

April 11, 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

Thursday, April 11, 2024

EPA and EGLE met with Pilot to determine the extent of contamination under the station. Pilot decided to perform a full excavation of the affected area of the property, including removal of the pumping stations, fuel lines, storage tanks, and other affected utilities. When the removal is complete, Pilot will replace double-walled pipes and install new, double wall fiberglass tanks and double wall piping with interstitial monitoring (monitoring the space between the walls of the double-walled tanks for spills) for all secondary containment. Once finished, Pilot will move to the gasoline side of the facility to duplicate these efforts and remove all tanks. All new systems will be in line with the latest 2024/2025 guidances and regulations.

On-Site Updates

- All updates can be found on EPA's website: response.epa.gov/Ottawa_Lake_Diesel
- Due to the karst geology in Monroe County, EPA began monitoring for any evidence of sheen and/or odor at several natural spring locations near the site. No impacts from the spill have been found. Monitoring of these locations will continue daily.
- 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	644,267
Total Liquids Recovered	719,832
Treated water	59,644
Discharged water	0*

*On-site water treatment has started, but discharge is still pending initial preliminary analytical results to comply with 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.
- 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).
- Vegetation removal continues in the on-site retention/environmental control pond.
- The on-site subsurface investigation is ongoing to determine the extent of contamination.
- The initial stages of disassembly of diesel pumps island at the parking lot north of the Pilot Station is underway. 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.

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 262 drinking water wells. An additional 130 appointments for sampling are scheduled for today and tomorrow (4/11 and 4/12).

Planned Work:

- Excavation and remediation of North Tenmile Creek will begin later this week between US 23 and US 223. Work will begin off the shoulder of US 23 following MDOT regulations. Strict best management practices will be followed to prevent erosion and protect endangered species habitat.

Today's Photos



EPA monitoring the area known as the “big sink” sinkhole near Samaria Rd. No sheen or odor was detected.



EPA monitoring at Spring Brook Creek, a spring-fed creek near Summerfield Rd and Secor Rd. No sheen or odor was detected.