

**GREENPEACE**

702 H Street NW Suite 300  
Washington DC 20001  
Tel/ 202.462.1177



**GREENPEACE SECURITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
FACILITY: KUEHNE CHEMICAL  
COMPANY SOUTH KEARNY, NJ**

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**FINDING: FAILURE TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC RISKS**

According to **the Kuehne Chemical Company's own reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), its South Kearny New Jersey facility puts 12,000,000 people at risk in the New Jersey-New York City area due to the bulk storage of 2 million pounds of chlorine gas. This plant puts more people at risk of a chemical disaster than any other plant in the U.S.**

These catastrophic risks existed well before September 11, 2001. Kuehne is also well aware of safer chemical processes that could eliminate these risks. **Since 9/11 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has advised chemical facilities that the magnitude of a terrorist attack may well be "more severe" than the "worst case" accident scenarios reported by Kuehne and other companies to the EPA.**

In July 2002, the N.Y. Daily News ran a front page story listing the highest risk plants in the metropolitan area, including Kuehne at: [www.nyenvirolaw.org/PDF/DailyNews-7-14-02-toxicTimeBombsAtChemicalPlants-terrorStrikeCouldEndangerMillions.pdf](http://www.nyenvirolaw.org/PDF/DailyNews-7-14-02-toxicTimeBombsAtChemicalPlants-terrorStrikeCouldEndangerMillions.pdf)

In November 2003, CBS' 60 Minutes featured a story on the hazards of U.S. chemical plants and their vulnerability to terrorism, which also included Kuehne's South Kearny facility.

**Instead of adopting a safer available process at this plant, Kuehne has asked for \$50 million in taxpayer funds to convert to a safer process.** Meanwhile, other companies such as K2 Pure Solutions are planning new facilities in California without taxpayer funding.

According to Kuehne, "The main planned change to improve safety is the ongoing security analysis, and implementation of security measures and devices such as the strategic placement of surveillance cameras around the facility."

**In a May 6, 2003 letter to Kuehne Chemical, Greenpeace suggested several safer processes including on-site generation of small quantities of chlorine that are used on a "just-in-time" basis.** This eliminates the hazards inherent in storing 90-ton rail cars of chlorine gas. **In 2008, Dow Chemical announced a partnership with K2 Pure Solutions (k2pure.com) to use this process to address this risk at Dow's Pittsburgh, California plant.**

**The fatal explosions at the Tesoro refinery in Tumwater, Washington on April 2nd, which killed seven workers, and at BP's Deepwater oil rig on April 20th, which killed eleven workers and triggered the largest oil disaster in U.S. history are costly reminders of the catastrophic risks inherent in many petro-chemical processes.**

The failed terrorist car bomb in New York City's Times Square on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the June 7<sup>th</sup> arrests of terror suspects in New Jersey have also re-newed concerns about terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

Although the **DHS plans to inspect "high risk" chemical plants, it admitted at a March 3rd Senate hearing that they will inspect only approximately 4 percent of all 5,333 high risk plants by the end of 2010. Many of these plants use chlorine gas or other toxic-by-inhalation (TIH) substances.**

Under the interim authority of the temporary law, however, the DHS has no authority to require the use of safer chemical processes that can eliminate a chemical facility as an attractive terrorist target or prevent an accidental disaster.

Kuehne is a member of the largest lobbying association of the chemical industry, the American Chemistry Council (ACC). The ACC opposed conditional requirements to use safer chemical process in the legislation (H.R. 2868) that passed the U.S. House of Representatives in November, 2009. In their 2003 letter Greenpeace urged Kuehne to break with the ACC and support policies now in the House passed bill.

**In November 2009, Clorox announced that they will convert all of their U.S. facilities that use chlorine gas to safer processes. Also the Association of American Railroads "strongly support efforts to replace TIH materials with less hazardous substitutes and new technologies wherever possible."**

