

The proposal is to amend the Pollution Control Standards to add this variance from Chapter 4.F. Prohibition of Mixing Zones for Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern to allow FirstEnergy Corp. a mixing zone for its discharge of mercury after the mixing zone prohibition for bioaccumulative chemicals of concern becomes effective on October 16, 2015. The variance is for a two-year period and establishes a monthly average permit limit based on the highest discharge concentration of mercury in the prior three years.

Appendix F

Approved Variances from Pollution Control Standards

II. FirstEnergy Corp, Pleasants Power Station, Willow Island, WV (Permit WV0023248)

- 1) A variance from the requirements as set forth in the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission Pollution Control Standards for Discharges to the Ohio River 2013 Revision, Chapter 4.F, Mixing Zone Prohibition for Bioaccumulative Chemicals of Concern is granted to FirstEnergy Corp., Pleasants Power Station (NPDES Permit WV0023248) for a period not to exceed two years, beginning October 16, 2015.
- 2) FirstEnergy Corp. will be allowed a mixing zone as specified above; however, at WV0023248 Outfall 001, the monthly average limit for Total Hg shall not exceed 0.022 ug/L, and the daily maximum limit for Total Hg shall not exceed 0.044 ug/L.
- 3) FirstEnergy Corp's mercury reduction plan submitted to the Commission in its application dated November 26, 2014 shall be fully implemented.
- 4) FirstEnergy Corp. shall submit to the Commission and WVDEP semi-annual progress reports beginning October 16, 2015 including the status of implementing its mercury reduction plan and all mercury monitoring data collected as a requirement of this variance and NPDES Permit WV0023248.
- 5) Beginning October 16, 2015, monthly Ohio River in-stream sampling for Total Hg shall be conducted upstream of WV0023248 Outfall 001 and downstream of Outfall 001 at the downstream and lateral edge of the regulatory mixing zone as specified by WVDEP in the NPDES permit. Samples shall be representative of the entire water column at each location.
- 6) Beginning October 16, 2015, annual fish tissue monitoring for total and methyl mercury shall be conducted downstream, in the vicinity of WV0023248 Outfall 001. A minimum of three samples each from trophic levels three and four fish shall be collected annually. FirstEnergy shall develop a monitoring and analytical work plan to be approved by ORSANCO prior to sampling.
- 7) The Commission shall have the sole authority and discretion to modify, renew, or revoke the variance being granted herein. Further, if the Commission modifies or revokes this variance, the Commission shall formally notify the WVDEP in writing of any such modification or revocation once finalized by the Commission. Nothing in this variance shall be construed to limit the WVDEP's authority to impose any additional requirements or more stringent requirements in WV/NPDES Permit No. WV0023248 for Outfall 001.