

**DOCK COLLAPSE INTO DETROIT RIVER**

## Timeline

**INTRODUCTION**

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy staff surveys Detroit Bulk Storage site.

A portion of the Detroit River shoreline collapsed on Nov. 26, 2019, at the property at 5851 W. Jefferson Ave. in Detroit that is owned by Revere Dock LLC and where Detroit Bulk Storage receives, stores and ships limestone aggregate. An area of land adjacent to the river appears to have collapsed or subsided, causing a portion of a pile of limestone approximately 40 feet high to spill into the river. The event destroyed about 250 feet of the concrete dock and underlying shoreline. The company has submitted to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) its remediation plan for the site.

## Dec. 11, 2019



Group from EGLE and federal agencies testing Detroit Bulk Storage site along Detroit River for radiation.

All test results from water samples taken from the Detroit River upstream, downstream and directly offshore from the collapse of a sediment pile show no elevated levels of pollutants. The tests showed no detectable levels of PCBs, uranium, heavy metals, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and several other industrial pollutants. Suspended solids and barium were detected, but at levels well below water quality standards.

Previously, radiological testing conducted Friday, Dec. 6, at the site showed radiation levels below background levels typically found in Michigan.

The site, commonly referred to as the Revere Copper & Brass site or Detroit Bulk Storage site, was previously contaminated by uranium processing. It was remediated in the 1980s and 1990s. Post-remediation testing showed no radiological contamination beyond background levels. The testing conducted

by EGLE affirms that there is no current increased risk to the public or the environment from the collapse.

## Dec. 12, 2019

A violation notice for illegal filling of a bottomland without a permit has been issued to the owner of the property where a sediment pile collapsed into the Detroit River. EGLE requires North Muskegon-based Ericksons – which was leasing the property to Detroit Bulk Storage and Revere Dock LLC – to provide a restoration plan within 15 days to remove the debris without disturbing potentially contaminated river bottom sediment below it. The plan must be approved by EGLE.

## Dec. 27, 2019

The Great Lakes Water Authority's first round of [water quality test results have been released](#) and levels were “non-detect” for some metals, including uranium, thorium, mercury and lead. Results for radionuclides are pending, according to GLWA.

## Jan. 9, 2020

EGLE is analyzing preliminary results of recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency soil and pond water sampling at the Detroit Bulk Storage site along the Detroit River, where an aggregate pile collapsed in November into the river. EGLE's analysis of the results and further discussions with the EPA will inform next steps to hold the site's owner, Revere Dock LLC, and Detroit Bulk Storage accountable and ensure a cleanup that is protective of public health and the environment. [Read the full statement.](#)

## Jan. 10, 2020

Revere Dock LLC submitted to the state its [response to notifications regarding the Detroit Bulk Storage aggregate spill site along the Detroit River](#). The document lists short-term steps Revere Dock LLC expects to take at the site. Revere Dock LLC had missed its Dec. 26 deadline to submit a plan to EGLE's Water Resources Division, but it did meet its Jan. 10 deadline to submit its response to EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division.

## Jan. 16, 2020

The Great Lakes Water Authority [received the results](#) from a second round of water quality testing related to the Detroit Bulk Storage dock collapse in November. The results confirm there was no impact to water quality from the aggregate spill.

EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division informed Revere Dock LLC and Detroit Bulk Storage that the short-term steps they have taken to contain the impacts of the aggregate spill into the Detroit River are inadequate. In letters mailed Jan. 16, EGLE expressed concern about interim response efforts conducted to date to prevent soil contaminants from eroding into the river. Revere Dock LLC and Detroit Bulk Storage spelled out their plans in letters sent to EGLE on Jan. 10.

EGLE staff said a five-foot silt curtain does not surround the area of the bank failure, the southern portion of the bank collapse is not protected adequately from erosion, and a sinkhole at the site is developing rapidly in size and allowing additional materials from the property, including aggregate and contaminated soils, to enter the river. EGLE called for an expedited evaluation of the sinkhole and development of a plan to prevent further discharges of contaminated soils and aggregate into the river.

