

April 10, 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

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

- All updates can be found on EPA’s website: response.epa.gov/Ottawa_Lake_Diesel
- EPA, EGLE, MCHD and MDHHS attended two townhall meetings to present updates and answer questions.
- The following chart summarizes the product recovered on-site to date:

	Recovered Liquid (Gallons)
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	564,948
Total Liquids Recovered	603,301
Treated water	-23,698

- On-site water treatment has started, but discharge is still pending initial preliminary analytical results to comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Additionally, an approximate 140 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 is 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 EPA/EGLE oversight. EPA and EGLE 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 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 and 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.
- Pilot implemented control measures for upcoming rain event. Measures include:
 - Installing floating boom system behind Sunoco and at the confluence along Jeffs Road,
 - Stationing vacuum trucks near the excavation to collect any rainwater,
 - Stationing a 3-inch pump at the Erie Road underflow dam in case of flooding.
- Pilot began the initial stages of disassembly of the diesel pumps island at the parking lot north of the station. Activities included cutting concrete and disassembly of fuel pumps.
- EPA continues to provide oversight of all on-site and off-site work in the waterways, ensuring the safety of workers and documenting efforts.
- EPA and EGLE are reevaluating the NPDES permitted discharge due to new information provided. No discharge has occurred off-site yet and the permit requirements may be modified.
- 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 245 wells, preliminary results have been received from 118, and 59 sampling locations are scheduled for today.

Planned Work:

- Excavation and remediation of North Tenmile Creek will begin later this 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.
- Starting tomorrow, EPA intends to investigate an area known as the “big sink” – an underground geological formation – and nearby spring-fed streams as part of monitoring to determine if contamination has resurfaced from karst geology. These checks will continue daily.

Today's Photos



Duffey conducting concrete cutting activities at diesel pumps island



Vegetation clearing continues along Tenmile Creek south of Jeffs Doty Road