

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

**EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (July 7, 2023)** – The north and south tracks continue to operate through the work area with slow train traffic during business hours. Excavation of contaminated soil in Car Scrapping Area 3 will resume into next week. Additionally, sheet piling operations will commence near Car Scrapping Area 4 and east of the CeramFab facility. Contaminated soil, debris and contact water continues to be removed for off-site treatment and disposal. Additional asphalt paving will begin early next week near the Pleasant Dr. and Martin St. intersection after gravel is laid.

EPA approved three Norfolk Southern work plans and posted them on the EPA East Palestine train derailment website. Those plans include:

- [Surface Water Sampling & Analysis Plan](#)
- [Sentinel Monitoring Well Installations & Groundwater Sampling Plan](#)
- [Groundwater Characterization Plan](#)

While work is ongoing, EPA is reviewing work plans for further assessment and cleanup that will ensure community safety in the years to come.

EPA and Norfolk Southern continue to conduct air monitoring in the work zone and in the surrounding community. Vapor suppressants are being used to control odors around the work area as needed. Perimeter air monitoring stations are located around the work zone.

The next biweekly edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response newsletter is planned for July 11. All newsletters are available on the EPA [website](#).

The EPA Welcome Center hours will change starting Tuesday, July 11, shifting to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and closed on Sundays.

### Response By the Numbers

- 78,709 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of July 6, 2023*)
- 24,310,347 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of July 6, 2023*)
- 746 private well samples collected (*as of July 6, 2023*)
- 1,124 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of July 6, 2023*)
- 925 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of July 6, 2023*)

### What to Expect Next Week

- Paving operations on Pleasant Dr. and Martin St. will recommence early next week after laying gravel.
- Some additional sheet piling installation will be conducted next week near Car Scrapping Area 4 east of the CeramFab facility. Shallow soil excavation continues just north of the tracks.

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.
- EPA continues to document all excavation activities, including soil confirmation sampling prior to restoration.

In the greater community:

- Air monitoring continues at 15 locations related to the car scrapping area and site waste removal. The 15 air monitor locations will monitor the air within ½ mile of the site and sampling activities using summa canisters will continue. Review of data supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.
- Stream assessments of Sulphur Run and Leslie Run are continuing, with sediment washing at locations in both streams to liberate any sheen so that it can be captured by boom located downstream. This is an interim measure until a full assessment of the impacted waterways, including sediments, is conducted. Operations teams are also continuing to evaluate and reduce stormwater runoff to Sulphur Run.

### **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. When soil waste is loaded or staged there may be increased vapors. Continuous air monitoring is done to ensure the air remains safe. Also, a vapor suppressant foam is used on active piles to reduce odors. 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 extensive assessment work in areas surrounding the impacted tracks, including potentially impacted waterways.

### **Soil Sampling**

Sampling associated with Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan is complete. Sample results have been provided to property owners over the phone and in writing. Validated EPA and Norfolk Southern results are posted on EPA's website: [EPA and Norfolk Southern Residential, Commercial and Agricultural Soil Sampling Results](#). Results indicate that there are no significant impacts to off-site properties from ash and soot. EPA is evaluating data to determine if a second phase of off-site soil sampling is recommended.

**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. EPA continues to review the Norfolk Southern surface water and sediment sampling plans for a full characterization of impacted areas.