

April 17th, 2024

Dept of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Attn: Jeremy Howe / TPU Supervisor
PO BOX 30260
Lansing, MI 48909-7760

SENT VIA EMAIL
w/ PHOTOS on APRIL 17th
THX! Joel

Via Email: HoweJ1@Michigan.gov, WolfJ2@Michigan.gov, and USPS

Dear Jeremy,

In reference to a violation dated March 28, 2024, concerning the property located at 8690 Lake Avenue, Watervliet, MI 49098, my name is Joel Bittner and I am the registered owner of this property and the person completing this response.

This project started back on August 10th, 2023, when the original intention was to do a roof replacement. Piece by piece as we dismantled the existing roof, we continued observing several structural issues with the east and west walls that were going to be the support structure for the reconstructed trusses.

From there, we had meetings with the township to discuss how taking down any additional structure (beyond what was initially going to be a roof replacement) would affect the existing easements and zoning. At no time did my contractor nor anyone else involved in this project thought to contact EGLE. We were plain ignorant and didn't know a protocol existed to contact EGLE when we began what undoubtedly became a demolition. I fully accept in this matter that our ignorance of the process is no defense of the actions taken.

I have included an attachment with several photos of what was transpired between August 10th, 2023 and October 29th, 2023. These photos are not in a chronological order, so they don't demonstrate the stages of the demo, but just an insight to what we were seeing as we were removing the roof. I have several additional photos, if they would be of any help to you I can forward them. I don't know how to condense these files very well for emailing.

By October 31st, the building had been dismantled and new construction commenced. Since the property was cleared and new construction began, there should be no ongoing violations. No further actions have taken place since receiving this violation other than my formal response here.

We were notified by the Air Quality Division that contamination found in the parking lot were removed for examination, but results of any examination have not been shared with me as of this date.

There will certainly be no recurrence of these violations as I am fully aware now of the protocol and will contact EGLE if I find myself involved with future properties in Michigan.

I certainly am remorseful for this violation and will continue to pledge any transparency I can provide i.e. additional photos or names and contact info for any individuals who were involved in the dismantling of the property.

Thank you Jeremy,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel M. Bittner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel M. Bittner
Owner
61005 Red Arrow LLC
61005 Red Arrow Highway
Hartford, MI 49057
269-222-0806