

## Controversies: Eastman Chemical

- In December 2022, an audit by the Tennessee Comptroller cited the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for Eastman Chemical pollution. The audit found that [the state has more work to do to bring the company in line with Clean Air Act standards](#). It is the only area in Tennessee that has failed to meet those national guidelines, the audit noted.
- In September 2022, a study conducted on toxic pollution in waterways in the USA ranked Eastman's plant in Kingsport, Tennessee, at [#12 by toxicity-weighted releases](#) based on data from 2020.
- In August 2022, the people of the State of Illinois, including Rel. Kwame Raoul, Attorney General, announced a lawsuit against Monsanto Company and its affiliates Solutia Inc. and Pharmacia LLC for [the continued environmental and human health effects of Monsanto's decades-long production of polychlorinated chemicals](#). Solutia is a fully-owned subsidiary of Eastman Chemical.
- In July 2022, Eastman Chemical Company [experienced a power outage at its Kingsport facility, leading to a plant shutdown](#). Oil was released into the river, and methyl iodide, iodine, and ethylene glycol were released into the air. Eastman officials said the release posed no danger to people, and TDEC staff said they observed no harm to fish or other aquatic life.
- In April 2022, a ProPublica investigation showed Eastman is one of five companies whose [carcinogenic emissions cover more square miles of pollution hotspots](#) than any other companies in the US.
- In March 2022, Eastman Chemical Company Harrison County was made to pay a penalty of [\\$27,000](#) for violating the emissions rate in 2021.
- In March 2022, the city of Los Angeles sued Eastman-owned Solutia for past and future costs of dealing with [contamination of waterways by long-banned chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls](#).
- In January 2022, a high-pressure steam line failure at Eastman's Kingsport plant, in Tennessee, [injured five workers and spread a plume of debris](#) contained across the area. Eastman officials found traces of asbestos in some of the debris, likely from insulation in the plant's piping. Eastman later reported [three discharges totalling 2.4 million pounds of wastewater into the Holston River](#) (Tennessee) following the steam line failure. In February 2022, residents of Kingsport community, Tennessee, filed a class action lawsuit alleging exposure to toxic chemicals following the explosion. In April 2022, Eastman

estimated that the incident reduced the [company's adjusted earnings by \\$125 million](#), an estimated \$75 million gross profit impact from lower sales revenue and about \$50 million of accelerated costs.

- In January 2022, [Eastman ranked 28 in the Toxic 100 Air Polluters Index](#), with its plant in Longview, Texas, contributing to more than 55% of the company's air-borne hazards.
- In January 2022, [Eastman ranked 24 in the Toxic 100 Water Polluters Index](#), with its plant in Kingsport, Tennessee, contributing to more than 98% of the company's water-borne hazards.
- In November 2021, the area surrounding Eastman Chemical's plant in Longview, Texas was identified as the highest risk area in Longview, a region identified as one of the [toxic and carcinogenic air pollution hotspots in the US](#).
- In April 2021, Eastman Chemical Company disclosed that it had released more than [5,000 pounds of ethylene glycol](#) into the Holston River.
- Between 2018 and 2022, [Eastman Chemical paid about 1.5 million USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.