



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 20, 2025

Mr. Jimmy Autrey
Westlake Chemicals & Vinyls, LLC
715 Highway 25 South
Aberdeen, Mississippi 39730

Dear Mr. Autrey:

Re: Westlake Chemicals & Vinyls, LLC
Monroe County
COE No. SAM202301123JDC
WQC No. WQC2024063

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, Westlake Chemicals & Vinyls, LLC, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Westlake Chemicals and Vinyls, LLC: Project to place fill material into 193.45 linear feet of intermittent stream, 2.46 acres of forested wetland, and 0.82 acre of non-forested wetland for grading associated with the construction of roadbed for three new railway tracks at the Westlake Chemical plant. The three 2,300-foot-long railway tracks would hold a total of 99 railcars to be used for additional storage and staging at the chemical plant. Mitigation for impacts will be accomplished through the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank. Project is located in wetlands and unnamed tributaries to James Creek in Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi [SAM202301123JDC, WQC2024063].

MDEQ certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
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1. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage areas. Special care shall be taken prior to and during construction to prevent the movement of sediment into adjacent avoided wetland areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
2. For construction projects five (5) acres or greater of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities shall follow the conditions and limitations of the Large Construction General Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and/or permits have been obtained. Construction activities include a disturbance to the land that results in the change in topography, existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative), or the existing topography that may result in accelerated stormwater runoff, leading to soil erosion and movement of sediment into surface waters or drainage systems. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B)
3. Mitigation for the loss of 2.46 acres of forested wetlands, 0.82 acres of emergent wetlands, and 193.45 linear feet of intermittent stream shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. The number of credits must be in accordance with banking prospectus and be based upon that required for impacts. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to MDEQ prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland areas. (Statement E) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 A (2))
4. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R.2.2.A.(3))
5. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))

As part of the Scope of Review for Application Decisions, 11 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 6, Rule 1.3.4(B), the above conditions are necessary for MDEQ to ensure that appropriate measures will be taken to eliminate unreasonable degradation and irreparable harm to waters of the State, such that the activity will not meet the criteria for denial:

- (A) The proposed activity permanently alters the aquatic ecosystem such that water quality criteria are violated and/or it no longer supports its existing or classified uses. An example is the channelization of streams.
- (B) There is a feasible alternative to the activity which reduces adverse consequences on water quality and classified or existing uses of waters of the State.

- (C) The proposed activity adversely impacts waters containing State or federally recognized threatened or endangered species.
- (D) The proposed activity adversely impacts a special or unique aquatic habitat, such as National or State Wild and Scenic Rivers and/or State Outstanding Resource Waters.
- (E) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.
- (F) Nonpoint source/storm water management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.
- (G) Denial of wastewater permits and/or approvals by the State with regard to the proposed activities.
- (H) The proposed activity results in significant environmental impacts which may adversely impact water quality.

MDEQ also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

BS: pk

cc: Jevon Coleman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Ryan Odom, Headwaters, Inc.