Revere Dock LLC and Detroit Bulk Storage have until Jan. 24 to submit to EGLE an Interim Response Plan, which is to detail longer-term and more specific plans to remediate the site. That plan must include an assessment of the sinkhole and proposed measures to ensure further contaminated soils and aggregate are not discharged into the Detroit River.

### Jan. 17, 2020

EGLE Remediation and Redevelopment Division staff were on the Detroit River adjacent to the Revere Copper and Brass property site to conduct a survey of the collapsed dock and soils within the impacted river area. Staff used sonar equipment to measure the depth of the river. The information gathered will be used to map the river bottom, showing the extent of the collapsed dock and soils within the Detroit River.



EGLE Staff use sonar equipment in Detroit River

### Jan. 28, 2020

EGLE staff performed below-water inspection of the ponded area at the Detroit Bulk Storage site with a remotely operated vehicle. EGLE staff also collected surface water samples from within and outside of the original five-foot silt curtain that Revere Dock installed around the area of the collapse. Revere Dock crews began the installation of a second silt curtain – this one at 400 feet long and 20 feet deep – beyond the original five-foot curtain. The silt curtains are intended to contain further erosion of contaminated soil from the site, spilled aggregate and river sediment from migrating away from the spill site.

### Jan. 31, 2020

EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division sent Revere Dock LLC and Detroit Bulk Storage letters on Jan. 31 responding to the Jan. 24 Interim Response Plan submitted by Revere Dock LLC. EGLE expressed additional concern about interim response efforts conducted to date to prevent soil contaminants from eroding into the river and requested additional measures be implemented immediately. A written update on additional actions taken including identifying contingency actions was requested to be submitted to EGLE by Feb. 7, 2020.



EGLE staff test the pond area at the Revere Dock LLC site along the Detroit River.

EGLE staff said the additional 20-foot silt curtain is not performing satisfactorily, and that the sinkhole at the site was not evaluated adequately and may be allowing additional materials from the property, including aggregate and contaminated soils, to enter the river. Settling is occurring in the pond area, which is 12 feet deep. EGLE requested Revere Dock LLC to conduct

an expedited evaluation of the sinkhole and develop a plan to prevent further discharges of contaminated soil and aggregate into the river now and in the future.

EGLE reviewed the proposed geotechnical assessment and required that the property be assessed from pre-collapse conditions to the present and provided review comments on the work proposed.

EGLE also stated that the sampling strategy proposed was not appropriate and recommended discrete sampling be conducted, requested additional sampling locations, and discussed future requirements for seawall permits, dredging permits and further review to be conducted by EGLE Water Resources Division staff for those permit applications.

Revere Dock LLC and Detroit Bulk Storage were requested to submit to EGLE by Feb. 29 a Progress Report and geotechnical investigation results, and to submit by March 30 a Restoration Plan Report, which is to detail longer-term and more specific plans to remediate the site.

### March 30, 2020

The consulting firm hired by Revere Dock LLC submitted to EGLE the [River Bank Restoration Plan](#) for the site in Detroit where an aggregate spill collapsed a dock and associated soil into the Detroit River. The plan was required of Revere Dock LLC by EGLE to detail how Revere Dock LLC will address the dock collapse, remove materials within the river and restore the riverbank. The report by PM Environmental contains two parts: Results of a geotechnical investigation and riverbank failure material characterization activities and a restoration plan with a work timeline. EGLE staff is evaluating the report.

*Michigan's Environmental Justice Policy promotes the fair, non-discriminatory treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan's residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies by this state. Fair, non-discriminatory treatment intends that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or low-income populations, will bear a disproportionately greater burden resulting from environmental laws, regulations, policies, and decision-making.*

*Meaningful involvement of residents ensures an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.*