

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (August 12, 2023) – Waste characterization and delineation sampling is complete in Car Scrapping Area 4 (CSA 4 on south side of the tracks) in preparation for contaminated soil excavation.

Sheet piling activity is ongoing as needed along the south ditch area to stabilize the tracks in preparation for excavation of contaminated soils.

Sediment and water samples are being collected in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run to assess for impacts from the derailment. In addition to sample collection, fish surveys are also being performed in Leslie Run.

OEPA and EPA are currently reviewing the workplan to treat wastewater on-site.

Contaminated soil, debris, and any wastewater or water used to decontaminate trucks before leaving the site continue to be removed for off-site treatment and disposal.

Indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses is being offered to address potential dust emissions generated as part of the derailment and cleanup work. Owners and renters may express interest by filling out the online form (link below), calling the EPA hotline, or visiting the EPA Community Welcome Center. The deadline to express interest is September 5. Pre-cleaning interviews began August 10, 2023. Additional information can be found on the EPA website.

- Website: <https://www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/home-and-office-cleaning>
- Interest form: <https://www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/forms/express-interest-home-and-office-cleaning>

The next biweekly edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response newsletter is planned for August 22. All newsletters are available on the EPA [website](#).

Response by the Numbers

- 89,506 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of August 11, 2023*)
- 29,251,784 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of August 11, 2023*)
- 807 private well samples collected (*as of August 11, 2023*)
- 1,157 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of August 11, 2023*)
- 982 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of August 11, 2023*)

What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- 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, including soil and waste stockpiling, loading, and haul-off.

- In situ characterization work will continue in south ditch. Sheet piling work will continue as needed in south ditch in preparation for excavation work in these areas.
- EPA will continue to document all excavation activities, including soil confirmation sampling prior to restoration.
- Final review of contained-in determination proposal to be completed.
- Implementation of Appendix E (Derailment Area Soils) work activity will continue.
- Implementation of groundwater characterization will continue.

In the greater community:

- Air monitoring around the perimeter of the derailment area continues with stationary air monitors and two mobile units.
- Collection of sediment samples in Leslie Run will continue. Samples are being taken to characterize the creek.
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) repair work on the East Palestine Park Drive Bridge is expected to continue. This work is not related to the East Palestine Train Derailment.
- Interviews for indoor cleaning for eligible homes and businesses started on 8/10/2023; deadline to express interest is September 5.
- The next Community Information Session will be August 17 from 6:30-8PM EST.
- EPA staff will be present at the East Palestine Historic Car Cruise on August 19, 12-4PM EST.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) [Assessment of Chemical Exposures](#) (ACE) First Responder Meeting will occur on August 28, time and agenda to be determined. For more information about CDC's and ATSDR's response to the East Palestine Train Derailment, visit: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/east-palestine-train-derailment/index.html>.

Air Quality

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

Soil Removal at the Derailment Site

Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean material is brought in to fill the excavated areas. Continuous stationary air monitoring is performed daily to ensure the air remains safe. Some chemicals of concern, such as butyl acrylate, have a low odor threshold and can be smelled below levels of concern. Roving air monitoring is conducted by NS.

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 additional assessment work in areas surrounding the impacted tracks, including potentially impacted waterways.

Soil Sampling

EPA is evaluating the data associated with Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan to determine if the Agency will recommend a second phase of off-site soil sampling. EPA anticipates that findings will be available in August.

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.

Columbiana County Health District and Norfolk Southern continue to sample private drinking water wells around the derailment area.

Surface Water and Sediment Monitoring

Norfolk Southern continues daily surface water sampling of affected waterways. EPA has approved Norfolk Southern's plan to characterize Sulphur Run and Leslie Run, which includes sediment sampling.