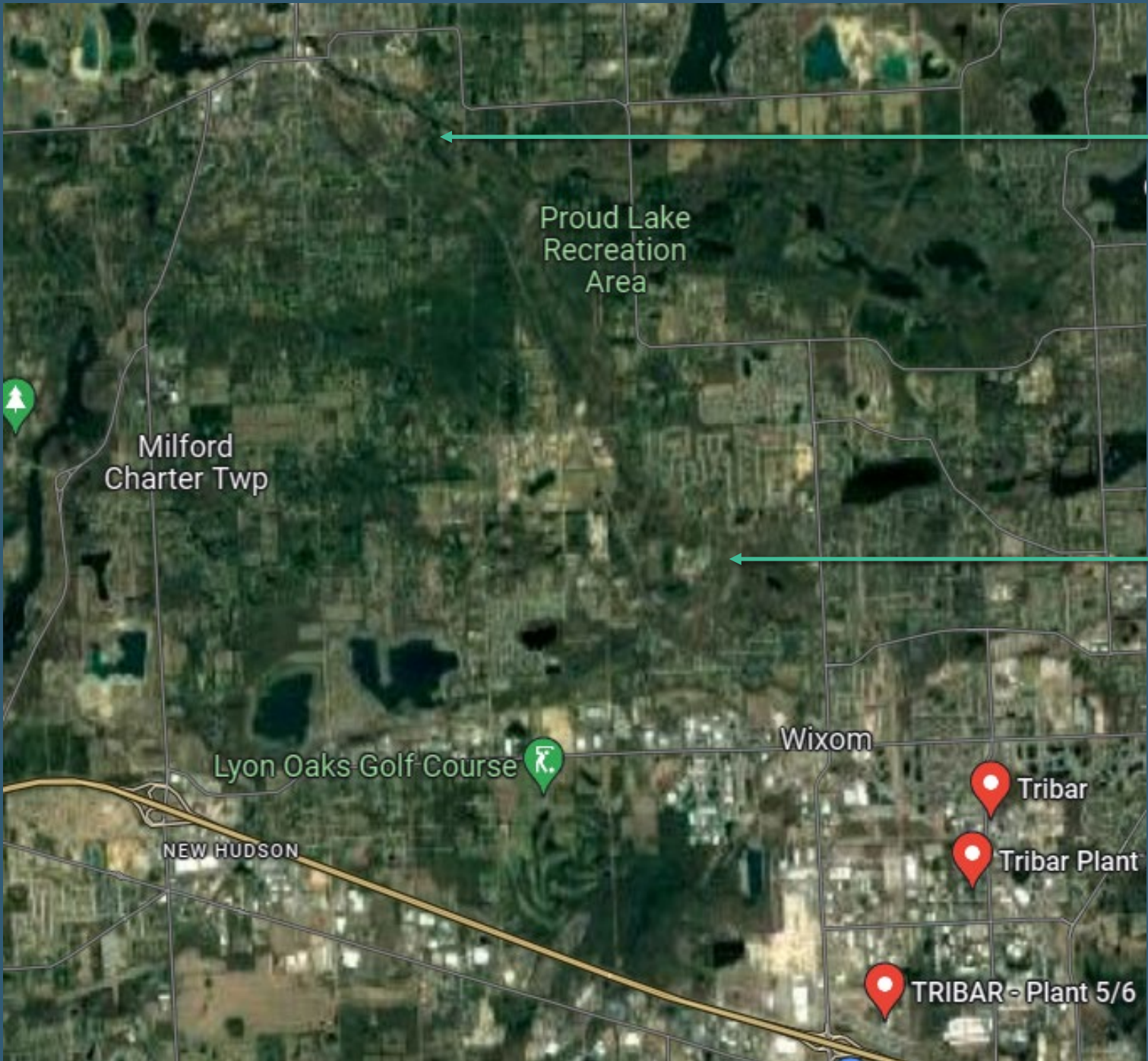




MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Wixom WWTP/ Tribar Release and Response



Norton Creek
Confluence with
Huron River

Wixom WWTP

Timeline of Events

Facility reported an unpermitted release on 8/1.

- WWTP noticed a color and pH change over the weekend and diverted flow to a holding basin.

Initial report to EGLE came in on 8/1 at 4:00pm.

Information gathering and discussions with program staff and facility happened throughout the day.

- Initial estimates were 4,000-8,000 gallons of hexchrome in solution was discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

Ann Arbor (30 miles down river) was made aware of the release and expressed concern over the city's ability to treat hexchrome in their source water.

Timeline of Events (Continued)

EGLE, DHHS, LHD, Ann Arbor began public health protection discussions on 8/1 and 8/2.

DHHS issues Do Not Contact Advisory for Huron River.

- Remains in place for 2 weeks.

EGLE was lead agency and established an initial IC group of EGLE, DHHS, and local health officers and Ann Arbor water to begin a sampling and response strategy.

