damages (including but not limited to compensatory, punitive, and/or consequential damages) for the harm caused by Defendant Kimberly-Clark's wrongful conduct, as detailed herein.

*A. Defendant's Conduct Substantially and Unreasonably Interfered with Plaintiffs' and Members of the Class's Ability to Enjoy Their Property.*

80. Plaintiffs Bethany DePaul and Arlene Quaranta have suffered injury to their real property and drinking water wells, including but not limited to loss of enjoyment of the property and drinking water wells, and diminution in value.

81. Defendant's manufacture, use, disposal, storage, and/or distribution of PFAS Chemicals has injured the Plaintiffs' and the Class Member's enjoyment and quality of life.

82. Plaintiffs' and the members of the Class's use and enjoyment of their property has been substantially and unreasonably impaired by Defendant's conduct. Owners of properties where the water supply and soil have been contaminated, including Plaintiffs and the members of the Class, can no longer use their natural water sources for drinking, cooking, or other ordinary household uses.

83. Because any detectable level of PFAS in Plaintiffs' groundwater sources, well water, or elsewhere on their property requires investigation, treatment, remediation, and continued monitoring, the detection and/or presence of PFAS has resulted, and will continue to result, in significant injury and damage to Plaintiffs.

84. Moreover, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered diminution of the value of their homes and properties due to the contamination of their soil and drinking water wells with PFAS Chemicals.

*B. Kimberly-Clark's Conduct Caused Plaintiffs and Members of the Class to Suffer Subclinical Cellular Injuries That Have Substantially Increased Plaintiffs' and Members of the Class's Risk of Developing Cancers and Other Diseases Linked to PFAS Chemical Exposure.*

85. Kimberly-Clark's conduct alleged herein caused Plaintiffs and members of the Class to be exposed to PFAS Chemicals, which, as detailed herein, are linked to cancers and several other conditions and diseases.

86. For example, Kimberly-Clark's conduct caused Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to unknowingly ingest and absorb PFAS Chemicals including by, but not limited to, ingesting PFAS-contaminated drinking water originating from PFAS-contaminated drinking water wells located on their own properties and others located in New Milford, Connecticut, ingesting food cooked with this water, and ingesting food grown in soil contaminated with PFAS Chemicals.

87. Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's exposure to PFAS Chemicals caused by Kimberly-Clark caused Plaintiffs and members of the Class to suffer injuries, including, but not limited to subclinical cellular injuries that have substantially increased their risk of developing cancers and other diseases and conditions linked to PFAS Chemical exposure.

88. Early detection of these cancers, diseases, and conditions, combined with prompt and effective treatment, will significantly decrease the risk of death and the severity of diseases, illnesses, and injuries suffered by Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

89. For example, PFAS Chemical exposure causes PFAS Chemicals to bioaccumulate over time in Plaintiffs' and Members of the Class's bodies. The presence of manmade foreign substances, PFAS, in their bodies, tissue, and cells represents a manifest change in the bodies,

tissue, and cells of Plaintiffs and members of the Class and leaves Plaintiffs and members of the Class at an increased risk of serious diseases, illnesses, and injuries. Plaintiffs and members of the Class therefore face significant future healthcare costs to ensure that any physical and/or clinical manifestation resulting from the PFAS Chemical exposure can be caught early and treated.

90. As a result of Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's PFAS Chemical exposure described herein, Plaintiffs and members of the Class have experienced subclinical cellular injuries that have substantially increased their risk of developing cancers and other diseases known to be caused by PFAS Chemicals.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

91. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), 23(b)(2) and (3), and 23(c)(4).

92. Plaintiffs seek class certification of the classes defined as follows (the "Class"):

**Property Damage Class:** All citizens of Connecticut who are or were owners of real property located in New Milford, Connecticut or surrounding towns whose land and/or water supply have been contaminated with detectable levels of PFAS Chemicals (as defined above) as a result of Kimberly-Clark's improper use and/or disposal of PFAS Chemicals during the Class Period (the "Property Damage Class").

**Medical Monitoring Class:** All natural persons who resided at a home in New Milford, Connecticut or surrounding towns who ingested PFAS-contaminated water such that PFAS accumulated in their body and tissue, or any natural child born to a resident who meets and/or met these criteria at the time of the child's birth during the Class Period (the "Medical Monitoring Class").

93. Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify or refine the definitions of the Class and add subclasses based upon discovery of new information.

