

## **Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response**

**EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (July 14, 2023)** – The north and south tracks continue to operate through the work area with slow train traffic during on-site work hours.

Excavation of contaminated soil in Car Scrapping Area 3 is nearly complete. Sheet piling continues to be installed along Car Scrapping Area 4 in preparation for excavating contaminated soil.

Paving and rock placement is continuing towards completion to control dust and mud tracking off-site.

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

EPA Welcome Center staff will participate and conduct outreach at the Enon Valley Community Day & Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, July 15.

The next biweekly edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response newsletter is planned for July 25. All newsletters are available on the EPA [website](#).

The EPA Welcome Center hours changed on Tuesday, July 11. The EPA Welcome Center is now open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; and it is closed on Sunday.

### **Response By the Numbers**

- 79,807 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of July 14, 2023*)
- 25,502,978 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of July 14, 2023*)
- 753 private well samples collected (*as of July 14, 2023*)
- 1,133 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of July 14, 2023*)
- 933 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of July 14, 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.
- Work in Car Scrapping Area 3 will continue as sample results are received.
- Work in Car Scrapping 4 and South Ditch will continue to prepare the area for excavation work.
- EPA continues to document all excavation activities, including soil confirmation sampling prior to restoration.
- A water treatment plant for contaminated liquids has been constructed on-site and is currently being tested.

In the greater community:

- 15 community air monitoring stations are maintained daily. 16 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 laboratories.
- 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. 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 Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan 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.

### **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.