



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Johnson City Environmental Field Office
2305 Silverdale Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
Phone 423-854-5400 Statewide 1-888-891-8332 Fax 423-854-5401

October 23, 2025

Mr. Brian Long
Vice President, TNO Site Leader
Eastman Chemical Company
e-copy: Brian.Long@eastman.com
P.O. Box 511, B215 #223
Kingsport, TN 37662

RE: **Letter of Advisement**
Fire Water Line Discharges
Eastman Chemical Company – Tennessee Operations (TNO)
NPDES Permit TN0002640
Sullivan County

Dear Mr. Long:

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Resources (the Division) acknowledges accidental fire water line discharges from the Eastman Chemical Company – Tennessee Operations. Eastman Environmental Affairs personnel directly notified the Division of the discharges in accordance with the provisions of NPDES permit TN0002640 Part 2.3.1. and/or via visual observation reporting on monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) in accordance with permit Parts 1.1. and 2.3.1. The individual discharges/observations covered by this correspondence are summarized below.

1. A September 11, 2025, visual observation of turbidity in South Fork Holston River via discharge from outfalls SW30, SW31, and SW32. This discharge was attributed to a fire water line break.
2. A September 25, 2025, visual observation of turbidity in South Fork Holston River via Outfall 006. The discharge was attributed to a fire water line leak.

Permit Part 1.1 contains requirements to note the occurrence of “any discharge foam, oily material, color or other discernable contaminants (e.g., chemical odor or elevated turbidity)” in the DMR comments section, and visual monitoring of outfalls is required at frequencies ranging from annual to daily. Part 1.1.1. of the permit also contains narrative prohibitions stating, in part, the authorized discharge(s) shall

Letter of Advisement

Eastman Chemical Company - TNO

October 23, 2025

Page 2

not: “result in total suspended solids, turbidity, or color in such amounts or character that will result in objectionable appearance to the water, considering the nature and location of the water.”

The division acknowledges receipt of follow-up written reports regarding the events noted above, and the comments noted on the September 2025 DMR for Outfall 006. While Eastman reported that no detrimental effects to aquatic life were observed and that there were no known acute or chronic health effects associated with the discharges, these discharges were not in compliance with Part 1.1.1. of NPDES permit TN0002640. Eastman should take measures to control and prevent discharges that cause an objectionable appearance to the water.

Compliance with NPDES permit requirements and the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act helps ensure discharges that are protective of downstream water quality and supportive of designated usages. Thank you for your efforts to ensure permit compliance and to protect state water quality. If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. Corey Click at (423) 426-6477 or via email at Corey.Click@tn.gov.

Sincerely,



Corey Click
TDEC – Environmental Consultant
Division of Water Resources
Johnson City Environmental Field Office

cc: Mr. Neal Whitten, Environmental Affairs Manager, Eastman Chemical Company, (via email)
Mr. Yancy Farrow, Director Utilities Division, Eastman Chemical Company, (via email)
Mr. William Parks, DWR, Program Coordinator, Johnson City EFO, (via email)
Ms. Maybelle Sparks, P.E., DWR Water-Based Systems Unit, Nashville, (via email)
Ms. Ashley Sexton, DWR Compliance and Enforcement Unit, Nashville, (via email)
WaterLog database