

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER



Mobile command center near the derailment site

PROGRESS MADE

Blue Lake Tanks

As EPA continues overseeing cleanup work at the derailment site, large blue lake tanks are temporarily holding additional wastewater for removal and disposal. The lake tanks will reduce EPA's on-site frac tank footprint. Frac tanks, for smaller quantities of liquid storage, have

been used since the derailment to stage liquid before it is removed for off-site disposal.

Preliminary Soil Results

EPA is reviewing preliminary soil sampling data as they are received. Final results will be available in the coming weeks. Part of the review

process is to compare results to background levels from existing data.

Soil Testing, Removal, and backfilling at the Derailment Site

As soil is removed from underneath the south tracks, excavated areas are backfilled depending upon soil testing results. Excavated areas are repeatedly tested, and soil is continually removed, until testing shows levels that are protective of groundwater. Clean soil is used to backfill excavated areas.

In the Moment Videos

Last week, we filmed short videos at the derailment site to describe on-going cleanup work. These videos are a way of explaining highly visible cleanup actions, like liquids and soils staged for removal and disposal. These videos can be found on the EPA Great Lakes Facebook and Twitter pages.



THE WEEK AHEAD

At the derailment site:

- Continued heavy truck traffic along designated routes.
- Taggart Street remains closed to the public.
- Excavation and construction work will continue at the site.
- Contaminated soil and wastewater will continue to be shipped off-site.
- Construction of two large 1-million-gallon storage tanks (used to temporarily hold wastewater) will be completed, reducing the need for so many frac tanks.

In the greater community:

- Air monitoring will continue at 23 locations around the community.
- EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile laboratory will continue to monitor air.
- A second air analyzer similar to the TAGA is being tested. You may see it following the TAGA bus around town.
- Crews should complete the majority of phase 1 soil sampling.
- Creek agitation and aeration is nearing completion and creek soil washing will continue.

SAFETY MINUTE

There's a lot of rain in the forecast this week. When it's raining, our crews will not be working in the creeks. We advise residents to stay out of the water until the creeks are fully restored.

COMMUNITY CORNER

This week, East Palestine High School students received air sensors as part of a loan program with EPA Region 5. These air sensors will give students the opportunity to learn more about air monitoring technology. These sensors are designed to be portable and low cost, requiring little training to operate. Last week an EPA scientist joined a classroom to explain how these sensors compare to the high-end equipment we're using to monitor for contaminants from the derailment.



DID YOU KNOW?

Groundwater is water that is stored under the surface. Across the United States, the depth of groundwater varies from tens to thousands of feet below the surface. Surface water describes bodies of water above the surface, which includes creeks, rivers, and lakes. Drinking water, as the name implies, is the water we drink. Drinking water can come from groundwater or surface water. In East Palestine, both municipal drinking water (which is treated by the water utility), and private wells come from groundwater. According to the Ohio EPA, the East Palestine water utility draws water from wells 52 to 98 feet below the ground. In Western Pennsylvania, many residents also receive their water from wells.

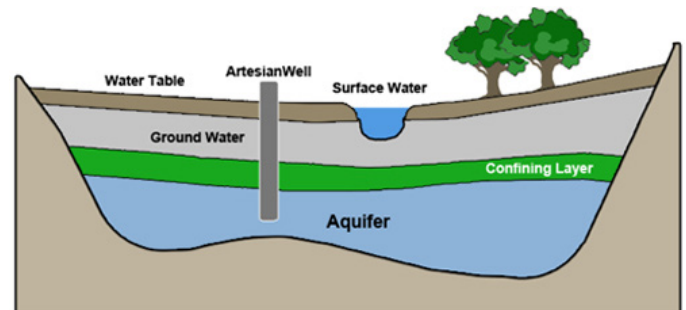


Image Source: Western Washington University



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response.epa.gov/EastPalestineTrainDerailment

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

01 ARE THE TRUCKS LEAVING THE DERAILMENT SITE SPREADING CONTAMINATION?

Each truck leaving the derailment site that is carrying contaminated waste is checked to ensure all material is safely secured. Also, all trucks go through a washing process before departing the site. The washing process ensures the vehicles' wheels and undercarriage are free of dirt and mud. Street sweepers are then run along Taggart Street to clean remaining dust or dirt.

02 WHAT ARE THE LARGE BLUE TANKS AT THE DERAILMENT SITE?

As EPA continues overseeing cleanup work at the derailment site, two large blue lake tanks will reduce EPA's on-site frac tank footprint. Frac tanks, for smaller quantities of liquid storage, have been used since the derailment to stage liquid before it is removed for off-site disposal.

03 IS OUR EAST PALESTINE CITY PARK SAFE FOR ACTIVITIES?

Soil samples were taken at the park and EPA recently notified the city of these results. The results were all below background and screening levels. Contact with water and dirt from Sulphur and Leslie Run should still be avoided as sampling and air sparging continues.



Trucks undergoing cleaning as they leave the derailment site

BY THE NUMBERS

As of March 25

9,171 TONS

EST. OF CONTAMINATED
SOIL SHIPPED

8.6 million

EST. GALLONS OF LIQUID
WASTEWATER SHIPPED

623

INDOOR AIR
SCREENINGS

THE WELCOME CENTER
HAS RECEIVED

408

VISITORS



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KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS WEEK

There are no Community Open Houses scheduled for this week

Area Health Centers continue operation this week with the following schedule:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health Resource Center Hours:

- Thursday, March 30 from 12-5 PM
- Darlington Township Municipal Building 3590 Darlington Rd., Darlington, PA

East Palestine Health Assessment Clinic Hours:

- Monday, Tuesday from 12-6 PM
- Wednesday 12-8 PM
- Thursday 9 AM-1 PM
- First Church of Christ
20 West Martin St., East Palestine, OH

Stay tuned for other upcoming events!

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This weekly newsletter is being developed through a joint effort of local, state, federal agencies, and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit www.epa.gov/oh/east-palestine-ohio-train-derailment-emergency-response or call EPA's Information Line at **866-361-0526**



SCAN ME for a list of additional resources