

April 5, 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

Friday, April 5, 2024

EPA

- Updates and photos can be found on EPA's website: response.epa.gov/Ottawa_Lake_Diesel
- To date, 13,796 gallons of diesel have been collected. The company has collected 381,206 gallons of liquid that includes the diesel and a mixture of diesel and water. This water will be treated or disposed of properly.
 - The majority of the pure product collected was recovered from the location where the leak originated on site.
- Storm sewer line jetting operations from the on-site retention pond to North Tenmile Creek continue to remove sediment and diesel from the off-site sewer. Sediment and liquids are being collected and contained for treatment and/or disposal.
- Boom is being maintained at six locations along North Tenmile Creek, south of the outfall (Sunoco, Erie Road, Bibb Road, Temperance Road, Jeff's Road, and Yankee Road).
 - Hard boom along Jeff's Road north of W Sterns Road has been reinstalled.
- Underground utilities are being located to prepare for drilling and soil sampling on-site.
- 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:

- The storm sewer will be investigated using a camera beginning South of Sunoco running north. This activity will resume after excavation can be completed to expose buried outfalls.
- Preparation will begin for excavation and remediation of North Tenmile Creek between US 23 and US 223. Strict best management practices will be followed to prevent erosion and protect endangered species habitat.

EGLE

- To discharge water collected during the cleanup that has been treated on-site, EGLE issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to allow this treated water to be discharged into a nearby stream. EGLE is currently waiting for access to a nearby property for the drain pipe to carry this water. Hourly surveillance of the pipe will take place once the discharge actions are started.
- The private well water sampling goal is to sample 50 residential wells today. EGLE is in the process of bringing on a second lab to expedite sample analysis.
- EGLE 301/303 permit application expected to be submitted today. Monroe County Drain commission will be on site to supervise the dredging/jetting work once it starts.

- EGLE Emergency Management is in contact with Michigan State Police/Emergency Management Homeland Security Division regarding Monroe County request for a Governor's Declaration of Emergency for the event.

Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [issued a press release](#) yesterday announcing that out of an abundance of caution, the county requested Pilot sample every private drinking water well in Whiteford Township. The company has agreed, and sampling will begin today. To have your private drinking water well sampled at no cost, please call the MDHHS hotline at 844-934-1315 to schedule an appointment from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All further updates on private drinking water well sampling will be announced by the county and can be found at the county's website: healthymonroecounty.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Has the spill been contained?

A: Yes. The line that contained the leak was shut down on March 26. The on-site sewer system has been capped to stop flow off-site. There is no continuing release.

Q: Was the leak coming from an underground storage tank?

A: No, the leak came from a four-inch supply line. That line was shut off upon discovery of the leak and a vacuum truck was set up to remove the product immediately after leaving the pipe. The volume collected from this location is included in the total number of gallons of pure product reported out daily.

Q: Is there still oil migrating to the south of the site in North Tenmile Creek?

A: Two underflow dams have been installed in North Tenmile Creek at the outfall behind the Sunoco gas station on US 223 and near Erie Road to prevent any heavy contamination from moving downstream. These locations will stop the flow of additional oily sheen downstream as the contaminated sediments in North Tenmile Creek are removed. Since EPA arrived on scene, booms have been installed in several locations downstream of these dams to contain any oil sheens that were present prior to the dam installations. These booms are maintained on a regular basis and any oil buildup is removed by a contractor with EPA and EGLE oversight.

Q: Who is overseeing the cleanup of the on-site contamination?

A: EPA and EGLE are on site daily to review plans and ensure that the cleanup is progressing in a safe and orderly fashion.

Q: How long will it take to finish the cleanup?

A: EPA and EGLE are working with Pilot to clean up all off-site contamination as safely and efficiently as possible. A plan for the on-site work is currently under development.

Q: How will the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit work for the water treated and discharged on-site?

A: The NPDES permit is overseen by EGLE. The on-site requirements will include a weather analysis to ensure drainage ditches will not reach flood capacity, laboratory analysis of the treated water prior to discharge, coordination with the neighbors, and regular assessments of the discharge line throughout the day.

Today's Photo



Cleanup activities in Tenmile Creek near Bibb Road. Photo taken facing downstream to the south on April 5, 2024.