

Status Summary: I-94 Backfill at Demolition Sites

The Detroit Office of Inspector General (OIG) published two reports indicating that fill materials apparently originating in I-94 road work may have been placed by demolition contractors as fill material at certain Detroit demolition sites in 2018. 29 sites were identified from load tickets included in the OIG reports. Based on review by the DLBA and the City, there were no records that materials sourced from I-94 road construction work were approved for use as fill material at these demolition sites.

Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) and the City of Detroit, by and through its Detroit Demolition Department (DDD), created in July 2020 to handle the Demolition Program formerly under the Detroit Building Authority, and the Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department - Environmental Affairs (BSEED – EA), have worked together to address this issue and to hold demolition contractors responsible under the terms of the applicable contracts.

Contractors were directed to test the sites to ensure the materials comply with contractual and environmental standards. If materials placed by the contractors exceeded applicable standards, contractors were directed to remove and replace such materials with approved backfill. The DLBA posted the addresses of properties involved in the investigation and is posting test results on buildingdetroit.org. Property owners were advised as well.

Of the 29 sites identified, 5 were part of the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) demolition program. The remaining 24 demolitions were funded by the City of Detroit. Testing results are posted on buildingdetroit.org. Remediation of sites identified with exceedances has already been completed at some sites, and work on the remainder is scheduled as indicated on buildingdetroit.org. Please refer to the summary update chart dated April 2022, posted on buildingdetroit.org.