From: "Trumble, Luke (EGLE)" <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>
Date: July 16, 2025 at 2:03:09 PM EDT
To: Aaron Snell <snell@streamsideeco.com>, "Stacy L. Hissong"
Cc: "Horak, Thomas (EGLE)" <HorakT@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: White River sampling results 7-15

Aaron/Stacy:

See below and attached. We had field staff do some water quality monitoring yesterday downstream of the White Cloud Dam. We don't really get concerned with long-term exposure to fish unless turbidity is more than 50 NTU above background for more than 7 days and/or if dissolved oxygen drops below 5 mg/L. So, although the water is noticeably more turbid and there is a slight DO drop at the three sites immediately below the dam, it appears to be clearing up the farther downstream you travel and all sampled locations were within acceptable ranges. As there is less and less sediment being recruited from the impoundment, we'd also expect turbidity to continue to decline and DO to return to baseline over time.

Unless things get worse, my recommendation would be to hold tight for a little longer and then proceed with the drawdown once water has cleared up more. We can have staff return to the field and collect additional water quality data to help with the decision of when to proceed or make other adjustments. That can be when conditions are visually better or if they get worse for some reason (like after a rain event or board removal).

The short story is that it looks worse than it is, and water quality data supports that we do not expect any significant impacts to downstream aquatic communities resulting from the current conditions. We will continue to monitor and advise as needed to better inform the decision of when/how to finish the remaining drawdown.

Let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Luke

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From: Delehanty, John (EGLE) <DelehantyJ@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 1:41 PM
To: Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov>; O'Brien, Connor (EGLE) <OBrienC11@michigan.gov>; Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov>

Cc: Worm, Michael (EGLE) <WORMM@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: White River sampling results 7-15

No problem, Luke. We took some photos as well. No fish kill was observed at any of the sites inspected.

If future assistance is needed, we're happy to help.

From: Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov<mailto:TrumbleL@michigan.gov>>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 1:25 PM
To: O'Brien, Connor (EGLE) <OBrienC11@michigan.gov<mailto:OBrienC11@michigan.gov>>; Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov<mailto:HorakT@michigan.gov>>
Cc: Delehanty, John (EGLE) <DelehantyJ@michigan.gov<mailto:DelehantyJ@michigan.gov>>; Worm, Michael (EGLE) <WORMM@michigan.gov<mailto:WORMM@michigan.gov>>
Subject: RE: White River sampling results 7-15

Thank Connor and John for grabbing this data! Greatly appreciated.

We may need to do follow up measurements in the future as we advance the drawdown or if we observe/hear that conditions are worsening. I expect that things will continue to hold steady or clear up as the drawdown has been paused since July 3rd so sediments that are mobilizing from the impoundment will be depleting over time and flushing through the downstream system. It could pick up after significant rains or if the City removes another stoplog and increases the recruitment of sediment from the impoundment area.

In any case, all of these values are within typical acceptable ranges during drawdown of impoundments, so I don't anticipate that any major adjustments need to be made at this point…i.e. just wait for it to clear up a little more and then proceed with the rest of the drawdown.

Thanks again!
Luke

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From: O'Brien, Connor (EGLE) <OBrienC11@michigan.gov<mailto:OBrienC11@michigan.gov>>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 1:11 PM

To: Trumble, Luke (EGLE) <TrumbleL@michigan.gov<mailto:TrumbleL@michigan.gov>>; Horak, Thomas (EGLE) <HorakT@michigan.gov<mailto:HorakT@michigan.gov>>
Cc: Delehanty, John (EGLE) <DelehantyJ@michigan.gov<mailto:DelehantyJ@michigan.gov>>; Worm, Michael (EGLE) <WORMM@michigan.gov<mailto:WORMM@michigan.gov>>
Subject: White River sampling results 7-15

Good afternoon,

Please see below for site data from our sampling on the White River yesterday. I can also compile into an excel file if you would like.

Location: White River at 2 Mile Rd. (baseline)
Turbidity (Turb): 1.91 NTU
Dissolved Oxygen (DO): 8.36 mg/L
Temperature (Temp): 16.6 *C
Approx. Time: 11:30 AM

Location: White River at city Rotary Park/below dam outflow
Turb: 23.0 NTU
DO: 7.2 mg/L
Temp: 21.2 *C
Approx. Time: 12:15 PM

Location: White River at M-37 roadside park
Turb: 17.9 NTU
DO: 6.7 mg/L
Temp: 21.4 *C
Approx. Time: 12:50 PM

Location: White River at Echo Dr./Flowing Wells Park
Turb: 33.7 NTU
DO: 7.16 mg/L
Temp: 20.5 *C
Approx. Time: 2:00 PM

A visual assessment of the stream conditions was also made further downstream, at the M-20 Roadside Park in the Aetna area. Here, the river was carrying elevated levels of turbidity from normal flows as expected, but the greater flow velocity appeared to be assisting with quicker dispersion of suspended sediment. Per visual observation, this location appeared less turbid than the 3 upstream sampling sites (below the White Cloud dam). If you have any questions relating to our results, observations, or sampling techniques, please let me know. Additionally, please keep me in the loop if you need any further assistance with this project moving forward.

Thanks,

Connor O’Brien
Environmental Quality Analyst
Water Resources Division/Grand Rapids-Cadillac Districts
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy