

## Controversies: Nutrien

- In December 2022, Nutrien faced a [Clean Water Act lawsuit](#) filed by an environmental group that alleges that the fertilizer company polluted nearby waterways, including the Mokelumne River. The environmental group claimed the company stores industrial materials outdoors, exposing them to stormwater and contaminating the surrounding watershed.
- In August 2022, [Nutrien's Aurora phosphate mine shut down](#) after an accident where a structural failure at a phosphate ore conveyor belt and storage container caused several minor injuries.
- In July 2022, Nutrients Environmentally Smart Nitrogen (earlier manufactured by the company's predecessor, Agrium) with its [polymer-coated nitrogen](#) drew severe criticism from environmental groups. They warned that the plastic shell can pair with synthetic chemicals, increase toxic risks, and overload soils with even more plastics to the detriment of human, animal, and planetary health.
- In July 2022, Nutrien's subsidiary, PCS Nitrogen Fertiliser, had to pay [\\$1.5 million](#) in civil penalties for mismanaging hazardous wastes and spend \$84 million closing and remediating their facility in Geismar, Louisiana.
- In February 2022, several people were evacuated after a fire burned through [1.7 million pounds \(more than 680 tonnes\)](#) of sulphur and 107 tonnes of toxic ammonium sulphate stored at Nutrien Ag's fertiliser plant in Sunnyside, Washington, USA.
- In November 2021, Nutrien was charged with a [\\$668,000 penalty by the US EPA](#) for applying dicamba illegally on farms in Kansas during the summer of 2020. The EPA says that the pesticide was deregistered by the federal government and that Nutrien applied it "in a manner inconsistent with the product's labelling".
- In December 2020, [a fire broke out](#) at a Nutrien plant in Oxnard, California, that took nearly a day to extinguish. No injuries were reported.
- In Mars 2020, [a fire broke out](#) at a Nutrien potash mine close to Vanscoy, Canada. No injuries were reported.
- In May 2019, an overnight fire left [63 people trapped](#) underground at Nutrien's Allan potash mine, south of Saskatoon.
- In January 2019, [a fire broke out](#) at a Nutrien fertilizer plant in Mulberry, Florida.

- In November 2018, Nutrien Ag Solutions Inc. agreed to pay a [penalty of just over 330,000 USD](#) imposed by the US EPA for the improper storage and labelling of agricultural pesticides. The EPA asserted that the company had multiple violations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, which regulates the distribution, sale, and use of pesticides in the United States.
- In September 2018, after a fire, [an explosion hit](#) a Nutrien plant in Dixon, Illinois. No one was injured in the incident.
- In March 2018, Nutrien subsidiary Crop Production Services (Canada) Inc. (CPS) was fined [150,000 USD](#) for improper storage of petroleum hydrocarbons. CPS pleaded guilty to transferring petroleum products into unidentified storage tank systems. Storage of petroleum products in unmarked containers is a violation of federal regulations.
- Between 2018 and 2022, [Nutrien and its subsidiaries paid 88.6 million USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.