

COURT ROUNDUP

Bedell orders DuPont to make \$2.8M initial payment

Money to be used for medical monitoring plan as part of class-action lawsuit against chemical company

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SPELTER — DuPont will make an initial payment of about \$2.8 million for the medical monitoring plan that's part of a settlement of a Harrison County class-action lawsuit.

That amount was determined by Harrison Circuit Judge Thomas A. Bedell in an order issued recently in the lawsuit that stemmed from pollution from the old Spelter smelter.

Also in the order, Bedell ruled that there won't be any baseline CT scans as part of the program.

The only scans that will be authorized and funded by DuPont are those that a doctor



Bedell

deems necessary, according to Bedell's order.

Also, Bedell ruled those who signed up to participate in medical monitoring can't waive

their right at some point during the 30-year program.

The practical impact: Those who decide to skip testing at some point in the program will be reminded every couple years that they still can be part of the plan. The reminders will come from Claims Administrator Ed Gen-

tle and the Claims Office.

The first round of medical monitoring begins a week from today, according to Gentle. That's the same time testing will begin on soil and homes in the Spelter area. The latter is part of about \$34 million in property cleanup that's also part of the settlement.

The medical monitoring will be funded periodically as the court deems necessary, with the final amount unknown until the program concludes.