94. Excluded from the Class are: (a) any Judge or Magistrate Judge presiding over the Action and members of their staff, as well as members of their families; (b) Defendant Kimberly-Clark and Defendant Kimberly-Clark's predecessors, parents, successors, heirs, assigns,

subsidiaries, and any entity in which Defendant Kimberly-Clark or its parents have a controlling interest, as well as Defendant Kimberly-Clark's current or former employees, agents, officers, and directors; (c) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (d) persons whose claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (e) counsel for Plaintiffs and Defendant Kimberly-Clark; and (f) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons.

95. Ascertainability. The proposed Class is readily ascertainable because it is defined using objective criteria which allow class members to determine if they are a member of the Class. Further, the Class can be readily identified through public records and/or records maintained by Defendant Kimberly-Clark.

96. Numerosity. The Class is so numerous that joinder of individual members herein is impracticable. There are thousands of individuals and/or entities that reside in the area surrounding Defendant Kimberly-Clark's New Milford Facility who have been damaged by Defendant Kimberly-Clark's conduct.

97. Commonality. Common questions of fact and law exist for each cause of action and predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members, including:

- a. Whether Defendant's conduct was negligent;
- b. Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a public nuisance;
- c. Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes an abnormally dangerous activity;
- d. Whether Defendant's conduct was willful, wanton, reckless, intentional, malicious, and/or outrageous conduct in utter indifference to and/or conscious disregard for the health, safety, and well-being of others;
- e. Whether Defendant owed a duty of care to the members of the Class;

- f. Whether the duty of care owed to the members of the Class included the duty to protect against exposures to unsafe and unnecessarily high levels of PFAS;
- g. Whether Defendant breached its duty to warn the members of the Class of, and protect the members of the Class from, the long-term health risks and consequences of exposure to high levels of PFAS;
- h. Whether the PFAS contamination described herein substantially interfered with the Plaintiffs' and the Members of the Class's use and enjoyment of their property;
- i. Whether the PFAS contamination described herein caused, and continues to cause, a continuous invasion of the property rights of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Class;
- j. Whether Defendant caused the devaluation of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Class's properties; and
- k. Whether medical monitoring and early detection will provide benefits to the members of the Class.

98. Typicality. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the proposed Class. Plaintiffs and members of the Class suffered injuries as a result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's wrongful conduct that is uniform across the Class.

99. Adequacy. Plaintiffs have and will continue to fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs have retained counsel competent and experienced in complex litigation and class actions. Plaintiffs have no interest that is antagonistic to those of the Class, and Defendant Kimberly-Clark has no defenses unique to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs and their counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting the Action on behalf of the members of the Class,

and they have the resources to do so. Neither Plaintiffs nor Plaintiffs' counsel have any interest adverse to those of the other members of the Class.

100. Substantial Benefits. This class action is appropriate for certification because class proceedings are superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy and joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would impose heavy burdens upon the Courts and Defendant Kimberly-Clark, would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications of the questions of law and fact common to members of the Class, and would be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the individual adjudications or would substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. This proposed class action presents fewer management difficulties than individual litigation, and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Class treatment will create economies of time, effort, and expense and promote uniform decision-making.

101. Class certification, therefore, is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) because the above common questions of law or fact predominate over any questions affecting individual members of the Class, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

102. Class certification is also appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief, if any, that may be awarded by the Court is appropriate as to the Class as a whole.



103. Plaintiffs reserve the right to revise the foregoing class allegations and definitions based on facts learned and legal developments following additional investigation, discovery, or otherwise.

## **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

### **CLAIM 1**

#### **NEGLIGENCE**

104. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate the allegations set forth above.

105. Defendant Kimberly-Clark owed Plaintiffs and the members of the Class a duty of reasonable care to avoid using, storing, emitting, discharging, disposing, and/or distributing PFAS Chemicals at or near the New Milford Facility in a manner that would cause Plaintiffs and the members of the Class injury or harm.

106. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class were located within the scope of the risk created by Defendant Kimberly-Clark's conduct and were foreseeable victims of any negligent operations by Defendant Kimberly-Clark at or nearby the New Milford Facility, including the use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, sale, and/or distribution of PFAS Chemicals.

107. Defendant Kimberly-Clark owed Plaintiffs and the members of the Class a duty of reasonable care to eliminate or minimize the discharge of PFAS Chemicals into the air, land, and water, commensurate with the risk of using, emitting, discharging, disposing, and/or distributing PFAS.