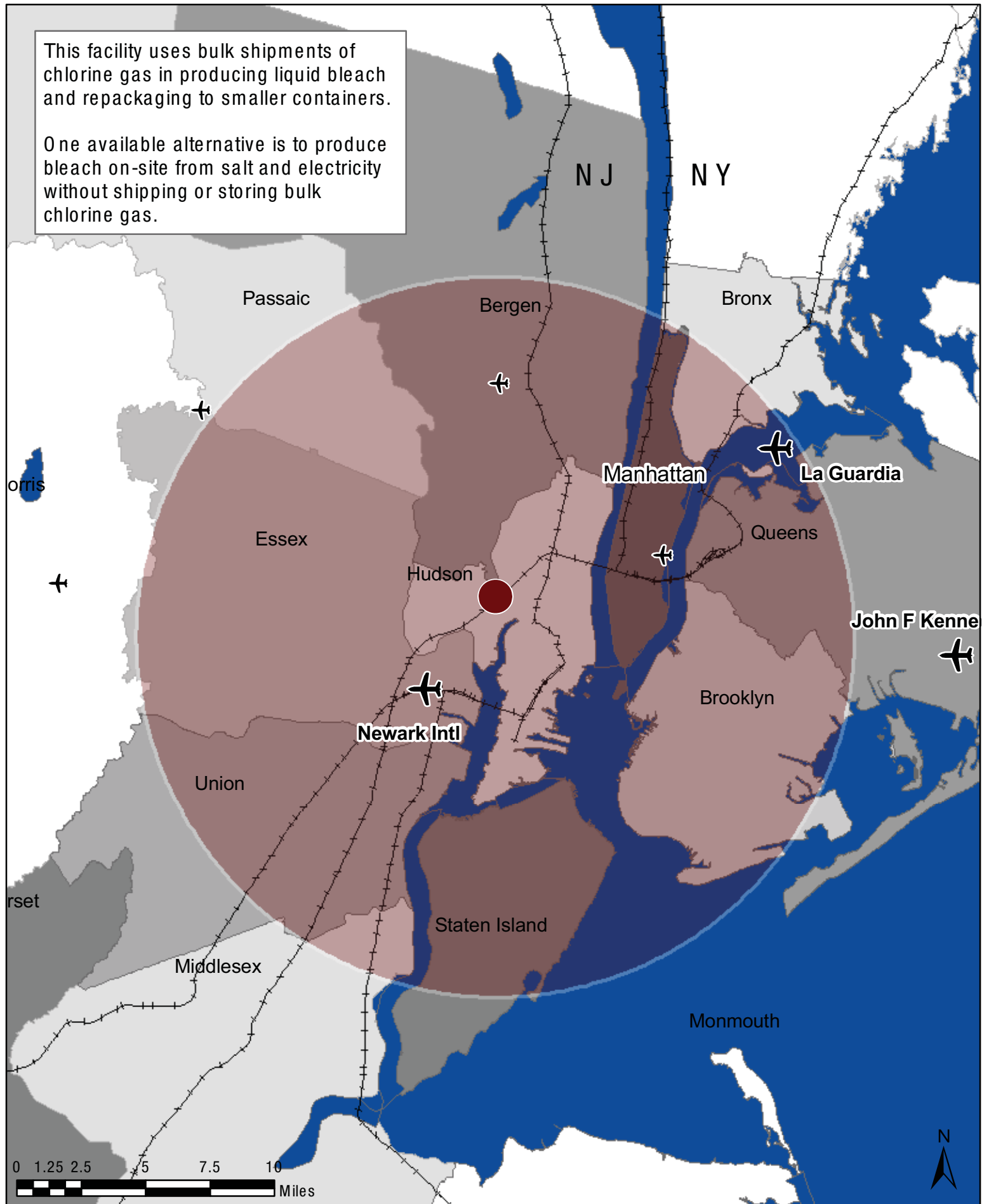
Whether its terrorism or accidents, **the only sure way to safeguard employees and surrounding communities is prevention. In this regard the Kuehne plant has failed to fully secure their facility against terrorists or catastrophic accidents.**

# Kuehne Chemical Co., Inc.—South Kearny, NJ

Vulnerability Zone Population = 12,000,000

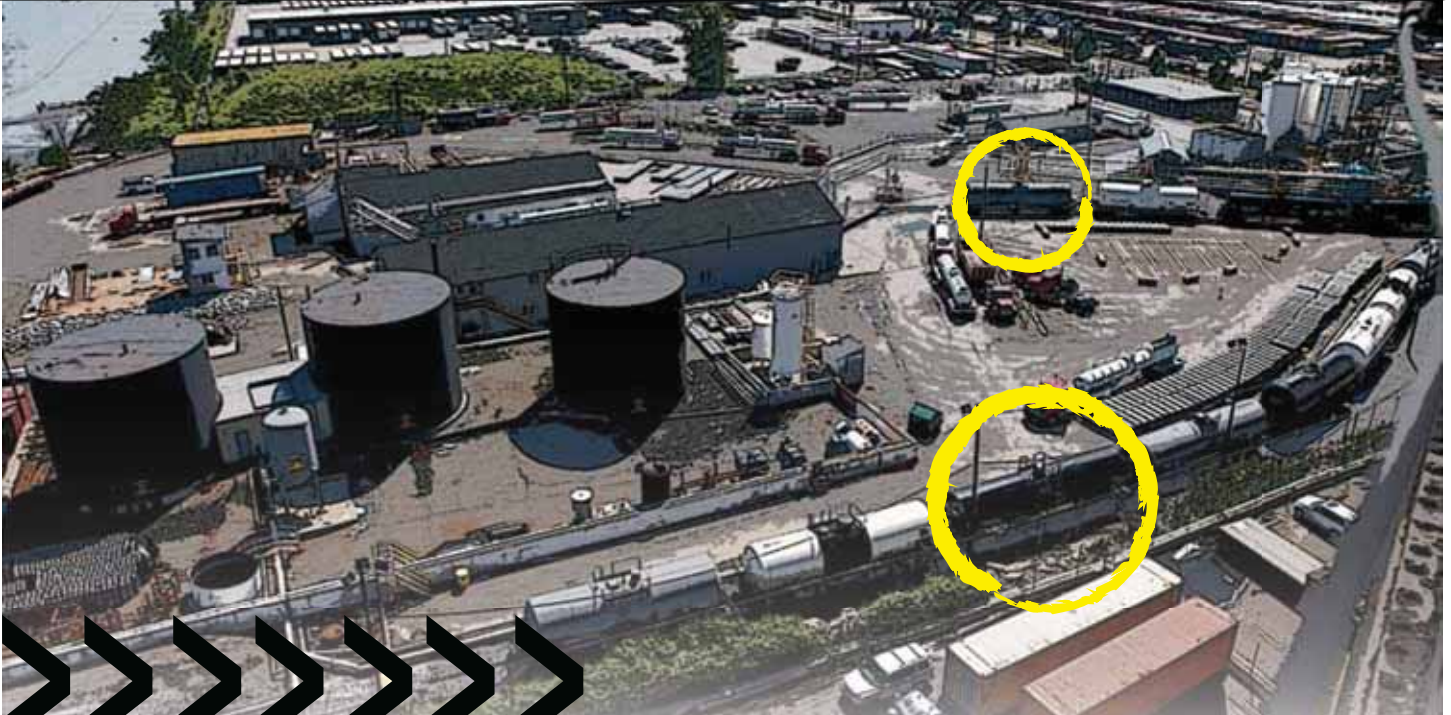
This facility uses bulk shipments of chlorine gas in producing liquid bleach and repackaging to smaller containers.

