

EPA, EGLE and Monroe County Daily Update: Pilot Diesel Spill, Ottawa Lake, MI

EPA and EGLE will provide a daily update of site activities in response to the Pilot diesel spill in Ottawa Lake, Michigan.

Background

On March 22, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, or EGLE, was notified about an unknown sheen in the Tenmile Creek. On March 26, EGLE requested EPA assistance to identify the source of the diesel fuel, and to help with downstream containment and recovery operations. EPA arrived later that day to begin removing pooled diesel via vacuum trucks into holding tanks.

An investigation identified the source as a leaking diesel fuel line at the Pilot Travel Center located at 6158 New US 223, Ottawa Lake, Michigan. The discharge of diesel flowed into an on-site storm sewer, retention pond, and offsite storm sewer leading into North Tenmile Creek near the southwest corner of the US 23 and US 223 interchange. EPA has placed absorbent boom at the outfall and along the creek to contain and collect remaining diesel.

To date, Pilot, with EPA oversight, has recovered of 11,395 gallons of diesel which will be disposed of at an approved facility. The company has collected 308,351 gallons of liquid that includes the diesel and a mixture of diesel and water. This water will be treated or disposed of properly.

This week, EGLE and the Monroe County Health Department began sampling nearby private drinking water wells. For more information about this sampling effort, please visit the [Monroe County Health Department](#) website.

Daily Site Update

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

EPA

- All updates can be found on EPA's website: response.epa.gov/Ottawa_Lake_Diesel
- To date, 11,395 gallons of diesel has been collected. The company has collected 308,351 gallons of liquid that includes the diesel and a mixture of diesel and water. This water will be treated or disposed of properly.
- The source of the leak has been identified and the oil is contained.
- EPA continues to provide oversight of all on-site and off-site work in the waterways, ensuring the safety of workers and documenting efforts.
- Boom has been deployed at seven locations along North Tenmile Creek, south of the outfall (Sunoco, Erie Road, Bibb Road, Temperance Road, Consear Road, Jeff's Road, and Yankee Road).

EGLE

- The source of the leak source has been identified and a plug/clamp was applied to stop the leak. A pressure test is being conducted to ensure there are no other leaks in the system.
- Preliminary drinking water results for a portion of the samples taken yesterday at private drinking water wells were non-detect.

- The diesel and diesel/water mixture collected is being stored in frac tanks. There was a spike in volume from pumping storm sewer line from pond to Sunoco outfall and from pumping down pond level). Currently in the frac tanks:
 - a. Mix: 296,956 gallons
 - b. Pure Product = 11,395 gallons
 - c. Total = 308,351 gallons
 - d. 14 empty frac tanks

Monroe County Health Department

- MCHD and EGLE continue to sample drinking water at homes along Tenmile Creek and at designated non-residential facilities in Whiteford Township. Sampling at these sites is expected to be completed by the end of the day on April 3. Test results are expected within 2 days on April 5.
- MCHD will respond to any calls or emails from Whiteford Township residents who have concerns regarding their drinking water safety. Residents can call or email MCHD at 734-240-7900 or eh_frontdesk@monroemi.org to be added to the contact list for further updates. Residents can get updates following the Health Department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MCHDMichigan/>.
- The County of Monroe and Whiteford Township have established a bulk potable water filling station for residents. The filling station is at the Whiteford Volunteer Fire Department, 9244 Whiteford Center Road, Ottawa Lake7. Residents must bring their own containers to fill. Prior to use, residents should boil the water if the transport containers are not considered for potable use.

Planned Site Activities for Today:

- Pilot, with oversight from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, will begin conducting a pressure test on the damaged pipeline to ensure there are not more breaches present along the line.
- Pilot will prioritize cleanup efforts in the first stretches of the north Tenmile Creek from US-23 to Erie Road, which is an ongoing source of pollution due to the heavily impacted sediments. Cleanup efforts will include removing heavily contaminated vegetation, reconfiguring booms, and padding observable sheen areas. An evaluation of the sediments will be evaluated to determine if excavation is required.
- Pilot will install a second underflow dam North of the Erie Road boom deployment location to capture sheen caused by cleanup efforts occurring upstream (in North Tenmile Creek from the underflow dam to US-23 and stretches of North Tenmile Creek from US-23 to Erie Road.
- EGLE and MCDH anticipate 23 drinking-water samples will be collected at residential properties to bring the total to 40 locations.
- EGLE and the MCDH anticipate collecting samples at approximately 15 non-residential properties.
- As soon as the water level in North Tenmile Creek subsides, Pilot will reestablish boom locations at Temperance Road, Consear Road, Jeff's Road, and Yankee Road. On April 2, a heavy rain event caused the water level in North Tenmile Creek to rise approximately 6 feet. The booms installed south of Bibb Road (Temperance Road, Consear Road, Jeff's Road, Yankee Road) were

overwhelmed by the flow of water and displaced downstream. It was determined that due to safety concerns for personnel, no entries into North Tenmile Creek to reinstall booms at these locations were to be done until water levels subside.

- EPA continues to work with Pilot to develop an on-site removal plan.

Other Past Site Activities

- On March 29, an underflow dam was installed at the outfall of the stormwater sewer line which goes from just downstream of the retention pond on-site, under US-223, and releases to the North Tenmile Creek behind Sunoco gas station (Big Daddy).
- On March 30, the diesel fill line leading from the pump house to the diesel dispenser islands at Pilot was shut down.
- As of April 2, Pilot has prioritized cleanup efforts in North Tenmile Creek from the underflow dam to US-23, which is an ongoing source of sheen due to the heavily impacted sediments. Cleanup efforts include removing heavily contaminated vegetation, reconfiguring booms, and padding observable sheen areas. An evaluation of the sediments in this zone is being evaluated to determine if excavation is required.