



7340 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street N. • Wichita, Kansas 67205  
Telephone (316) 773-9000

August 9, 2023

Mr. Alan J. York  
Associate Director  
Office of Water Quality, ADEQ  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

EMAIL:  
ALAN.YORK@ADEQ.STATE.AR.US

RE: NuStar Anhydrous Ammonia Pipeline Release – 4-inch lateral  
El Dorado Chemical Company, 4500 North West Ave. Union County, Arkansas  
NPDES Permit Number: AR0000752, AFIN: 70-00040  
Request for Interim Measures Plan (August 4, 2023)

Dear Mr. York,

On behalf of NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership L.P. (NuStar), this letter is to acknowledge receipt of the above-referenced Request for Interim Measures Plan issued by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on August 4, 2023. In the letter, ADEQ references an anhydrous ammonia release from a four-inch lateral pipeline under a retention pond at the El Dorado Chemical Company (EDC) facility. Furthermore, ADEQ relates the release to past NPDES permit deviations for ammonia experienced by the EDC facility between January to June 2023. For the reasons explained below, NuStar respectfully disagrees with the assertion that the spill contributed to the permit deviations. Furthermore, regardless of the spill's potential contribution, as further detailed below, NuStar has already completed the necessary measures to ensure that the release has been stopped and the relevant pipe segment has been replaced. As such, ADEQ's requests do not apply to NuStar's operations of the pipeline.

As background, on July 27, EDC staff noticed some pond bubbling in a retention pond on the southeastern side of the EDC facility near the NuStar pipeline. EDC notified NuStar of this bubbling at 11:13 AM. Less than one-hour later, NuStar arrived onsite and confirmed that a minor release was occurring from the NuStar pipeline. NuStar immediately shutdown the 700' pipeline segment and flared some product in the pipe. To be conservative, however, NuStar included in their agency notifications an ammonia release of 2,500 pounds, which corresponds to the maximum potential amount of product in pipeline segment. By 10:30 PM on July 27, the pressure in the pipeline was zero, indicating that any release had ceased.

Because the leak was evident in pond bubbling, EDC staff likely observed the leak shortly after it began. As such, there is a very low likelihood that the leak started much before the July 27 discovery date. Further, regardless of whether the release contributed to the EDC facility's ammonia deviations, NuStar has already replaced the segment of the pipe that resulted in the leak. Specifically, on August 8, NuStar excavated the pipe segment at issue, identified the crack-like feature in a 5-foot section of the pipe, and replaced that portion accordingly. As such, the requested interim measures in ADEQ's letter do not apply to NuStar's operation of the pipeline segment.

Please let me know if I can provide further information or clarification and can be reached at (316) 721-7056 or by cell phone at (316) 305-1214.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Tibbits". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Daniel J. Tibbits  
Director – HSE

Cc: Derek Turner, General Manager, EDC