

Toxic Industrial Waste Threatens St. Petersburg, Officials Warn

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Vkontakte

Russia's security chief has warned that 2 million metric tons of industrial waste outside St. Petersburg threaten the health of the city's 5 million residents.

Some 30 kilometers from the city, the Krasny Bor landfill, which was dug as a temporary site for hazardous waste produced by the city's industrial giants, has been described as a "time bomb." The toxic waste storage facility has been closed since 2014 and Russia enlisted neighboring Finland and Sweden to help in cleaning the site.

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The head of Russia's Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev, chastised the northwest region's waste treatment industry as a criminal enterprise, singling out inaction at Krasny Bor with its 2 million metric tons of hazardous waste.

“The Environment Ministry and the St. Petersburg administration need to immediately take measures to improve the environmental situation near the landfill,” Patrushev was [quoted](#) as saying by the state-run TASS news agency.

Patrushev said authorities issued 15 million rubles (\$222,500) worth of fines for 1,500 violations of environmental law in the Northwest Federal District in 2017.

Krasny Bor is a “dangerous environmental bomb,” the presidential envoy in the Northwest Federal District, Alexander Beglov, was cited as saying by TASS.

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