

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT,  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**IN THE MATTER OF :**

**Unknown Chemical in  
waterway near the intersection  
of County Road 441 and  
County Road 452 in  
Craighead County, AR**

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**LIS:** 26-008  
**ER:** 26-0109

**EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has determined that release or threatened release of potentially hazardous abandoned substance(s) presents an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, safety or welfare or to the environment and that therefore emergency conditions exist.

Pursuant to authority provided by the Remedial Action Trust Fund Act as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 8-7-501 et seq.; the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management Act as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 8-7-201 et seq.; the Arkansas Solid Waste Management Act as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 8-6-201 et seq.; the Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act as set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101 et seq.; and the rules promulgated thereunder, the Director makes the following Findings of Fact and orders the following remedial actions to be taken immediately to remedy the emergency conditions.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On May 7, 2026, the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) notified E&E's Emergency Response (EM) that the Local Coordinator for the Craighead County Office of Emergency Management reported an unknown amount of a golden-colored chemical was found in a water-filled ditch at the intersection with County Road 441 and County Road 452, located southwest of Jonesboro. ADEM reported that a small number of dead fish were observed in the ditch containing the unknown chemical and that the water in the ditch was not flowing.
2. ADEM reported that:
  - a. Valley View Fire Department, Cash Fire Department, Craighead County Office of Emergency Management, and Jonesboro Hazmat responded to this report;
  - b. a local farmer had observed the unknown chemical in the ditch for a few days; and
  - c. no injuries or road closures were reported in relation to this incident.

3. On May 8, 2026, the Local Coordinator reported to EM that a local farmer had informed them that the chemical released is most likely Prowl Herbicide and that the chemical had been in the ditch for approximately a week.
4. The Local Coordinator observed conditions at the site and reported the following:
  - a. the impacted ditch contained some dead minnows, but turtles with no obvious health issues were observed in the ditch;
  - b. the staining near the ditch indicated that the chemical had been dumped at the location;
  - c. the pH of the water in the ditch was neutral;
  - d. the amount of chemical in the ditch was unknown;
  - e. remediation had not begun;
  - f. the predicted rains could cause the unknown chemical to migrate and impact other areas; and
  - g. the responsible party for the chemical release was unknown at this time.
5. Based on these circumstances, the Director determined that an emergency existed and issued a verbal order on May 8, 2026, as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. § 8-7-508(k), ordering immediate remedial action in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 8-1-202(b)(3); the “Arkansas Water and Air Pollution Control Act,” Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-101, et seq.; the “Arkansas Solid Waste Management Act,” Ark. Code Ann. § 8-6-201, et seq.; the “Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1979,” Ark. Code Ann. § 8-7-201, et seq.; and Ark. Code Ann. § 8-7-508.

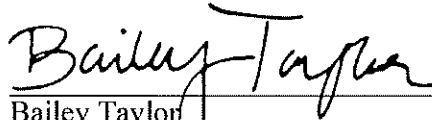
#### **ORDER OF REMEDIAL ACTION**

The Director, on May 8, 2026, ordered that:

1. E&E immediately dispatch a remediation contractor to initiate remedial actions to mitigate the impacts from the suspected pesticide release, prevent migration of the suspected pesticide to other waters of the state, and remediate the area impacted by the release of the suspected pesticide.
2. If necessary to prevent endangerment to public health, safety or welfare or to the environment, DEQ shall have use of moneys from the Remedial Action Trust Fund Act to take necessary actions to include hiring remediation contractor and paying for personnel and equipment to properly abate the endangerments with appropriate allocation of costs as allowed by law.
3. Nothing in this Order shall limit the rights of DEQ to issue further orders or pursue any further enforcement actions for remediation, penalties, and costs from any party responsible for this release.

This Order is effective immediately upon verbal issuance on May 8, 2026, and is confirmed by signature of the Director.

DATED THIS 14th DAY of May, 2026

  
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Bailey Taylor  
Chief Administrator of the Environment