

## **Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (December 22, 2023)**

- The on-site wastewater treatment system continues to be shut down temporarily due to maintenance and operational adjustments and is expected to be back on-line following the upcoming holiday break. Previously treated wastewater and untreated wastewater continue to be shipped off-site.
- Norfolk Southern continues winterization of equipment at the on-site wastewater treatment facility. The heating systems in the big blue tanks, and the other effluent tanks containing treated non-hazardous liquid, may cause some visible water vapor. This water vapor does not pose any health risks. A large tent-like structure has been installed over top of the wastewater treatment system to keep the system operational in colder temperatures.
- Work continues in the underground culverts in East Palestine. The culvert running underneath the municipal building was finished last week. The final culvert to be cleaned out is being assessed to ensure the work can be done safely due to the length and age of the tunnel. No contaminants of concern have been detected in air during culvert cleanout work.
- Field work to implement requirements of EPA's order to Norfolk Southern to conduct a qualitative assessment and collect sediment/sheen samples in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run is complete. Laboratory analyses of samples will continue into January.
- EPA's Welcome Center is open by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call EPA's information line at 330-775-6517. Questions can also be sent to [r5\\_eastpalestine@epa.gov](mailto:r5_eastpalestine@epa.gov).
- The most recent monthly East Palestine newsletter was released on December 13 and can be found [here](#). The next newsletter is expected to be released around January 10. Previous editions are available on EPA's East Palestine webpage, available at <https://www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment>.
- Site operations will be reduced during the week of Christmas with limited staff on-site. The Norfolk Southern Family Assistance Center will be closed from December 22 to January 1 and will reopen January 2, 2024.

### **Response by the Numbers (as of December 21)**

- 175,447 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped.
- 40,903,126 gallons (estimated) of wastewater shipped.

### **What to Expect Next Week**

At the derailment site:

- Continuing wastewater management.