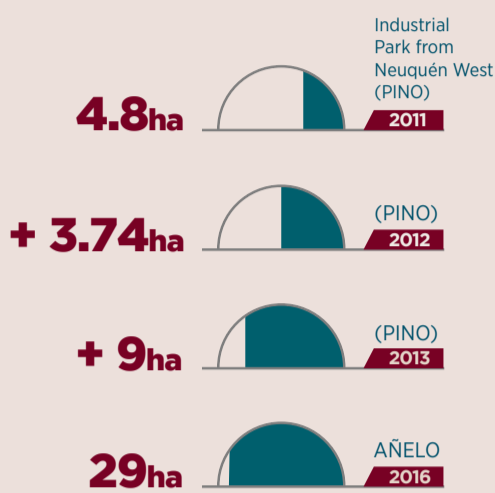


# TOXIC WASTE IN VACA MUERTA

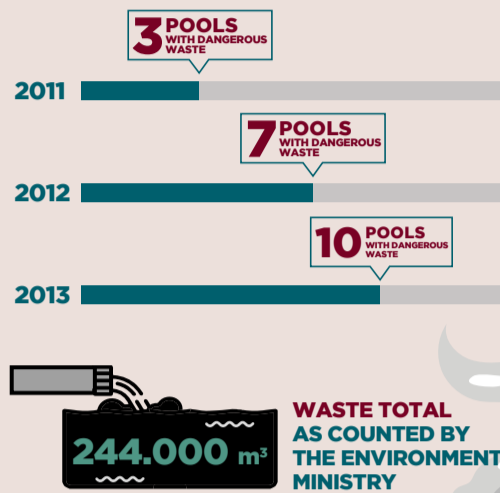
COMARSA: POLLUTION, IMPUNITY AND STATE COMPLIANCE IN THE BIGGEST OIL DUMP IN PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

## COMARSA

### HECTARES



### POOLS WITH WASTE



## 2011

**October:** There were three sinks with dangerous waste on the 4,8ha property that Comarsa occupies in the Industrial Park of Neuquén.

## 2012

**June:** Illegal occupation of 3,74ha with 7 irregular waste pools.  
**December:** There are 10 pools of waste.

## 2013

**August:** Fracking in Vaca Muerta is officially starting amidst violence and social protest. The Legislature of Neuquén approves an undisclosed agreement between YPF-Chevron with special clauses.

## 2016

**August:** The Ministry of Safety, Work and Environment gives 29ha of national land for the plant in the city of Añelo.

Comarsa presents a bogus plan for shutting down. Declares only 135.500m<sup>3</sup> of waste, which is half of what the Environment Department estimated.

## 2017

**November:** Legal deadline for Comarsa to leave the Neuquen Industrial Park expires.

## 2021

**April:** Comarsa anticipates that they won't finish at the end of 2022 as required, nor during 2023.

The company asks to the Commission of Ecology of the Deliberative Council of Neuquén for an extension for the definitive closure.

## 2019

**January:** Comarsa presents a second plan for bioremediation, setting the plant's closure on October 2024.

In february, the environment department rejected the plan.

## THE TRAIL OF IMPUNITY

**ORDINANCE N°12.912**  
Dec. 2013

In 2012 Comarsa occupied 3.74ha of land which was only authorized for sale in Dec. 2013 by the Neuquén Deliberative Council. The price of this land was only 35 pesos per square meter (the equivalent then to 6.5 US\$ or a half a kilo of coffee).

**GRASSROOTS ACTION**  
Oct. 2014

Grassroots organizations -Oil Dumps Away Assembly and Multisectorial Against Hydrofracture of Neuquén- exposed Comarsa's impacts.

**PROVINCIAL DECREE N°2263**  
Nov. 2015

Hazardous/special waste plants are established to be located more than 8km from urbanized areas.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Sept. 2016

The plant in Añelo starts functioning in spite of inconsistencies in the project.

**RESOLUTION 1142/16**  
Oct. 2016

In spite of the inconsistencies presented in the hearing, the government approves the Environmental Impact Study of the Añelo plant.

**DECREE 1765/16**  
Nov. 2016

Work in the city of Añelo, Neuquén is approved.

**RESOLUTION N°321**  
**DISPOSITION N°706**  
July 2018

(Both regulations are illegal due to violation of Decree 2.263). Environment Ministry approves a plan for reducing the amounts of waste from Comarsa in the Neuquén Industrial Park Plant. Gives extra 5 years to the supposed bioremediation of the waste.

**RESOLUTION N°791**  
June 2019

Untreated waste is buried. The Provincial Government authorizes the shipment of an "approximate volume of 200.000m<sup>3</sup>" to the Final Disposition Plant of the Environmental Services of Neuquén. Actual waste volume was almost twice that amount.

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST COMARSA**  
Dec. 2020

The Argentinian Association of Environmental Lawyers files a criminal complaint against the oil companies and the public officials responsible.

## THE MAIN OWNERS OF THE WASTE



SOURCE:

REPORT  
**TOXIC WASTE IN VACA MUERTA**

observatorio petrolero sur

LA IZQUIERDA DIARIO

TALLER ECOLOGISTA