

The following is an update on White Lake 29 CPF incident and cleanup from the Senior Geologist for the Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division of EGLE

“Based on field screenings and observations during cleanup operations, it does not appear that groundwater and/or surface water has been impacted. However, confirmation sampling of existing onsite monitoring wells is to be conducted on December 6, 2023. We will certainly let you know as soon as results come back whether any concern is indicated and our next steps.”

Update on cleanup activities that have occurred since the incident:

- Hound Resources continues cleanup operations with M.L. Chartier at White Lake CPF 29. Hound Resources has contracted Global Environmental to conduct groundwater sampling on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. EGLE will be onsite during sampling activities.
- EGLE visually inspected nearby surface waters (small creek in the wooded area adjacent to the facility, wetlands to the south, and tributary to Lake Neva) and no impacts were observed.
- There are numerous private drinking water wells in the area. The nearest well to the facility is approximately 525' to the east. Based on previous hydrogeologic reports, groundwater is expected to flow to the south southwest. The nearest private well downgradient of expected groundwater flow is approximately 1,050' south southwest of the facility. There are two Type II wells approximately 1,600' to the north. There are two Type I wells that are a little more than 2,000' away to the west.
- Last week brine and other fluids were removed from the secondary containment area and disposed of at Aeritas Specialty in Detroit, MI.
- Thick crude oil and other wastes from the containment area were removed and placed in sludge boxes and are awaiting disposal.
- The liner was steamed, and fluids disposed at Aeritas Specialty in Detroit.
- Tank hatches were removed, and tanks cleaned. Tanks were removed from containment and placed on liner while awaiting disposal.
- Flow lines that were damaged in the incident were flushed, cut, and capped. Lines were placed on liner and covered while awaiting disposal.
- The secondary containment liner was removed from the tank battery and placed in 3 lined and covered roll off boxes.
- Soils below liner are a fine sand fill. Limited impact was observed (slight to moderate petroleum odor, no free product, and no stained soils were observed) and is believed to be very localized. Additional excavation and investigation will be conducted. Dike walls with charred liner were scrapped back and placed on plastic liner within excavation. The entire excavation area is covered with a plastic liner.
- Hound Resources is still awaiting landfill approval for sludges and soil disposal. Expected landfill for disposal is C & C Landfill in Marshall, MI. Hound Resources would like to direct load into trucks once they receive landfill approval.
- Areas outside of containment where firefighting foam was used have had free liquids/foam removed. Additional excavation may be required.
- Hound Resources is removing the top layer of soil/vegetation on the perimeter of the facility that had minor burning from the incident.
- EGLE had discussions with numerous residents, concerned citizens, and the Oakland County Health Department on the incident, potential environmental impacts, and oil and gas operations.