

PRACTICE CONTACT

Kristin L. Watt
614.464.8398
klwatt@vorys.com

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

We regularly represent our environmental clients in courts across Ohio and the nation. Our attorneys have defended clients in lawsuits involving claims of personal injury or property damage allegedly caused by exposure to hazardous, radioactive, and/or toxic substances from Superfund sites, landfills, manufacturing plants, and governmental facilities. Often, such actions are brought as class actions, and our firm has extensive experience in addressing the unique procedural, factual, and legal issues that arise in putative class action cases.

We have defended clients in cases involving claims of chemical spills and releases, air emissions, groundwater contamination, toxic mold, workplace exposures, and construction and excavation discoveries. Our lawyers have addressed the nuisance, trespass, emotional distress, and other common law claims that typically are asserted in such cases, as well as the federal and state laws that may be invoked. We also defend against citizen suits brought under Ohio law, RCRA, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, CERCLA, and SARA.

Our work in this area includes the following matters:

- Representing a client in defense of class action claims in connection with a deep well injection facility and follow-on coverage litigation against the client's insurers
- Representing a client in an on-site response to a styrene leak from a railcar, resulting in the evacuation of part of a major metropolitan area, followed by representation of the client in a class action brought by neighboring individuals and business owners
- Representing a client in insurance coverage litigation over historic contamination at a former truck stop caused by leaking underground storage tanks and spills from product overfills
- Representing clients defending against state and federal enforcement cases involving air issues
- Representing a national auto manufacturer in a Clean Water Act Citizens Suit
- Representing current and former contractors at federal nuclear weapons and uranium enrichment facilities in both individual and class action suits alleging personal injury and property damage from air and subsurface contamination from transuranics, other radionuclides, and chemicals
- Litigating contractual and consent agreement disputes on behalf of a landfill client