

April 8, 2024

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

This document provides daily on-site activities in response to the Pilot diesel spill in Ottawa Lake, Michigan.

Daily Site Update

Monday, April 8, 2024

On Wednesday, April 10, two town hall meetings will be held at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 5790 W. Temperance Road, Ottawa Lake, for residents to ask questions and hear about recent cleanup efforts at the site. The first meeting is at noon, the second at 5 p.m. Federal, state and local officials will provide brief presentations. A question-and-answer session will follow that will include Pilot.

EPA

- All updates can be found on EPA's website: response.epa.gov/Ottawa_Lake_Diesel
- The following chart summarizes the product recovered on-site to date:

	Recovered Liquid (Gallons)
Fuel from excavation/leak area	16,356
Fuel from oil/water mixture	19,750
Fuel from line jetting	4,342
Total Diesel Recovered	40,448
Oil/water mixture	521,633
Total Liquids Recovered	557,740

- Starting tomorrow, there will be additional metrics reported including gallons of treated water and gallons of treated water discharge via the EGLE approved permit.
- Additionally, an approximate 120 cubic yards of debris (oiled grass, sticks, branches, pop bottles/cans, and general garbage) have been removed from the off-site sewers and North Tenmile Creek as part of the evaluation and cleanup process.
- All water collected will be run through an on-site water treatment system, referred to as a granulated activated carbon system. This process will remove trace oil and contamination from the water prior to discharge to White Creek. This water will be tested several times per week by Pilot, with oversight from EPA/EGLE who will take additional confirmation samples to verify results. Water that is cleared by analytical results will be discharged off-site in accordance with the temporary National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit approved by EGLE.

- Line jetting operations to remove sediment and diesel from the off-site sewer has been completed. Sediment and liquids collected were contained for treatment and/or off-site disposal.
- Containment boom is being maintained at seven locations along North Tenmile Creek, south of the outfall (Sunoco, Erie Road, Bibb Road, Temperance Road, Jeff's Road, Consear Road, and Yankee Road).
- Contaminated vegetation removal continues along North Tenmile Creek. In addition, vegetation removal has started in the on-site retention/environmental control pond.
- The on-site subsurface investigation is ongoing to determine the extent of contamination, which includes collection of soil samples, groundwater samples, and installation of recovery wells where product is encountered.
- Private drinking water well sampling continues with oversight from Monroe County Health Department and MDHHS.
- EPA continues to provide oversight of all on-site and off-site work in the waterways, ensuring the safety of workers and documenting efforts.

Planned Work:

- Preparation will begin for excavation and remediation of Tenmile Creek between US 23 and US 223. Strict best management practices will be followed to prevent erosion and protect endangered species habitat.
- Preparations are underway to accommodate treatment of the collected contaminated water.

EGLE

- EGLE issued the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES, permit for granulated activated carbon treatment. An access agreement was granted to allow water discharged from the site to travel over private property. property owner, pumping treated water to frac holding tanks. EGLE anticipates the hose installation will be completed today across the private property's open field to be discharged in White Creek.
- EGLE plans to drill tow wells to catch and contain diesel on the west side of the site.
- Dredging North Tenmile Creek is necessary to remove any potential diesel that may have sank to the bottom of the creek. The state must issue a permit to dredge before work can begin.

Public Health

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Monroe County Health Department, and Pilot have sampled 137 private drinking water well locations.
- The health department call center has received additional calls for well sampling. Callers will be contacted for evaluation and potential sampling by the public health department.
- This morning, a reverse 9-1-1 message was sent out to notify residents about the opportunity to schedule sampling of their drinking water wells.

New Frequently Asked Question

Q: How long with the work take to complete both on-site and in North Tenmile Creek?

A: The off-site work in North Tenmile Creek should be completed within a couple weeks. Permits are being secured to ensure work does not impact any habitat for endangered/protected species and that

the waterway will provide the correct flow for future storm events. The preparation for this work has not been held up by the permit process and work is anticipated to begin this week.

The duration of the on-site work will be determined by the cleanup plan proposed by Pilot. If the company chooses to remediate as much on-site contamination as possible, the long-term remediation plan and oversight by EPA and/or EGLE will have an extend period of time (months to years). If Pilot chooses to remove all contamination (including tanks, lines, and subsurface utilities), the remediation plan and oversight by EPA and EGLE will be much shorter (weeks to months). EPA and EGLE are in discussions with Pilot and updates will be made available once there is new information.

Today's Photos



On-site wastewater treatment system on April 8, 2024



Debris/overgrowth removal in environmental control pond, April 8, 2024