108. Given the likelihood that Defendant Kimberly-Clark was creating PFAS contamination of air, land, and water that would result in exposure to residents near the New Milford Facility, increasing the risk that those residents would develop significant illnesses,

diseases, and injuries, Defendant Kimberly-Clark also had a duty to use reasonable care to avoid, minimize, or warn about their use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of PFAS.

109. Defendant Kimberly-Clark breached its duty to use reasonable care in one or more of the following ways:

- a. By negligently failing to employ safe methods of operation to adequately prevent, control, or eliminate PFAS discharge into the environment via air, soil, and/or water;
- b. By negligently failing to institute proper procedures and training to prevent, minimize, and/or promptly and effectively respond to its release of PFAS into the environment;
- c. By negligently failing to promptly and effectively respond to its release of PFAS into the environment;
- d. By negligently failing to warn Plaintiffs and the members of the Class of the PFAS they were using, storing, emitting, discharging, disposing, selling, and/or distributing;
- e. By negligently failing to locate its operations in an unpopulated or much less populated area and/or by negligently discharging dangerous amounts of PFAS into land and groundwater near a populated community; and
- f. By negligently failing to warn current and potential neighboring residents and property owners that they were being exposed to PFAS and of the consequent risks of illness, disease, and injury that the residents acquired because of that exposure.

110. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's negligence, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered, presently suffer, and will continue to suffer real property damage, out of pocket expenses, personal property damage, loss of use and enjoyment of property, diminution in property value, the necessity for long-term medical monitoring, upset, aggravation, and inconvenience.

111. Defendant Kimberly-Clark is liable to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class for fair compensation for the resulting injuries, which includes: reasonable expenses incurred for medical care and nursing in the treatment and cure of the injuries, diminution in earning capacity, and pain and suffering, as are shown to be reasonably probable to continue in the future.

## **CLAIM 2**

### **MEDICAL MONITORING**

112. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate here the allegations set forth above.

113. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's conduct, including the improper use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, sale and/or distribution of PFAS Chemicals described herein, Plaintiffs and members of the Class have been exposed to hazardous PFAS Chemicals through contamination of air, land, and water.

114. Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's exposure to PFAS Chemicals described herein has produced subclinical cellular changes in their bodies that substantially increase the risk of Plaintiffs and members of the Class developing cancers and other serious diseases, illnesses, and injuries linked to PFAS Chemical exposure.

115. For example, as a result of the detectable, dangerous levels of PFAS Chemicals in Plaintiffs' water and land, Plaintiffs have ingested and absorbed PFAS Chemicals, which are

known to bioaccumulate and have bioaccumulated over time. The presence of PFAS Chemicals in Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's bodies, tissue, and cells represents a manifest change in Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's bodies, tissue, and cells and leaves them at an increased risk of serious disease, illness, or injury. This bioaccumulation is a physiological change in Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's bodies occurring at a subcellular level.

116. Due to these subclinical cellular changes, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class are at an increased risk of developing cancers and other illnesses, diseases, and disease processes, which results in their present medical need for periodic diagnostic medical examinations and monitoring.

117. Effective medical testing for reliably early detection of cancers and other diseases and conditions related to PFAS Chemical exposure exists.

118. Early detection, combined with prompt and effective treatment, will significantly decrease the risk of death and the severity of diseases, illnesses, and injuries for Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

119. Such testing is not routinely performed in the absence of known exposure to PFAS Chemicals but is reasonable, periodically necessary, and conforms with the standard of medical and scientific care when such exposures are known.

120. Diagnostic testing of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class for early detection of cancers and other illnesses, diseases, and disease processes caused by exposure to PFAS Chemicals is thus reasonably and medically necessary to assure early diagnosis and effective treatment of those conditions.

121. A medical monitoring program will allow for early detection and prompt and effective treatment of any serious disease, illness, or injury caused by PFAS exposure. A medical

monitoring program will save lives, decrease the severity of illness, decrease the impact of illness on lives and families, and reduce the costs of caring for such illnesses, and are periodically necessary.

122. The present value of the reasonable cost of such tests now and into the future can be calculated and known with reasonable certainty after further discovery is made.

123. In the event that a standalone claim for medical monitoring cannot be maintained, Plaintiffs request in the alternative that medical monitoring be awarded as a form of relief in connection with their remaining claims.

