

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

**EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (August 4, 2023)** – 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. 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 8. All newsletters are available on the EPA [website](#).

Excavation of contaminated soil in Car Scrapping Area 3 is almost completed, the crew have a couple more feet to excavate and back fill.

Sediment and water sampling continue in Sulphur Run to develop a characterization of the creek. Stream cleaning is on hold while sediment and water sampling goes on.

In situ characterization and delineation sampling work is underway in Car Scrapping Area 4 and South Ditch to determine the levels of contaminants of concern in layers of the soil. Sheet piling at South Ditch is ongoing; this work only occurs 5 to 8 p.m. Sheet piling at the South Ditch should be done by this weekend and then crews will start sheet piling at Tank Farm 1.

Tank Farm 1 is active. At Tank Farm 3, crews are cleaning roll offs and demobilizing them. At Tank Farm 5, crews are cleaning frac tanks. At Tank Farm 6, crews are transporting roll offs and getting drum loads off-site.

Paving and rock placement continue to control dust and mud tracking off-site.

Contaminated soil, debris, and contact water continue to be removed for off-site treatment or disposal.

### Response by the Numbers

- 89,158 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of August 4, 2023*)
- 28,664,680 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of August 4, 2023*)
- 812 private well samples collected (*as of August 4, 2023*)
- 1,148 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of August 4, 2023*)
- 968 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of August 4, 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 Car Scrapping Area 4 and South Ditch. Sheet piling work will continue 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.

In the greater community:

- Fifteen community air monitoring stations are maintained daily. Sixteen sorbent tubes are collected and analyzed for butyl acrylate and nine canisters are collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including vinyl chloride, daily. Badge sampling is conducted for butyl acrylate at 25 locations daily.
- Air monitoring around the perimeter of the derailment area is being conducted by two mobile units.
- Collection of sediment samples in Sulphur Run will continue. Samples are being taken to develop a characterization of 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. Air monitoring by Norfolk Southern will be performed to verify no derailment-related contaminants are being released.
- On Friday and Saturday, August 4-5, EPA will staff a booth at the Columbiana County Fair from 9:00am-6:00pm at the Columbiana County Fairgrounds in Lisbon, OH. EPA will be distributing educational materials and providing button-making activities for children. Staff will be available to answer community members' questions and provide updates.

### **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**

Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean dirt is brought in to fill the excavated areas. Continuous air monitoring – stationary and roving – 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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, which includes sediment sampling.