



# Indiana Department of Environmental Management Emergency Response Incident Report

## Description

Incident # 112210

**Incident Description:** Fish kill

**Incident Type:** Emergency Response-Reportable Spill

**End Date:** 05/01/2024 7:30 am

**Regulatory Program:** Emergency Response

**Incident Priority:** 1-High

**Incident Status:** Closed

**Closure Method:** Referred Outside IDEM

**Lead Investigator:** Smith, Brian

**Resolution Desc:** Note: Source was located in Ohio. No spill response actions were taken in Indiana because the manure slug had already passed and completely diluted.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>CAS #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Units</u>
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<b>Substances/Impacts:</b> Manure	MANURE		
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**Media Impacted:** Fish Kill  
Surface Water

## Location

**Location Description:** Middle Fork East Fork Whitewater River Hill Road bridge  
Whitewater/Wayne Co

**County:** Wayne

**Latitude DD:** 39.968949

**Longitude DD:** -84.805537

**Method:** Interpolation-Map

**System:** Lat.\Long - Decimal Degrees

**Datum:** NAD83

**Collected By:** IDEM Staff

**Waterbody:** Middle Fork East Fork Whitewater River



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### Source Entity

**Source Type:** Non-Agency Interest

**Source Entity Name:** Justin Meyers

**Address 1:** 1804 Hallansburg-Richmond Road

**Municipality:** Hollansburg

**County:** Out of State

**State:** OH

**Zip Code:** 45332

**Comments:** Dairy located in Ohio. No IDEM Agency Interest number assigned.

**Telecom:** Cellular phone number 1 515-783-6972

### Reporter

**Received By:** Smith, Brian

**Received Date/Time:** 04/30/2024 8:15:00 pm

**Receipt Method:** Emergency Response Hotline

**Reporter Type:** Private Citizen

**Name:** Elliott LaRue

**Title:** citizen

**Organization:** citizen

**Address 1:** 6040 Hill Road

**Municipality:** Fountain City

**State:** IN

**Comments:** Caller reported dead fish present.

**Telecom:** Cellular phone number 1 937-733-7214

### Actions

Task	Staff Assigned	Start Date	Due Date	Completed Date	Hours Spent
Lead ER Staff	Smith, Brian			04/30/2024	
Refer to Other	Smith, Brian			05/01/2024	
Comments: Smith referred incident to Ohio EPA.					



# Indiana Department of Environmental Management

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<b>Actions</b>						
Task	Staff Assigned	Start Date	Due Date	Completed Date	Hours Spent	
Notify of Incident	Smith, Brian			05/01/2024		<p>Comments: Smith notified the Richmond Indiana American Drinking Water utility at 10:00 am that a fish kill had occurred in the river. Smith initially talked with Matt Berier, who informed the superintendent. Smith later discussed the incident two other times 5-1-24 with the utility. Smith also notified IDEM Drinking Water Section Lucio Ternieden of the incident.</p>
Complete Emergency Response	Smith, Brian			05/01/2024		<p>Comments: No spill response actions were taken in Indiana, because the manure slug had already passed and had completely diluted.</p>
Perform Initial Field Response	Smith, Brian	5/1/24 7:30		05/01/2024		<p>Comments: Part 1 of 2.</p> <p>OSC Smith conducted an on-site investigation at 7:30 AM(5-1-24) and met with Mr. LaRue on the Hill Road bridge over the Middle Fork East Fork Whitewater River. He explained he and IDNR Conservation Officer Matthew Garringer walked upstream of the Hill Road bridge and that they observed some live minnows around 10:30 PM 4-30-24. Smith then field screen sampled the river at this location and noted the following results- ammonia-nitrogen- non-detect, pH-7, temp- 59.3 F. Smith did not observe any live fish and noted multiple species of dead fish at the location. Smith traveled downstream to the East Whitewater Road bridge and observed two (2) dead minnows and no live fish. An Indiana farmer stopped on the bridge and discussed the river with Smith. He requested to stay anonymous, but reported he observed a manure application on the field located west of the new Ohio dairy on Saturday, 4-27-24, that he described as a heavy application and indicated the manure was not incorporated into the soil. He reported significant rains had occurred recently. Smith traveled into Ohio on C-16 (Hollansburg-Richmond Road) and Smith observed a large dairy on the east side of the road that did not show on aerial maps and noted the field appeared to have manure on the surface. Smith field screen sampled water in a surface drainage ditch down gradient of the dairy (39.96938/-84.809269) on the west side of the road (within the Ohio road easement) and noted a 4 ppm ammonia-nitrogen reading. Smith traveled back in Indiana and contacted Ohio EPA and informed Ohio EPA OSC David Schilt and Keith Wise via phone and e-mail that Smith suspected the dairy was the source of the fish kill and recommended Ohio EPA investigate.</p>



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## Actions

Task	Staff Assigned	Start Date	Due Date	Completed Date	Hours Spent
Perform Follow-up Field Response	Smith, Brian	5/1/24 7:31		05/01/2024	

Comments: Part 2 of 2.

Ohio EPA On-Scene Coordinator Keith Wise conducted an on-site investigation and at 12:57 PM notified IDEM OSC Smith and IDNR CO Garringer via text that "The responsible party Justin Meyers..." and that he recorded a 58.2 ppm ammonia reading from surface water coming from the field adjacent the dairy. The photo he included in the text message where he sampled at was the east side of the C-16 (Hollansburg-Richmond) Road, on the opposite side of the road where IDEM OSC Smith had earlier sampled. Ohio EPA OSC Wise met Smith in person and discussed the incident. He informed Smith that Mr. Meyers reported he had applied manure on 4-24, 4-25 and 4-27-24 and that all the applications were applied in Ohio and no Indiana fields were applied on. Ohio OSC Wise informed Smith he had Mr. Meyers temporarily block the surface water draining from his field and land apply the water. Smith field screen sampled the Middle Fork East Fork Whitewater River in Indiana at multiple locations and all location results were non-detection for ammonia-nitrogen. Smith concluded the manure slug had already passed and diluted out. Two additional IDNR Conservation Officers assisted CO Garringer conduct a dead fish count in Indiana and an Ohio DNR CO (937-470-1917) conducted a fish kill count in Ohio.

Indiana DNR Case # 04-24-00837.