

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

**EAST PALESTINE, OH (May 12, 2023)** – Norfolk Southern continues to make progress removing and excavating the north track. Excavation activities are expected to be completed by the end of the month. EPA and NS continue to conduct air monitoring in the work zone and in the surrounding community. Perimeter air monitoring stations are located around the rail work zone.

While the cleanup is ongoing, EPA is thinking about ensuring community safety in the years to come. EPA recently posted the [Potable Water Sampling Plan Update](#) to the website.

### Response By the Numbers *(as of May 12, 2023)*

- 39,348 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped
- 16,642,735 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped
- 631 indoor air screenings conducted
- 536 private well samples collected
- 1,003 EPA assistance line calls received
- 775 visitors received at the Welcome Center

### This Week

On May 11, from 6 to 7 p.m., EPA participated in an information session which focused on surface water assessments and sampling. During this session, Ohio EPA presented on their surface water monitoring program. EPA Region 5 Regional Administrator Debra Shore and Ohio EPA Director Anne M. Vogel attended. The meeting was recorded will be available via YouTube in the coming days.

### What to Expect Next Week

Continued cleanup and excavation of the northern track. The southern track is an active rail line.

At the derailment site:

- Contaminated soil and waste stockpiles are covered overnight and when not in use.
- 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.
- Trains are operating in both directions on the southern track.

In the greater community:

- EPA has participated in a series of informational sessions for community members on soil, air, private well water testing, and surface water. The sessions are held at the Way Station and First United Presbyterian church at 109 W. Rebecca St. in East Palestine, and between 20-40 community members attended per session. Air monitoring continues at 23 locations around the community. Review of data supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.
- The Welcome Center remains open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and closed on Sunday. Beginning Saturday, May 20, the Welcome Center Saturday hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Air Quality

EPA continues to receive preliminary air sampling data. Review of the data supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels. Preliminary data are currently being validated prior to being finalized.

### Soil Removal at the Derailment Site

Excavation of contaminated soil around the northern track began last week and continues. Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean dirt is brought in to fill the excavated areas.

Asbestos-containing material (ACM) was identified on the north track work area within a debris pile; ACM and affected debris will be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations (ongoing). ACM has been properly labeled, containerized, and is awaiting off-site transportation and disposal (11 roll-off containers).

### **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.

### **Soil Sampling**

Sampling associated with Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan is complete. Sample results are provided to property owners over the phone and in writing.

Preliminary soil sampling results are expected to be posted to EPA's East Palestine Train Derailment [response page](#) this week.

### **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. Sediment samples were collected and are anticipated to be received during the next operational period.

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