

## Under Pressure, Dunkin' to Change Powdered Sugar Formula

Taryn Luna | Mar. 05, 2015



At the urging of a nonprofit advocacy group, Dunkin' Donuts has agreed to remove potentially harmful titanium dioxide from the powdered sugar used in its doughnuts.

**As You Sow** of Oakland, Calif., said it commissioned independent laboratory tests of Dunkin's white powdered doughnuts in 2013 and found titanium dioxide nanomaterials. It's unclear if the nanomaterials in the doughnuts are harmful to consumers.

Nanomaterials are substances engineered to have small dimensions, but may also result in a great toxicity for human health and the environment, according to **As You Sow**.

Dunkin' said the ingredient used in the doughnuts does not meet the definition of "nanoparticle" as outlined by the Federal Drug Administration. The company said it began testing alternative formulas for the powdered sugar last year anyway and is in the process of rolling out a solution without titanium dioxide. The company did not provide a timeline for the introduction of the new product.

Last year, the **As You Sow** submitted a shareholder proposal asking Dunkin' to assess and reduce the risks of using nanomaterials in its food. The proposal received 18.7 percent support at Dunkin's annual meeting, according to the group. **As You Sow** said it will withdraw the proposal because of Dunkin's actions.