

April 9, 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
Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

Tomorrow, 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 to follow that will also 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 (Gal)
Fuel from excavation/leak area	12,061*
Fuel from oil/water mixture	8,036*
Fuel from line jetting	4,342
Total Diesel Recovered	24,439*
Oil/water mixture	577,182
Total Liquids Recovered	601,621

*There was an error in the way Pilot measured and reported daily quantities to EPA on April 8. The total diesel recovered was not 40,448 gallons. The total diesel amount has been verified for the update today.

- When on-site water treatment begins, additional metrics will be reported including gallons of treated water and gallons of treated water discharge via the EGLE-approved permit. This process is still pending initial preliminary analytical results to comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 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 cleared by analytical results will be discharged off-site in accordance with the temporary NPDES permit approved by EGLE.

- 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 continues 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.
 - The on-site groundwater monitoring wells, installed up to 20 feet below ground surface, do not have free diesel product.
 - The existing on-site recovery wells, set at approximately 4 feet below ground surface, have shown free diesel product which has been removed on a regular basis.
 - EPA and EGLE are constantly evaluating subsurface data to determine the horizontal extent of contamination from this release.
- 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:

- Excavation and remediation of North Tenmile Creek will begin later in the week between US 23 and US 223. Strict best management practices will be followed to prevent erosion and protect endangered species habitat.
- Discharge of treated wastewater will begin, pending preliminary analytical results complying with NPDES permit.

Public Health

- Private drinking water well sampling continues with oversight from Monroe County Health Department and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- MCHD, MDHHS, and Pilot have sampled 146 wells, preliminary results have been received from 118. Today, 59 sampling locations are scheduled for sampling.

Today's Photos



Hose line prepared to discharge treated wastewater from the on-site water treatment system, known as the granulated activated carbon system on April 9, 2024.



On-site subsurface investigation to determine the extent of contamination. Investigation includes soil sampling, groundwater sampling, and installing product recovery wells on April 9, 2024.