

April 4, 2024

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

Federal, state and local agencies will provide a daily update of site activities in response to the Pilot diesel spill in Ottawa Lake, Michigan.

Daily Site Update

Thursday, April 4, 2024

EPA

- Updates and photos can be found on EPA's website: [response.epa.gov/Ottawa Lake Diesel](https://response.epa.gov/Ottawa_Lake_Diesel)
- To date, 12,141 gallons of diesel have been collected. The company has collected 322,222 gallons of liquid that includes the diesel and a mixture of diesel and water. This water will be treated or disposed of properly.
- On-site groundwater monitoring wells were tested.
- Work completed near the trench where the line break occurred:
 - The source of the leak has been identified, leak was repaired and oil is contained.
 - Two recovery wells next to the pipe were tested and still contain diesel.
 - Pressure test was completed.
 - Six soil samples were collected from the trench.
- Installation of underflow dam in North Tenmile Creek at Erie Street was completed.
- Sewer flushing started to remove sediment and diesel from the offsite sewer. Sediment and liquids are being collected and contained for treatment and/or disposal.
- Boom has been redeployed at seven locations along North Tenmile Creek, south of the outfall (Sunoco, Erie Road, Bibb Road, Temperance Road, Consear Road, Jeff's Road, and Yankee Road).
 - Hard boom at location along Jeff's Road north of W Sterns Road has not yet been replaced due to unsafe water conditions.
- 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:

- Underground utilities will be located to prepare for additional soil sampling later in the week.
- Storm sewer will be investigated using a camera beginning South of Sunoco running north.

EGLE

- Onsite cleanup continues, including:
 - a. Monitoring wells and recovery wells are being dug to observe the potential extent of diesel under the concrete. Diesel will be collected as it accumulates in recovery wells on-site.
 - i. This is in addition to the on-going collection on-site via the storm sewer, on-site retention pond, and excavations near the location where the pipe broke.
- A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the Petroleum-Contaminated Wastewater General Permit to be issued to Pilot.

- a. The permit allows for the on-site treatment of collected water from the retention pond at the Pilot station and storm sewer system, and for discharge of the treated diesel-impacted wastewater from site to surface waters.
- b. Wastewater will be double treated to remove contaminants of concern. On-going sampling during treatment/discharge is required.
- c. Discharge location to be roadside ditch (White Drain, this is a county drain) along Samaria Road. Flow is being controlled to prevent downstream flooding.
- d. Treatment and discharge will likely take weeks to ensure it is done in a slow manner.
- e. Plans and the permit application have been reviewed by EGLE Water Resource Division to ensure compliance with all state surface water quality standards.

Monroe County Health Department

- The County of Monroe and the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) are working with Pilot to expand the testing area to include all of Whiteford Township out of an abundance of caution.
- MCHD is partnering with the state to establish a phone hotline, water sampling appointment system and results tracking and distribution processes.
- MCHD is partnering with EGLE and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to bring additional staff into Monroe County to expand testing capacity.

Background

On March 22, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, or EGLE, was notified about an unknown sheen in the Tenmile Creek. On March 26, EGLE requested EPA assistance to identify the source of the diesel fuel, and to help with downstream containment and recovery operations. EPA arrived later that day to begin removing pooled diesel via vacuum trucks into holding tanks.

An investigation identified the source as a leaking diesel fuel line at the Pilot Travel Center located at 6158 New US 223, Ottawa Lake, Michigan. The discharge of diesel flowed into an on-site storm sewer, retention pond, and offsite storm sewer leading into North Tenmile Creek near the southwest corner of the US 23 and US 223 interchange. EPA has placed absorbent boom at the outfall and along the creek to contain and collect remaining diesel.

To date, Pilot, with EPA oversight, has recovered 12,141 gallons of diesel which will be disposed of at an approved facility. The company has collected 322,222 gallons of liquid that includes the diesel and a mixture of diesel and water. This water will be treated or disposed of properly.

EGLE and the Monroe County Health Department are sampling nearby private drinking water wells. For more information about this sampling effort, please visit the [Monroe County Health Department](#) website.

For updates and photos of the site, please visit the [EPA website](#).

Today's Photos



Underflow dam installed at Erie Road.



Boom placed between Sunoco and US-23 along North Tenmile Creek.