



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH
2565 PLYMOUTH ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48105

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

January 22, 2021

Dan Peabody
State of Michigan
Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Remediation and Redevelopment Division
P.O. Box 30426
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Peabody:

I am writing this in response to your letter dated September 24, 2020 requesting EPA assistance and response actions at the Morrow dam impoundment in Kalamazoo, Michigan. EPA appreciates the referral and continued partnership of our agencies. The purpose of this letter is to briefly summarize our response activities to date and propose a meeting to discuss next steps.

To date, we have taken the following actions in response to your request:

- Participated in and documented the sediment deposition related to the Morrow Lake draw down by the dam owner/operator;
- Facilitated a field meeting following the reconnaissance with relevant agency staff, dam owner/operator, and contractor personnel to discuss the deployment of additional sediment control measures upstream of the dam;
- Provided recommendations and subsequent oversight of the deployment of the additional sediment control measures in the impoundment;
- Participated in planning and bi-weekly coordination meetings;
- Provided input/feedback/comments on the bathymetric survey and field sampling work plans developed by the dam owner/operator's consultant;
- Conducted split sampling with the dam owner/operator and EGLE on the sediment samples collected in December 2020;
- Facilitated initial coordination between the dam owner/operator and responsible party representatives working on an ongoing cleanup project downstream of the impoundment; and
- Facilitated public outreach to the Kalamazoo River Community Advisory Group and Kalamazoo River Watershed Council.

(over)

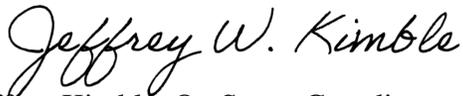
At this time, EPA's START contractor Tetra Tech, Inc. is finalizing a letter report with a detailed summary of field activities and split sampling data collected. This report will be passed along to you once it is finalized.

Based on a review of the preliminary data collected by both Tetra Tech, Inc. and the dam owner/operator's consultant, EPA does not anticipate initiating a response action pursuant to CERLCA authorities.

EPA, however, is willing to continue assisting the State by providing technical assistance via field staff as the State takes full lead on the response and planning effort. In that spirit, we propose an agency (Michigan DNR, EGLE WRD, EGLE RRD, AG) coordination call next week to discuss next steps and continued, but more limited, EPA involvement in this matter.

Please feel free to contact me at 734-214-4895 or kimble.jeffrey@epa.gov should you like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey W. Kimble in black ink.

Jeffrey Kimble, On Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Section 1

cc: Matt Diana, Michigan DNR
Kyle Alexander, Michigan EGLE WRD
Chris Lantinga, Michigan EGLE RRD Kalamazoo