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Congress of the United States
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December 6, 2019

Director Liesl Clark
Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan, P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Administrator Cathy Stepp
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Director Clark and Administrator Stepp,

I am writing you regarding the recent dock collapse at the Revere Copper site on the Detroit River, near public drinking water intake pipes.¹ The collapse – and the apparent failure to discover it for a week – at this contaminated site has caused great alarm in my district and across Southeast Michigan.

I am aware that testing for radiation at the site was conducted by EGLE and EPA today, and that their team was joined by the FBI. I am requesting that EGLE immediately conduct all further testing and sampling necessary to determine: (1) what was spilled into the Detroit River when the dock collapsed and whether it poses health and environmental risks; (2) whether there are any chemical, radiological, or pollutant threats to public health and the environment caused by the collapse and exposure of both buried contamination on land and sediment in the Detroit River; and (3) whether there are any risks to the public drinking water system.

I further ask that you release this information to the public as soon as possible, and rapidly develop and announce any necessary remediation and response plan. I hope that EPA will do all it can to support EGLE's work in these regards. I would also like an explanation for why the FBI was included in the site visit today.

I am also requesting details on the sampling that I understand EGLE conducted near the site in April of this year. (1) What prompted the radiological sampling near this site; (2) what was discovered; (3) how frequently is such sampling conducted in the Detroit River; and (4) how were the results communicated to the public?

¹ <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/site-contaminated-with-uranium-collapses-into-detroit-river>

Thank you for your urgent attention to this critical public health and environmental event. People in my district from Detroit to River Rouge and Ecorse are rightfully concerned, and I hope EGLE and the EPA will do everything possible to respond and release information as soon as it is available.

Please let me know how my office can assist your efforts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rashida Tlaib". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress
Michigan's 13th District

cc: The Honorable Debbie Dingell, Congresswoman
cc: The Honorable Stephanie Chang, State Senator
cc: The Honorable Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, City Councilwoman