### **CLAIM 3**

#### **PRIVATE NUISANCE**

124. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate here the allegations set forth above.

125. At all relevant times, Defendant Kimberly-Clark knew or should have known PFAS Chemicals were hazardous and harmful to real property, water, and human beings, and it was substantially certain that the method and manner of Kimberly-Clark's use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, sale, and/or distribution of PFAS at or near the New Milford Facility would cause injuries and property damage to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

126. Defendant Kimberly-Clark, through the negligent, reckless, and/or intentional conduct alleged in this Complaint, has contaminated real property owned and/or possessed by Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

127. Defendant Kimberly-Clark created, permitted, and maintained a hazardous condition or activity on or near the New Milford Facility that caused substantial and unreasonable interference with Plaintiffs' and the members of the Class's use and enjoyment of their property.

Defendant Kimberly-Clark's interference has caused and is causing Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to, among other things, refrain from using their land to cultivate and grow fruit, vegetables, and other food and to refrain from using their water to drink, cook, or bathe, resulting in significant inconvenience and expense.

128. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's contamination with PFAS of real property owned and/or possessed by Plaintiffs and the members of the Class also has substantially interfered otherwise with the Plaintiffs' and members of the Class's ability to enjoy their property, to avail themselves of their property's value as an asset and/or source of collateral for financing, and to use their property in the manner that each Class Member chooses.

129. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's conduct was intentional, negligent, reckless, and ultrahazardous, and its conduct constitutes a continuous invasion of the property rights of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

130. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, sale, and/or distribution of PFAS and the exposure of the persons and/or property of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to PFAS resulting from the conduct of Defendant, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class presently suffer, and will continue to suffer, real property damage, out of pocket expense, personal property damage, loss of use and enjoyment of property, diminution in property value, the necessity for long-term medical monitoring, annoyance, upset, aggravation, trauma, and inconvenience.

131. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class are therefore entitled to damages, costs, and a judgment that the nuisance be abated and removed.

**CLAIM 4**

**PUBLIC NUISANCE**

132. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate here the allegations set forth above.

133. At all times relevant, Defendant Kimberly-Clark knew or should have known PFAS to be hazardous and harmful to real property and human beings, and it was substantially certain that its use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS would cause injuries and losses to the persons and property of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

134. Plaintiffs, the members of the Class, and members of the public have a common right to enjoy their real property free of dangerous contamination of their land and water and to live their lives without exposure to unreasonable levels of toxic PFAS Chemicals.

135. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's conduct in using, disposing, storing, and/or treating PFAS-contaminated materials contaminated the air and groundwater of Plaintiffs, the Class members, and the public and substantially and unreasonably infringes upon and transgresses the public right of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class to enjoy their real property.

136. Defendant Kimberly-Clark knew or should have known that the materials containing PFAS it used, stored, emitted, discharged, disposed, sold, and/or distributed would have a deleterious effect upon the health, safety, and well-being of people living in New Milford, Connecticut, and the surrounding areas, including Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

137. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, sale, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS at or near the New Milford Facility caused those who owned and/or lived on nearby properties, including Plaintiffs and the members of the Class, to come into contact with high levels of PFAS on a routine and constant basis, causing substantially

elevated health risks resulting from exposure to dangerous levels of PFAS, as well as property damage and diminished property values.

138. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, storage, emission, discharge, disposal, sale, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS in New Milford, Connecticut and the surrounding area:

- a. Plaintiffs' and the members of the Class's common right to live free of dangerous, toxic substances was eliminated and/or severely diminished;
- b. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class were exposed to harmfully elevated levels of PFAS Chemicals;
- c. PFAS Chemicals contaminated the air, land, and water owned, possessed, and/or used by Plaintiffs and the members of the Class, thereby exposing their bodies to PFAS;
- d. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class will be forced to pay for the private removal of contaminants from their property emanating from pollution of public water sources; and
- e. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class presently suffer, and will continue to suffer, real property damage, out of pocket expenses, personal property damage, loss of use and enjoyment of property, diminution in property value, the necessity for long-term medical monitoring, annoyance, upset, aggravation, trauma, and inconvenience.



**CLAIM 5**

**RECKLESSNESS OR WILLFUL AND WANTON CONDUCT**

139. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate here the allegations set forth above.

140. At all times relevant, Defendant Kimberly-Clark owed a duty to refrain from willful, wanton, reckless, intentional, malicious, and/or outrageous conduct and/or conduct that exhibited an utter indifference to and/or conscious disregard for the health, safety, and well-being of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

141. On information and belief, at all times relevant, Defendant Kimberly-Clark was aware of the considerable health risks associated with the discharge of PFAS into air, land, and water, including without limitation the risk of causing various forms of cancer, to those exposed to PFAS from air, land, and water. Similarly, Defendant Kimberly-Clark knew that use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS, or likely containing PFAS, would result in the emission of unreasonably dangerous levels of PFAS contaminating the air, land, and groundwater in a manner that would be likely to cause significant financial injury, personal injury, and bodily harm to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

142. Notwithstanding this knowledge, Defendant Kimberly-Clark acted in a manner that was an extreme departure from ordinary care in a situation where a high degree of danger to Plaintiffs and members of the Class was readily apparent due to the harmful nature of PFAS.

143. Defendant Kimberly-Clark acted in a manner that was intentional, willful, wanton, reckless, outrageous, and/or demonstrated an indifference to and/or conscious disregard of the health, safety, and well-being of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class by, among other things:

- a. Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimize the accumulation and emission of PFAS Chemicals used in its manufacturing processes at the New Milford Facility, when it knew doing so was necessary to prevent significant personal injury and bodily harm, as well as financial injury, to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class;
- b. Disposing of PFAS-contaminated waste at or near the New Milford Facility in such a way that was likely to cause contamination to nearby properties, when it knew doing so was likely to cause significant personal injury and bodily harm, as well as financial injury, to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class;
- c. Failing to employ safe methods of operation at the New Milford Facility to adequately prevent, control, or eliminate PFAS discharge into the environment, when it knew doing so was necessary to prevent significant personal injury and bodily harm, as well as financial injury, to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class;
- d. Failing to institute proper procedures and training at the New Milford Facility to prevent, minimize, and/or promptly and effectively respond to its release of PFAS into the environment, when it knew doing so was necessary to prevent significant personal injury and bodily harm, as well as financial injury, to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class; and
- e. Failing to promptly and effectively respond to its release of PFAS at or near the New Milford Facility into the environment, when it knew doing so was necessary to prevent significant personal injury and bodily harm, as well as financial injury, to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

144. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's willful, wanton, and reckless conduct, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered, presently suffer, and will continue to suffer bodily harm and personal injury as well as real property damage, out of pocket expense, personal property damage, loss of use and enjoyment of property, diminution in property value, the necessity for long-term medical monitoring, annoyance, upset, aggravation, and inconvenience.

**CLAIM 6**

**STRICT LIABILITY FOR ULTRAHAZARDOUS OR  
ABNORMALLY DANAGEROUS ACTIVITY**

145. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate here the allegations set forth above.

146. Due to the nature of PFAS, its persistence in the environment, and its harmful effects on human health, Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of PFAS constitutes an intrinsically dangerous, ultrahazardous, or abnormally dangerous activity.

147. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of PFAS caused contamination of air, land, and water, which poses a high degree of risk of injury and loss to Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

148. The presence of PFAS contaminants in the environment and the human body poses an inherent and extraordinary threat to human health and well-being and a danger of lasting contamination of property and water.

149. The contamination of the property, water, and bodies of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class were all probable and foreseeable consequences that resulted from Defendant

Kimberly-Clark's decades-long use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS at and around the New Milford Facility.

150. There is a reasonable likelihood that Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS at the New Milford Facility near the populated and residential areas of New Milford, Connecticut, and the surrounding area will result in life-threatening cancers and other illnesses, diseases, disease processes, and injuries for Plaintiffs and the members of the Class.

151. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's decision to engage in the use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS at or near the New Milford Facility, thereby causing large amounts of PFAS to be dispersed into the surrounding community, was unreasonably dangerous.

152. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's use, emission, discharge, disposal, and/or distribution of materials containing PFAS at or near the New Milford Facility created a high risk of harm to those who live in the area, including Plaintiffs and the members of the Class, and substantially increased the risk of community residents, including Plaintiffs and the members of the Class, developing cancers and other illnesses, diseases, disease processes, and injuries.

153. The activities conducted by Defendant Kimberly-Clark have been and are exceedingly dangerous, while offering little or no value to the surrounding community.

