

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (June 30, 2023) – The north and south tracks continue to operate through the work area with slow train traffic following the reopening of the south track June 26. Excavation of contaminated soil in Car Scrapping Area 3 as well as culvert installation and utility work along the ditches north and south of the tracks continue. Additionally, sheet piling operations along the ditch running along the south track are ongoing to aid in soil excavation near the track safely without affecting the integrity of the railway. Contaminated soil, debris and contact water continues to be removed for off-site treatment and disposal. Asphalt paving of North Pleasant Rd. will be completed Saturday, allowing truck traffic back onto Taggart Rd.

EPA and Norfolk Southern continue to conduct air monitoring in the work zone and in the surrounding community. Vapor suppressants are being used to control odors around the work area as needed. Perimeter air monitoring stations are located around the work zone.

The latest edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response newsletter was published and disseminated June 28 and is available on the EPA [website](#). Future editions of the newsletter will now be published every other week, with the next one projected for July 11.

The East Palestine Welcome Center hours will change starting July 11, shifting to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and closed on Sundays.

While work is ongoing, EPA is reviewing work plans for further assessment and cleanup that will ensure community safety in the years to come.

Response By the Numbers

- 78,385 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of June 29, 2023*)
- 22,961,970 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of June 29, 2023*)
- 746 private well samples collected (*as of June 29, 2023*)
- 1,119 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of June 29, 2023*)
- 912 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of June 29, 2023*)

What to Expect Next Week

- Paving operations on Pleasant St. and Martin St. are ongoing and expected to be complete this week.
- Sheet piling installation will be conducted during extended hours of operation, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. and should be completed this week.
- Shallow soil excavation continues just north of the tracks.

At the derailment site:

- Site work will be minimal early in the week due to the July 4th holiday.
- Contaminated soil and waste are being removed for off-site treatment and disposal.

- Vapor suppressants are used to address odor and vapor issues associated with excavation activities.
- EPA continues to document all excavation activities, including soil confirmation sampling prior to restoration.

In the greater community:

- Air monitoring continues at 15 locations related to the car scrapping area and site waste removal. The 15 air monitor locations will monitor the air within ½ mile of the site and sampling activities using summa canisters will continue. Review of data supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.
- Stream assessments of Sulphur Run and Leslie Run are continuing, with sediment washing at locations in both streams. Operations teams are also continuing to evaluate and reduce stormwater runoff to Sulphur Run.

Air Quality

EPA continues to review preliminary and final air sampling data, which supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.

Soil Removal at the Derailment Site

Excavation of contaminated soil and debris just north of the tracks should be completed this week. Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean dirt is brought in to fill the excavated areas. When soil waste is loaded or staged there may be increased vapors. Continuous air monitoring is done to ensure the air remains safe. Also, a vapor suppressant foam is used on active piles to reduce odors. Some chemicals of concern, such as butyl acrylate, have a low odor threshold and can be smelled below levels of concern.

Liquid Waste Removal

Wastewater is collected to ensure water does not leave the derailment site or staging piles of contaminated soil. Wastewater is generated after rain falls on contaminated soil and is collected from cleaning and washing trucks before they leave the site.

Full-Site Characterization

EPA is reviewing Norfolk Southern's plans to conduct extensive assessment work in areas surrounding the impacted tracks, including potentially impacted waterways.

Soil Sampling

Sampling associated with Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan is complete. Sample results have been provided to property owners over the phone and in writing. Validated EPA and Norfolk Southern results are posted on EPA's website: [EPA and Norfolk Southern Residential, Commercial and Agricultural Soil Sampling Results](#). Results indicate that there are no significant impacts to off-site properties from ash and soot. EPA is evaluating data to determine if a second phase of off-site soil sampling is recommended.

Drinking and Groundwater Sampling

Ohio EPA continues to conduct drinking water testing of East Palestine municipal water wells on a weekly basis, as well as weekly sampling of wells located between the municipal wells and the derailment site. These wells were installed to monitor for potential groundwater contamination that could be moving toward the municipal wells.

Water Quality Monitoring

Norfolk Southern continues daily surface water sampling of affected waterways under Ohio EPA oversight. EPA continues to review the Norfolk Southern surface water and sediment sampling plans for a full characterization of impacted areas.