



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

September 9, 2026

Mr. Jeffrey Messaros
General Manager
e-copy: jcmessaros@bwxt.com
BWXT Ordnance Tennessee
1367 Old State Route 34
Jonesborough, TN 37659

RE: **Notice of Violation**
Unauthorized Discharge
NPDES Permit TN0057983
Washington County

Dear Mr. Messaros:

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Resources (Division) acknowledges an unauthorized discharge from the BWXT Ordnance Tennessee facility on August 24, 2026. BWXT personnel notified the Division of the discharge in accordance with the provisions of NPDES permit TN0057983 Part 2.3.1. Division personnel performed a site investigation on the day of the incident and observed no dead or distressed aquatic life in the receiving stream, Little Limestone Creek. The individual discharge covered by this correspondence is summarized below.

1. On August 24, 2026, a discharge of non-treated process wastewater to Little Limestone Creek via stormwater Outfall A. The cause of the discharge was reported as due to a disconnected wastewater line in Building 300, which allowed wastewater being pumped from Building 100 to the onsite wastewater plant to discharge onto the floor and outside of Building 300. BWXT personnel estimated approximately 900 gallons discharged to the floor and outside of the building, and an unknown percentage of this wastewater drained into stormwater Outfall A.

The Division acknowledges receipt of the follow-up written report regarding this incident. While BWXT reported that no detrimental effects to aquatic life were observed; that no reportable quantities nor NPDES discharge limits were exceeded; and that contaminated areas were surveyed and found to have normal background radiation levels, the discharge was not in compliance with NPDES permit TN0057983 Part 1 provisions or any other NPDES permit as required by the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977*, as amended.

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It should be noted, BWXT did not collect a uranium sample at stormwater Outfall A, but did collect a sample 25' in front of the outfall with a result of 26 ppm which is greater than the Outfall 001 permitted limit of 4 mg/L. Uranium and pH were the only parameters noted in the 5-day follow-up report. NPDES permit TN0057983 permit Part 2.3.2.g states: For industrial dischargers, the discharge of pollutants from any location other than a permitted outfall is prohibited. Outfall 001 is the only outfall authorized by NPDES permit TN0057983 for the discharge of treated process wastewater.

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. The Division requests that you provide information detailing all actions taken since the discharge occurred to prevent recurrence by October 9, 2026. Thank you for your efforts to ensure permit compliance and to protect state water quality. If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (423) 483-0670 or via email at Dane.Cutshaw@tn.gov, or Mr. Corey Click at (423) 426-6477 or via email at Corey.Click@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Dane Cutshaw
TDEC – Environmental Manager
Division of Water Resources
Johnson City Environmental Field Office

cc: Mr. Bob Macfarlane, EHS Director, BWXT Ordnance TN (via email)
Mr. William Parks, Environmental Manager, Johnson City EFO (via email)
Mr. Corey Click, Environmental Consultant, Johnson City EFO (via email)
Mr. Oscar Montenegro, DWR Water-Based Systems Unit, Nashville (via email)
Ms. Ashley Sexton, DWR Compliance and Enforcement Unit, Nashville (via email)
File Copy, DWR, Johnson City EFO
WaterLog database