



**DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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August 04, 2023

Mr. Derek Turner  
General Manager  
El Dorado Chemical Company  
4500 North West Ave.  
El Dorado, AR 71730

email: [dturner@lsindustries.com](mailto:dturner@lsindustries.com)

Mr. Daniel J. Tibbits  
Director, HSE – Central East Region  
NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership LP  
19003 IH-10 West  
San Antonio, TX 78257

email: [Dan.Tibbits@nustarenergy.com](mailto:Dan.Tibbits@nustarenergy.com)

**RE: NuStar NH3 Pipeline - 4 inch lateral - Anhydrous Ammonia Release  
El Dorado Chemical Company, 4500 North West Ave. Union County, Arkansas  
NPDES Permit Number: AR0000752, AFIN: 70-00040  
Request for Interim Measures Plan**

Dear Mr. Turner and Mr. Tibbits:

On July 27, 2023, the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Water Quality received a report from the National Response Center (NRC) submitted by NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership LP (NuStar) of a release of Anhydrous Ammonia from a 4-inch lateral pipeline under a retention pond at the El Dorado Chemical Company (EDCC) facility. The NRC report said EDCC crew discovered bubbling in the retention pond. The pipeline was shut down immediately.

On July 27, 2023, DEQ Inspectors responded to the anhydrous ammonia release at EDCC. The release occurred in an unnamed retention pond containing process wastewater and contaminated stormwater. The wastewater is then routed to Lake Lee and then on to Lake Kildeer then to (Outfall 010 – Joint Pipeline). DEQ was notified of an ammonia sample result taken on July 27, 2023 of 6400mg/l in the unnamed retention pond.

A review of EDCC NPDES Permit AR0000752 monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports and Non-Compliance Reports for Outfall 010 (Joint Pipeline) for the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 indicates a significant, and rising, number of daily maximum and monthly average effluent violations for Ammonia as Nitrogen and Nitrate as Nitrogen. The reported effluent violations indicate a substantial increase in the number of daily maximum exceedances and a dramatic increase in the ammonia concentration.

Additionally, a review of Ouachita River Joint Partners Pipeline NPDES Permit AR000296 monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports and Non-Compliance Reports for Outfall 010 for the same period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 also indicates a significant number of daily maximum and monthly average effluent violations for Ammonia as Nitrogen and Nitrate as Nitrogen. The

reported effluent violations indicate substantial increases in the number of daily maximum exceedances and a dramatic increase in the ammonia concentration.

### **Request for Interim Measures**

In order to prevent further impacts to the environment, DEQ requests that an interim measures plan be provided to this office no later than 5pm August 9, 2023. The interim measures plan can be supplemented and amended as needed, however a written response should be received by this office by the above date / time.

An interim measure plan should include, but not be limited to the following:

- A cessation of all non-emergency discharges from the wastewater ponds.
- Conduct daily sampling at the unnamed retention pond, Lake Lee, and Lake Kildeer for Ammonia as Nitrogen and Nitrate as Nitrogen.. Sample in-situ parameters when collecting water chemistry (temperature, pH, D.O., conductivity).
- Provide copies of any samples analysis collected in the unnamed retention pond, Lake Lee, and Lake Kildeer since January 1, 2023.
- Provide details and specifications to DEQ's Office of Air Quality Permits Branch on the Air Stripper currently operating on Lake Lee. Please include date of first operation and any ongoing operating parameters.
- Submit an Emergency Contingency Plan to address significant rain events.
- Provide weekly updates reports to [water-enforement-reports@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:water-enforement-reports@adeq.state.ar.us) detailing any actions taken to reduce ammonia concentrations. Please include copies sampling results for the week prior to include any daily maximum exceedances.
- Develop a Corrective Action Plan in response to all effluent exceedances at all applicable outfalls;
- Conduct water column profile measurements with a water quality meter to determine if the ponds are stratified. If so, take hypolimnetic water samples to be analyzed for ammonia and nitrate/nitrite.

Because this correspondence also impacts a separate NPDES permit, I am copying representatives of the other partners in the Ouachita River Joint Partners Pipeline. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 501-683-6372 or at [alan.york@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:alan.york@adeq.state.ar.us).

Sincerely,

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Associate Director,  
Office of Water Quality, DEQ  
5301 Northshore Drive,  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

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