



June 4, 2025

Aron Becza
GFS Chemicals INC
851 McKinley Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43222

**Re: GFS Chemicals INC
Notice of Violation (NOV)
NOV
RCRA C - Hazardous Waste
Franklin County
OHD004284188**

Hazardous Waste Program - DERR

Subject: FCI Notice of Violation / Partial Resolution of Violation

Dear Aron Becza:

Thank you for assisting me during Ohio EPA's May 6, 2025, Focused Compliance Inspection (FCI) of GFS Chemicals INC (GFS) located at 851 McKinley Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. The goal of this inspection was to determine GFS's compliance with Ohio's hazardous waste laws as found in Chapter 3734. of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the rules adopted pursuant to ORC § 3734.12 found in Chapter 3745 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). The inspection included a review of GFS's operations and written documentation associated with two unmanifested waste reports.

Findings

Ohio EPA observed the following violations of Ohio's hazardous waste laws and rules. To bring GFS into compliance, Ohio EPA recommends promptly addressing these violations within 14 days of your receipt of this letter.

- 1. OAC Rule 3745-52-11, Hazardous Waste Determination:** Any person who generates a waste, must determine if that waste is a hazardous waste. The generator must determine if the waste is a listed hazardous waste defined in rules 3745-51-30 to 3745-51-35 of the Administrative Code, and the generator must determine whether the waste is a characteristic hazardous waste identified in rules 3745-51-20 to 3745-51-24 of the Administrative Code by either: (1) Testing the waste or (2) Applying knowledge of the hazardous characteristic of the waste.

GFS failed to determine if the process wastewater generated in the organic plant is a hazardous waste. This was communicated to Ohio EPA in two separate unmanifested waste reports dated April 11, 2025, and May 13, 2025, from Reworld Tron Corp. and

confirmed by GFS during the investigation. Reworld identified five totes of process waste water as D001 hazardous waste.

Upon investigation GFS sent three totes (825 gallons) of D001, F003, F005 hazardous waste to a non-permitted TSD as communicated in the April 11, 2025, report from Reworld. The three totes from the April 11th report were then sent to a TSD for disposal under the appropriate profile. Two totes (550 gallons) of process waste water were identified as D001 hazardous waste in the May 13, 2025, report from Reworld. The two totes from the May 11th report were returned to GFS for testing and it was determined that one of the totes of process waste water was hazardous (D001). However, GFS is performing more testing on these two totes to confirm their organic plant process waste water waste profile.

To resolve this violation Ohio EPA recommends submitting the final evaluation for the two totes that were returned to GFS.

- 2. OAC Ruel 3745-52-20 (A)(1), Manifest Requirements:** A generator who transports, or offers for transport a hazardous waste for offsite treatment, storage, or disposal shall prepare a manifest.

GFS failed to prepare a manifest for three totes of 'Process Wastewater' that were determined to be hazardous waste (D001, F003, F005), and potentially two additional totes still being evaluated.

To resolve this violation Ohio EPA recommends GFS submit a final signed manifest / manifests showing that all hazardous waste has been taken to an appropriate facility for disposal.

- 3. OAC Rule 3745-52-27 (A), Waste Minimization Certification:** A large quantity generator who initiates a shipment of hazardous waste must certify the following statement in item 15 of the hazardous waste manifest "I am a large quantity generator. I have a program in place to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste generated to the degree I have determined to be economically practicable, and I have selected the practicable method of treatment, storage, or disposal currently available to me which minimizes the present and future threat to human health and the environment"

GFS failed to complete the waste minimization certification on the hazardous waste manifest.

To resolve this violation Ohio EPA recommends GFS submit a final signed manifest / manifests showing that all hazardous waste has been taken to an appropriate facility for disposal.

- 4. OAC Rule 3745-52-20 (B), Permitted Facility Designation on Manifest:** A generator shall designate on the manifest one facility which is permitted to handle the waste described on the manifest.

GFS failed to complete the hazardous waste manifest including the permitted facility designation.

To resolve this violation Ohio EPA recommends GFS submit a final signed manifest / manifests showing that all hazardous waste has been taken to an appropriate facility for disposal.

- 5. OAC Rule 3745-52-23 (A)(1) & (2), Use of Manifest:** A generator shall sign the manifest certification by hand and obtain the handwritten signature of the initial transporter and the date of acceptance on the manifest.

GFS failed to complete a hazardous waste manifest including the dates and signatures.

To resolve this violation Ohio EPA recommends GFS submit a final signed manifest / manifests showing that all hazardous waste has been taken to an appropriate facility for disposal.

- 6. ORC § 3734.02 (F) and OAC Rule 3745-52-10(A)(3) - Transport of Hazardous Waste:** No person shall store, treat, or dispose of hazardous waste regardless of whether generated on or off the premises where the waste is stored, treated, or disposed of, or transport or cause to transported any hazardous waste identified or listed under this chapter and ruled adopted under it to any other premises, except at or to any permitted hazardous waste facility.

On April 11, 2024, Ohio EPA was notified by Reworld Tron Corp. (OHD987021128), that they had received a shipment of unmanifested hazardous waste from GFS. Three totes (825 gallons) were shipped to Reworld and sampled. Results showed that the three totes of 'Process Wastewater' were D001, F003, F005 hazardous waste. GFS was notified and the three totes were transported to Reworld Tron Corp. (OHD066060609) a permitted TSD. Ohio EPA reached out to GFS on May 6, 2025, to discuss the unmanifested hazardous waste shipment.

On May 13, 2025, Reworld Tron Corp. (OHD987021128) submitted another unmanifested waste report. This detailed a shipment of six totes of 'Process Wastewater' two of these were determined to be D001 hazardous waste by Reworld. GFS opted to have these two totes (550 gallons) returned to their facility where they tested them for flashpoint. One of the two were verified to be a D001 hazardous waste by GFS. During GFS internal investigation they determined that their flashpoint sampling equipment was not performing as intended. They have begun using a different test method to prevent further issues and are in the process of reevaluating these two totes.

No further action is required. However, due to the nature of this violation, GFS has been referred to our Central Office for evaluation of escalated enforcement.

Conclusion

The Ohio EPA respectfully thanks you for your effort to resolve the violations. Please note that this does not preclude the Director from seeking administrative or civil penalties pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3734. for the violations noted during the May 6, 2025 inspection. The decision on whether to pursue or decline to pursue such penalties regarding these violations is dependent on several factors, one of which is the company's future compliance with Ohio EPA regulatory requirements.

Please be advised that violations cited above will continue until all violations have been properly resolved. Failure to comply with Chapter 3734. of the Ohio Revised Code and rules promulgated thereunder may result in an administrative or civil penalty.

The submission of any requested information to respond to this letter does not constitute waiver of the Ohio EPA's authority to seek administrative or civil penalties as provided in Chapter 3734. of the ORC.

This NOV/PROV is only associated with those areas of the operations that were inspected or the documentation reviewed and does not constitute a waiver of potential violations not discovered.

A copy of the inspection report including completed checklists will be sent with a separate letter. You can find Ohio's hazardous waste rules and other information on the division's web page at: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-response-revitalization>.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (614) 728-5037 or Abbey.Gray@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Abbey Gray', written over a horizontal line.

Abbey Gray,
Hazardous Waste Program
Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization

ec. Andy Maneff, DERR
Martin Smith, DERR
Courtney Flowers, DERR
Zak Kabelen, DERR
EPA.RCRAInfoData@epa.ohio.gov