

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (July 28, 2023) – Excavation of contaminated soil in Car Scrapping Area 3 is on schedule to be complete shortly.

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

In situ characterization 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 and about 60% done; 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, then Car Scrapping Area 4 after that.

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.

The on-site water treatment plant is pending approval.

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

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

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](#).

Response by the Numbers

- 85,811 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped *(as of July 28, 2023)*
- 27,451,464 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped *(as of July 28, 2023)*
- 783 private well samples collected *(as of July 28, 2023)*
- 1,148 EPA assistance line calls received *(as of July 28, 2023)*
- 968 visits to the Welcome Center *(as of July 28, 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.

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.