154. Because the activities engaged in by Defendant Kimberly-Clark as outlined in this Complaint are ultrahazardous or abnormally dangerous, Defendant Kimberly-Clark is strictly liable for any injuries proximately resulting from those activities.

155. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Kimberly-Clark's abnormally dangerous or ultrahazardous activities and the exposure of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class

to PFAS Chemicals resulting from those activities, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class presently suffer, and will continue to suffer, bodily harm, real property damage, out of pocket expense, personal property damage, loss of use and enjoyment of property, diminution in property value, the necessity for long-term medical monitoring, upset, aggravation, and inconvenience.

**CLAIM 7**

**VIOLATION OF THE CONNECTICUT UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT, CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110a, *et seq.***

156. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class re-allege and incorporate here the allegations set forth above.

157. The Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA), CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110b(a) declares that “no person shall engage in unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.”

158. Defendant Kimberly-Clark was a “person” within the meaning of CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110a(1) that engaged in “trade” and/or “commerce” as defined by CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110a(4) within the state of Connecticut.

159. CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110g(b) authorizes any person suffering ascertainable loss of money or property, real or personal, as a result of a CUPTA violation to bring a class action.

160. Plaintiffs are “persons” within the meaning of CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110a(1).

161. Defendant Kimberly-Clark’s deceptive and/or unfair conduct in the conduct of trade and/or commerce within Connecticut caused Plaintiffs and members of the Class to suffer ascertainable harm through the contamination of their air, land, and water supply.

162. Defendant Kimberly-Clark’s deceptive conduct was likely to, and did in fact, deceive and mislead members of the public as to the quality of the air, soil, and water they were

using and/or consuming, including Plaintiffs and members of the Class acting reasonably under the circumstances, to their detriment.

163. Defendant Kimberly-Clark also engaged in unfair conduct pursuant to CUTPA in that its conduct (1) has caused or is likely to cause substantial bodily harm and personal injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Class; (2) the injuries caused by Defendant Kimberly-Clark could not have been reasonably avoided by Plaintiffs and members of the Class, and (3) the injuries caused by Defendant Kimberly-Clark to Plaintiffs and members of the Class is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

164. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's unfair conduct thus caused Plaintiffs and members of the Class to suffer ascertainable harm.

165. Defendant Kimberly-Clark chose to engage in conduct that failed to properly filter PFAS and/or prevent PFAS contamination, despite the availability of PFAS filtration options. This unfair conduct caused substantial injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Class in that it exposed them to dangerous, hazardous levels of PFAS Chemicals. These injuries could not have been reasonably avoided by Plaintiffs and members of the Class as they lacked adequate knowledge regarding the contamination and had no other options for publicly provided drinking water.

166. Because Defendant Kimberly-Clark knew or should have known that its conduct was deceptive and/or unfair under CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110b(a), its conduct was willful and/or was undertaken with reckless disregard for the harm it would cause Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

167. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's deceptive and unfair acts described above directly and proximately caused Plaintiffs and members of the Class to suffer actual damages, attorneys' fees, and costs.

168. Defendant Kimberly-Clark's deceptive and unfair conduct is continuing, with no indication that it intends to cease its course of conduct, posing a threat of future harm to Plaintiffs and members of the Class, such that prospective injunctive relief in the form of installation of filters and medical monitoring is necessary.

169. Accordingly, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, seek (a) a declaration that Defendant Kimberly-Clark's conduct described above violates the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110a, *et seq.*; (b) an award of actual damages; (c) an award of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110g(d); (d) an order enjoining Defendant Kimberly-Clark from continuing to engage in the unfair and deceptive acts and practices described above; and (e) any further relief the Court deems just and proper.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the members of the Class, claim monetary damages in excess of \$5,000,000 and equitable relief, including:

1. Damages for Plaintiffs' financial losses;
2. Attorneys' fees and costs;
3. Statutory punitive damages pursuant to CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110g(a);
4. Attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to CONN. GEN. STAT. § 42-110g(d);
5. Equitable relief in the form of an equitable order directing Defendant Kimberly-Clark to correct its practices and to install systems capable of and designed to filter PFAS Chemicals down to non-detectable levels and requiring the Defendant Kimberly-Clark to establish a diagnostic medical testing program and medical monitoring protocol for Plaintiffs and the Class to monitor individuals' health and

diagnose at an early stage any ailments that can result from exposure to PFAS  
Chemicals; and

6. Such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury for all issues so triable.

DATED: February 28, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Ian W. Sloss

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