

**Case study:** Ravenna cement plant joined the Lafarge Group, following the merger with Blue Circle in 2001. As part of the Group, the mercury emissions reported for the plant during this period have been identified as amongst the highest in the State of New York. Several Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS) maintain that mercury emissions from the plant have harmed local residents.

**Concerns about the project**

- The site is located across the road from a high school and middle school
- The plant has been operating for 50 years
- Lafarge reported 400 lb/year mercury emissions in 2004.
- Mercury is a potent neurotoxin and can affect developing fetuses
- Mercury can bio accumulate in the food chain
- New York State has fish consumption warnings for mercury in lakes and rivers throughout the state
- A Harvard University School of Public Health (HSPH) study reported that blood mercury levels in Ravenna were higher than National levels

**What is Lafarge's position?**

Lafarge contests the arguments of the ENGOS:

- The Ravenna plant conducted a comprehensive investigation of its mercury emissions, and confirmed that actual facility emissions (< 180 lbs/year at full capacity) are lower than what was reported in 2004. Actual emissions reported in 2009 were 145 lbs.
- Mercury emissions from the plant are 99% elemental mercury, which is not water soluble, and will not deposit locally
- Mercury emissions are less than 1% of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) short term and long-term Air Guide Standards which are established to be protective of human health
- The site has been reviewed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Environment Protection Agency, NYSDOH and found to be safe.
- As noted by HSPH, the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) had reported much higher average blood mercury levels in the Northeast than in the rest of the nation. The mercury blood levels found in the Ravenna study were below the average Northeast levels.
- Lafarge has plans to modernize the Ravenna Plant by constructing an upgraded facility with state-of-the-art technology that will achieve substantial fuel efficiencies and lower air emissions

For further details on the Ravenna plant and proposed modernization project please visit: [www.lafargravenafacts.com](http://www.lafargravenafacts.com)