

**United States
Environmental Protection
Agency**



REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

PUBLIC NOTICE
BASF Corporation
1000 Harvard Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
Case Docket No. CWA-05-2018-0008

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 5, is providing notice of having filed an Administrative Complaint (Complaint) against BASF Corporation (Respondent) for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA). EPA alleges that beginning at least as early as July 1, 2012, and continuing until October 15, 2014, Respondent discharged pollutants, including metals and radioactive material, to the Cuyahoga River without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The violations were identified through several EPA inspections at the BASF facility in 2013 and 2014, and other communications between EPA and BASF. The Complaint seeks a civil penalty of \$262,006 for the unpermitted discharge and for BASF's failure to comply with an Information Request issued under Section 308 of the CWA. EPA issued the Information Request to obtain information on the volume of, and pollutants present in, BASF's unpermitted discharge.

A copy of the Complaint may be viewed online at: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-5#events. Alternatively, the Complaint may be received by contacting the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address below.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT:

Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g) requires that interested persons be given notice of the proposed penalty and a reasonable opportunity to comment on it. Any person who wishes to comment on this Complaint may submit written comments, may attend or present evidence at any hearing scheduled on this matter, or both, by following the procedures in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 22, Section 45 (40 C.F.R. § 22.45), particularly subpart (c) *comment by a person who is not a party*. This portion of the code of federal regulations may be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title40-vol1/pdf/CFR-2015-title40-vol1-sec22-45.pdf> or through <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/>. You may also wish to review 40 C.F.R. Part 22 to learn more about the procedures and rules of practice governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties.

Comments should be made in writing to the Regional Hearing Clerk at:

Case Docket No. CWA-05-2018-0008
Regional Hearing Clerk
Mail Code E-19J
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Written comments may be submitted to the Regional Hearing Clerk by email to whitehead.ladawn@epa.gov; by facsimile (fax) to 312-692-2405; or by mail or delivery to the Clerk's address above. Your comments should include the case name, docket number, and your complete mailing address. If you plan to deliver your comments or other documents in person, please call the Regional Hearing Clerk at (312) 886-3713 for further instructions. Comments and documents sent to any EPA employee other than the Regional Hearing Clerk are not assured of consideration in this matter.

Note that the Agency requires your mailing address because we must use the U.S. Postal Service should we need to reply, request additional information, or notify you of a hearing, and to provide a copy of any consent agreement and proposed final order.

All written comments must be received in the Regional Hearing Clerk's Office no later than 4:30 p.m., Central Time, of the Comment Period End Date shown on the Region 5 events calendar page for this docket number: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-5#events.

All documents filed in this proceeding (including documents submitted by the Respondent or by the public) are available for public inspection by appointment only between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the EPA Regional Office. An appointment for such an inspection may be made by calling (312) 886-3713 or by writing the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address above.

If a hearing is held in this matter, we will advise the public who (during the public comment period) submitted a written request to participate in a hearing of the date, time, and place of the hearing, which they may attend and present evidence on the appropriateness of the proposed penalty assessment by following the instructions in 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(c)(1).

Only persons who during the comment period submit written comments or ask to participate in any hearing held in this matter preserve a right to petition the Regional Administrator to set aside any consent agreement and proposed final order on the basis that material evidence was not considered, as described in 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(c)(4).