

From: [Leo, Vincent](#)
To: [Rohr, Kimberly L](#); [IDEM Wastewater Reports](#)
Cc: [Gray, Nathan A](#); [Moore, Mark](#); [Kluge, Kelly](#); [Hahn, Tim](#); [Dishon, Dillon](#) RE: IN0002861 EVONIK CORPORATION TIPPECANOE Amyl Acetate Spill TIPPECANOE CO.
Subject: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:12:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Evonik Narrative Description Amyl Acetate Event 18JUL24.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,
Attached is the narrative description of the event and Evonik's response to the incident to satisfy item 1.

This submission is also intended to satisfy the 5-day written noncompliance report requirement of Evonik's NPDES permit.

Thank you,

Vincent

Vincent Leo

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From: Rohr, Kimberly L <KRohr@idem.IN.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 8:58 AM

To: Gray, Nathan A <nathan.gray@evonik.com>; Leo, Vincent <vincent.leo@evonik.com>; Moore, Mark <mark.moore@evonik.com>; martin.cotterman@evonik.com; Kluge, Kelly <kelly.kluge@evonik.com>; glynis.boone@evonik.com

Cc: Kroeger, Margaret <MKroeger@idem.IN.gov>; Palin, Jason <JaPalin@idem.IN.gov>; HOUSE, JASON <JAHOUSE@idem.IN.gov>; Higginbotham, Paul <PHIGGINB@idem.IN.gov>; CLARK METTLER, MARTHA <MCLARK@idem.IN.gov>

Subject: IN0002861 EVONIK CORPORATION TIPPECANOE Amyl Acetate Spill

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Dear EVONIK CORPORATION TIPPECANOE,

IDEM appreciates the communication you have provided thus far through the emergency response spill line regarding the Amyl Acetate release. The purpose of this communication is to request that Evonik Corporation do the following, in response to the recent emergency incident at the Tippecanoe facility:

1. Please provide a narrative description of the incident and Evonik's response to the incident.
2. For outfall 001, immediately, and until further notice, increase the monitoring frequency of all permit parameters to daily, 7 days a week, using approved analytical methods. Report the results to IDEM, via e-mail to kkrohr@idem.in.gov and as soon as results become available. Once the event can reasonably be assumed to have passed through the outfall, facility may request monitoring

return to permitted frequencies. If for a technical reason Evonik cannot increase its monitoring as outlined above, please contact IDEM to propose alternative accelerated sampling protocols.

3. For outfall 001 and its treatment systems, immediately, and until further notice, conduct a daily visual assessment and provide findings to IDEM, via e-mail to krohr@idem.in.gov as soon as findings become available.

Please note that compliance with the request contained in this letter does not alleviate any compliance requirements already contained within NPDES Permit No. IN0002861.

Please direct any questions and responses to Kim Rohr, Wastewater Inspections Section Chief, at KRohr@idem.IN.gov or 317-605-6489.



Kim Rohr
Section Chief
Wastewater Inspections
Office of Water Quality
Office: 317-234-2558
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krohr@idem.in.gov

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100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204
<https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2337.htm>

Submitted via Electronic Mail

wwreports@idem.IN.gov
krohr@idem.IN.gov

July 22, 2024

Ms. Kim Rohr
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Amyl Acetate Event, IDEM Report Number 113460, Evonik Corporation
Tippecanoe Laboratories NPDES Permit No. **IN0002861 TIPPECANOE CO.**

Dear Ms. Kim Rohr,

Below is the narrative description of the amyl acetate event and Evonik's response to the event.

Overview of Standard Operation:

A mixture of aqueous product and organic solvent (amyl acetate) is continuously fed to a centrifuge (CENT-01). Here the mixture is continuously separated into a waste amyl acetate layer and an aqueous product layer. The aqueous product layer is collected and pH adjusted in tank TK-340. The aqueous product layer is then collected in tank TK-357. The aqueous product layer is fed out of tank TK-357 into evaporator EV-300, where roughly half the water by volume is flashed overhead as a distillate waste stream and the concentrated aqueous product layer is the bottom stream. The aqueous product layer is collected, and the distillate waste stream is sent to a sump T3/1 N.E. Sump and transferred to wastewater tank TK-394. Tank TK-394 contents are transferred to tank 402 within the wastewater treatment plant. Tank 402 is then transferred to the aeration basin.

Explanation of the Issue:

On July 16th 2024 starting at 9:45 am, the manufacturing process was down for an unrelated delay. Processing started back up on the same day at 9:15 pm. At the time of startup, a high backpressure on CENT-01 caused a

loss of separation. This resulted in the waste amyl acetate layer making it to tank TK-340 with the aqueous product layer. The mixed stream of waste amyl acetate layer and aqueous product layer was fed into evaporator EV-300. A mixture of the intended water and unintended amyl acetate was flashed overhead. In result, the distillate waste stream sent to a sump T3/1 N.E unintentionally contained amyl acetate. This aqueous waste containing amyl acetate followed the standard path to TK-394. Tank TK-394 contents were transferred to tank 402 in the wastewater treatment plant. The issue was identified in less than an hour, at 9:55 pm, and was immediately corrected.

The incident lasted from approximately 09:15 pm to 09:55 pm on July 16th, 2024. During the time, an estimated 1,200 kg of amyl acetate was fed to evaporator EV-300 and ultimately entered the wastewater treatment plant.

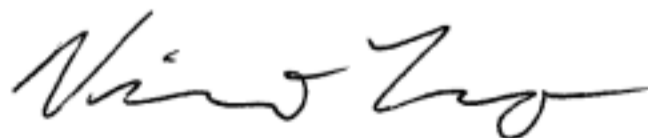
Cause of the issue:

The high backpressure on centrifuge CENT-01 was most likely caused by an operator error when setting the automation mode during start-up.

Response:

Operations responded by correcting the high backpressure issue. Environmental Controls area management, who are responsible for the operations of the wastewater treatment plant, were notified. Operations of the Environmental Controls department began doing visual inspections and sampling to detect for elevated amyl acetate. On July 18th 2024, Environmental Controls began modeling to determine how much amyl acetate could potentially reach the river. This assessment was completed on July 18th and indicated that the amount that could have reached the outfall potentially exceeded 100 pounds. Evonik contacted IDEM within two hours of calculating that potential result. All samples analyzed at this time show no detection of amyl acetate at outfall T001 and visual observations have shown no signs of an issue.

Sincerely yours,



Vincent Leo
ESHS Engineer