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Rover cited for new water violation days after construction restarts

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Just three days after winning federal energy regulators' approval to restart certain construction operations after a series of environmental violations, the Rover pipeline was cited with a new environmental notice by Ohio regulators Friday.

The Ohio EPA cited an Energy Transfer Partners LP subsidiary for spilling contaminants into a waterway in Carroll County, Ohio, saying Rover spilled soap wastewater discharge and soil and sediment into a tributary of Irish Creek.

From May 10 until Sept. 18, Rover was under orders from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that constrained its construction activities as FERC investigated the causes for a series of leaks of drilling mud into areas near where the pipeline was being constructed ([Energywire](#), Sept. 19). The largest leak is estimated to have been of 2 million or more gallons of diesel-contaminated drilling slurry that has led to requirements for extended water quality monitoring in the area near where it was initially disposed.

Rover was allowed to proceed with a range of construction techniques but could not proceed with plans to drill under certain roads and waterways, a technique used to avoid disturbing sensitive and high-impact surface features.

In a statement Friday, Ohio EPA blasted the company for incurring another violation so soon after getting permission to resume construction work at several horizontal drilling sites along the right of way.

"Although Rover's arrogance and blatant disregard for Ohio's environmental laws is no longer surprising, we will remain vigilant in holding the company accountable," agency Director Craig Butler said.

The state environmental regulator last week referred a case to the attorney general's office for pursuit of a civil prosecution against the backers of the \$4.2 billion, 713-mile project ([Energywire](#), Sept. 22).

The agency is seeking to collect \$3.2 million in penalties and cleanup costs associated with drilling mud leaks, stormwater management problems and other environmental violations during pipeline construction. It also argues that Energy Transfer Partners must obtain a state-issued construction stormwater permit, which it says the company is required to apply for as a result of

its previous environmental violations. Energy Transfer Partners maintains that its federal construction permit exempts it from obtaining the additional state approval.