

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington
and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

May 16, 2023



Crews sampling excavated material from the north track

PROGRESS MADE

North Track Excavation Reaches the Halfway Point

Crews are making cleanup progress along the north track, removing the ballast, or railbed, all the way down to the ground layer. Next, heavily contaminated soil is excavated and stockpiled. Then, the excavated areas are divided into grids to ensure proper sampling of the ground layer. Analytical results are compared to the clearance values in the work plan. If necessary, more soil excavation and sampling occur until sample results are at or below the clearance values. Once ballast and soil are removed, stockpiled, and sampled, this material is sent to the appropriate regulated disposal facilities. Clean soil and ballast are then backfilled into the excavated and cleaned areas.

In the Moment Videos

EPA released several in the moment videos to highlight different parts of the train derailment response. These short videos feature EPA experts explaining topics such as air monitoring, soil sampling, truck decontamination, and laboratory testing. These videos can be found on the “EPA Regions” YouTube page.



Excavated ballast and soil along the north track



Stream cleaning in Leslie Run

THE WEEK AHEAD

AT THE SITE

- Excavation will continue on the north track. Sampled and cleared areas will be backfilled with clean material.
- Air monitoring mobile laboratories will continue driving around the perimeter of the site to monitor for butyl acrylate.
- Engineering controls have been implemented to help control dust.
- Taggart Street remains closed to the public.

IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

- EPA's Community Welcome Center at 25 North Market Street in East Palestine remains open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on Sundays).
- The Way Station will host EPA for an update on site progress at 109 West Rebecca Street on May 18, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Cleanup will continue down Leslie Run.
- Residents may notice air monitoring vehicles around the work site in the evenings. These vehicles are there to monitor the air quality.

COMMUNITY CORNER

The East Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual street fair from May 24 to 27. During this time, Market Street will be closed to vehicle traffic all day for organizations to set up at the fair. Local businesses and organizations will offer rides, games, and food during the fair. EPA will host a booth for visitors with educational materials and activities for children.



Source: www.eastpalestinechamber.com/street-fair

DID YOU KNOW?

DATA VALIDATION

EPA uses validated data to help make decisions regarding cleanups. Data validation is independent from sampling or analysis. The validation of data requires that appropriate quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures are followed. In addition, proper documentation must be included for all data generated both in the lab and in the field. Professionals trained in data validation may “flag” data when QA/QC criteria are not met.

EPA follows a detailed data collection and data validation process:

1. Planning happens for what samples to collect and for what purpose.
2. Samples are collected for laboratory analysis.
3. Preliminary results are reported from the lab.
4. At the lab chemists conduct a review so final data can be reported.
5. Final results from the lab are shared with independent reviewers—usually EPA contractors required to be separate and independent from samplers or the lab.
6. Data validators check data, and this is documented in the data validation report. To access the validation reports, please use the QR code.



SOIL SAMPLING

On public and private property, soil samples have been collected at two different depths as a first step for evaluating whether shallow soil has been impacted by the derailment.

EPA oversaw the sample collection of surface soil from two depths: 0 to 1 inch and 1 to 6 inches. EPA compared the results of the deeper sample to the results of the shallower sample to understand the historical soil makeup. Initial sampling results show similar results between shallow soil (0 to 1 inches) and deeper soil (1 to 6 inches).



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epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

01 Why was the well water priority zone boundary extended?

The priority zones are extended to reflect additional testing done by Columbiana County Health District and Norfolk Southern. The purpose of this extension is to ensure that drinking water supplies downstream to the Ohio River are monitored. The extension is not due to any additional environmental or health concerns. As more information regarding groundwater flow is gathered, we will continue to assess our priority zones.

02 What is being done to control dust?

Norfolk Southern contractors use engineering controls to reduce dust generated from cleanup activities and disturbed soil surfaces. All contaminated material leaving the derailment site is secured and tarped, and all contaminated material on site is tarped nightly. Trucks are decontaminated before they leave the site, and large water trucks are used to clean roadways. EPA monitors for particulate matter using DustTraks. Air monitoring data table summaries can be found on EPA's East Palestine website.

03 What is EPA's role in sampling?

EPA is part of the Unified Command consisting of different agencies to review, approve and direct Norfolk Southern's workplans and site activities. Surface water sampling is performed by Norfolk Southern contractors, with EPA and Ohio EPA oversight. Soil sampling is performed both by Norfolk Southern contractors and EPA contractors. Air sampling is performed both by EPA contractors and Norfolk Southern Contractors. All samples are sent to accredited laboratories for analysis and validated.

SITE STATUS CHECK

As of May 12



NORTH TRACK:

Estimated 50% complete

SOUTH TRACK: In operation



LESLIE RUN: Cleanup work started and will continue



SULPHUR RUN:

Bypass carries upstream water past derailment site

16.6 million

est. gallons of wastewater shipped offsite

39,348

est. tons of solid waste shipped offsite

COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCE LIST

Pennsylvania Residents:

Call the Department of Health Hotline (877-PA-HEALTH) to connect with a nurse to find appropriate local health care services.

Ohio Residents:

The East Palestine Clinic is located at 139 North Walnut. It's staffed by physicians, registered nurses, and mental health specialists. Call 330-383-6020 to make an appointment.

The clinic operates Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SAFETY MINUTE

If you smell an odor and have concerns, you may contact the Residential Hotline at 330-849-3919. The Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A community strike team will mobilize to an outdoor public area near the location of concern to perform air monitoring, document any odors, and deploy an air sample for butyl acrylate, as appropriate. A mobile laboratory may also be used to sample for butyl acrylate. If desired, a toxicologist will call you to discuss the sampling result when it is received.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Way Station and First United Presbyterian Church hosted an informational session on May 11 to discuss surface water.

At this meeting, Ohio EPA presented information about the status of the cleanup of Leslie and Sulphur Runs, how waterways are assessed for contamination, and the impact of the derailment downstream. A recording of the presentation will be available on EPA's East Palestine website.



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KEY COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS WEEK

On May 18, The Way Station and First United Presbyterian Church will host an informational session to give an update on site progress. The session will be from 6 to 7:00 p.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church at 109 West Rebecca Street in East Palestine.

Next Info Session: Public Health

NEW EPA WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please contact EPA's Information Line at 866-361-0526 if you have any questions

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This weekly newsletter is being developed through a joint effort of local, state, federal agencies, and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit

www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment

or call EPA's Information Line at **866-361-0526**



SCAN ME for a list of additional resources

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