One available alternative is to produce bleach on-site from salt and electricity without shipping or storing bulk chlorine gas.



**Kuehne Chemical Co., Inc. 86 N. Hackensack Avenue South Kearny,  
NJ 07032-4675 Hudson County**

**12 MILLION PEOPLE AT RISK**



**STORAGE CAPACITY: 2 MILLION POUNDS OF CHLORINE**

### **Plant Production & Functions:**

Bleach Manufacture (Sodium Hypochlorite) & Chlorine Repackaging

# **RISK ASSESSMENT**

## **Worst-Case-Scenario For One Of Many Onsite Rail Cars**

- One 90-ton railcar can release of 180,000 lbs. chlorine gas
- 14-mile radius of downwind vulnerability zone
- 11 rail cars can be on site. True worst-case-scenario is release 2 million lbs. of chlorine gas

### **Vulnerability Zone**

- Jersey City
- New York City
- Newark International Airport
- LaGuardia Airport

### **Accident History 2000-2010**

- 8 chlorine release incidents



Greenpeace's inspection reveals these chemical railcars, one labeled as chlorine, and 1 ton cylinders inside the Kuehne Chemical Co. in South Kearny, NJ on May 13, 2010. These pictures were taken from the pedestrian walkway on the Pulaski Skyway. There is a fence on the skyway that runs part of the length of the facility and is meant to add security to the facility but, as demonstrated by the photo, when standing on either side of the fence, one has a clear, unobstructed view of the facility. This facility failed inspection because it puts 12 million people at risk including inhabitants of New York City.





Greenpeace inspectors examine the Kuehne Chemical Co. in South Kearny, NJ from the Hackensack River on March 13, 2010. Greenpeace inspected the facility and failed it because the plant stores up to 2 million pounds of chlorine gas that put 12 million Americans at risk of a chemical disaster including inhabitants of New York City. No amount of fencing, cameras, or gatekeepers can eliminate the inherent danger of this facility.



A view of the Kuehne Chemical Co. in South Kearny, NJ from the Hackensack River on May 13, 2010. Greenpeace inspected the facility and failed it because the plant stores up to 2 millions of pounds of chlorine gas that put 12 million Americans at risk of a chemical disaster including inhabitants of New York City. No amount of fencing, cameras, or gatekeepers can eliminate the inherent danger of this facility.



This is the entrance to the Kuehne Chemical Co. in South Kearny, NJ. Greenpeace inspected the facility on May 13, 2010 and failed it because the plant stores 2 million pounds of chlorine gas that put 12 million Americans at risk of a chemical disaster including inhabitants of New York City. No amount of fencing, cameras, or gatekeepers can eliminate the inherent danger of this facility.



Greenpeace's inspection reveals this line of chemical railcars, and 1 ton cylinders, inside the Kuehne Chemical Co. in South Kearny, NJ on May 13, 2010. These pictures were taken from the pedestrian walkway on the Pulaski Skyway. There is a fence on the skyway that runs part of the length of the facility and is meant to add security to the facility but, as demonstrated by the photo, when standing on either side of the fence, one has a clear, unobstructed view of the facility. This facility failed inspection because it puts 12 million people at risk including inhabitants of New York City.

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Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organization that acts to expose global environmental problems and achieve solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future.

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