By 8/4 EGLE was sampling the Huron River attempting to locate the potential extent of contamination.

- Later this would be refined down based on fate and transport studies and flow rate of the river.
- Assurance sampling continued for a month, and results were posted online.

Science and Math

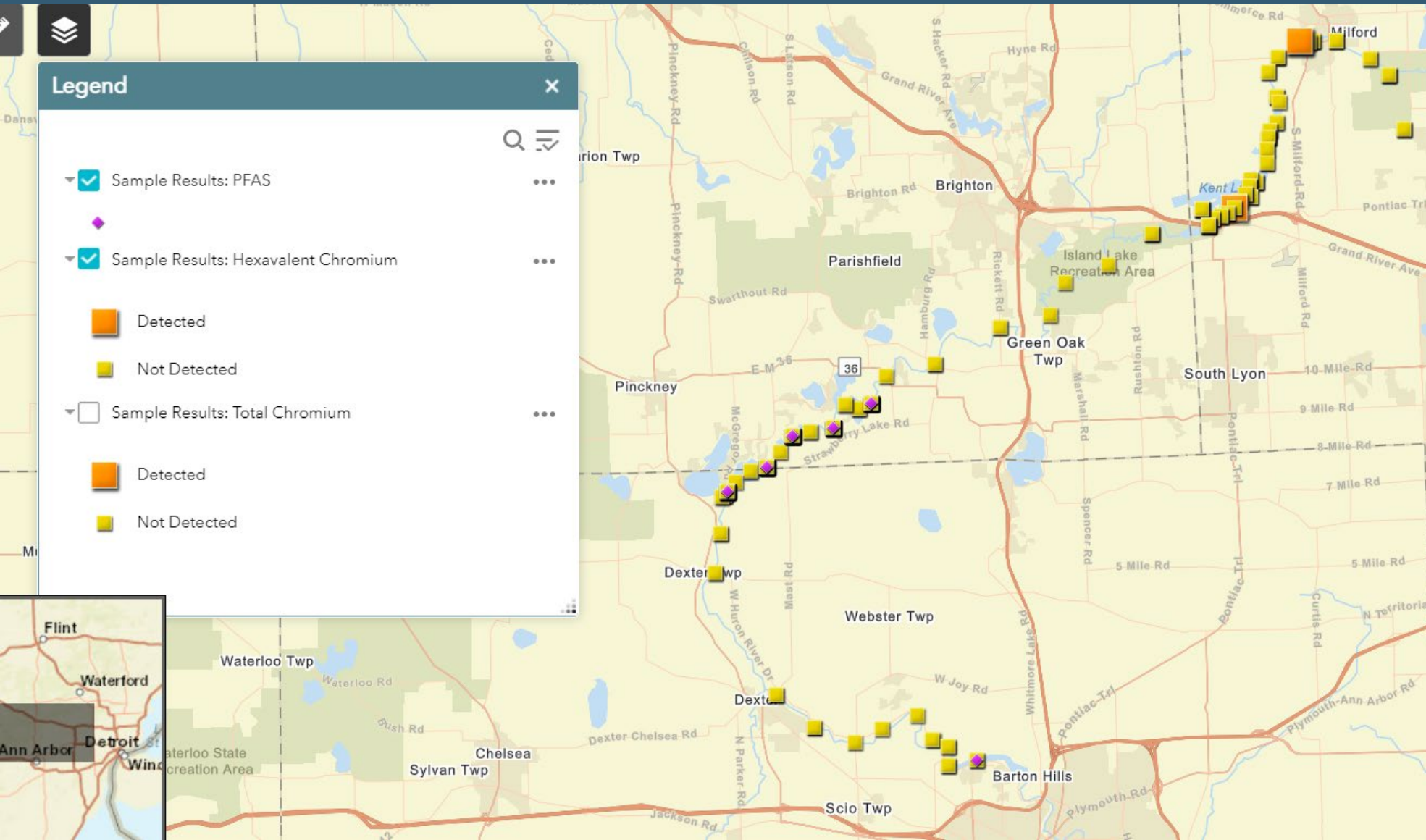
While sampling was occurring EGLE was at the facility and Wixom WWTP and was able to start refining the potential quantity released.

- On-site GAC treatment.
- WWTP process and diversion.
- Dry summer = slow river.

Based on calculations and findings onsite and at WWTP less than 20 pounds may have been released.

- Later reduced to less than 14 pounds potentially released.

Sampling Efforts



Testing showed 3 hits out of over 200 samples that had some detection, none of which were above aquatic health standards, which are 10x more restrictive than human health.

Public Outreach



Tribar Hexchrome Release: EGLE Response



Lessons Learned

Health Department tie-in to events is tricky.

- State health had a disconnect between leadership and response staff.

EGLE scientists made work and response much easier thanks to expertise.

Competing “main issues” between the release, the river impact, and drinking water potential impact.

Too few specialized staff for too many meetings.