

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

**EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (August 25, 2023)** – EPA has approved a workplan to allow Norfolk Southern to treat hazardous wastewater on-site to remove vinyl chloride and other contaminants. This treated wastewater will be disposed of off-site as a non-hazardous waste. Currently, the train derailment site generates one million gallons of wastewater per week from excavation-related stormwater collection. The treatment will reduce vinyl chloride levels in the wastewater to drinking water standards.

Treating the wastewater on-site to ship as non-hazardous will have many benefits for the community including fewer wastewater hauling trucks in the community at any one time, a smaller operational footprint of the site, and significantly fewer hazardous-waste shipments transported through East Palestine and other communities nationally.

The wastewater treatment system itself will not cause additional noise disruption in the community. There will be no impacts to air, surface water, or soil. The system is temporary and meant to be on-site until no longer needed.

Excavation of contaminated soil is underway at the South Ditch area and in Car Scrapping Area 4 on the south side of the tracks. Sheet piling installation is ongoing as needed along the South Ditch to stabilize the tracks for excavation of contaminated soils.

Sediment sampling in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run is complete. The data will be used to assess impacts from the derailment. Surface water sampling continues. In addition to surface water sample collection, fish surveys are also being performed in Leslie Run.

Contaminated soil, debris, and any wastewater or water used to decontaminate trucks before leaving the site continue to be removed for off-site treatment and disposal.

Indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses is being offered to address potential dust emissions generated as part of the derailment and cleanup work. Structure cleaning began on Wednesday, August 23. 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. The deadline to express interest is September 5. Pre-cleaning interviews began August 10. 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 September 6. All newsletters are available on the EPA [website](#).

### Response by the Numbers

- 96,931 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of August 24, 2023*)
- 31,554,561 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of August 24, 2023*)
- 908 private well samples collected (*as of August 24, 2023*)
- 1,220 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of August 24, 2023*)

- 1015 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of August 24, 2023*)

### **What to Expect Next Week**

At the derailment site:

- On-site wastewater treatment: System testing started this week, will take another one to two weeks of testing before full operation.
- Car Scrapping Area 4: excavation began Sunday, August 20.
- Structural (home & office) cleaning began Wednesday, August 23. Interviews are being scheduled with homeowners. Deadline to apply is September 5.
- Contaminated soil and waste are being removed for off-site treatment and disposal. Characterization work will continue in South Ditch. Sheet piling work will continue as needed in South Ditch in preparation for excavation work.
- EPA will continue to oversee all excavation activities, including soil confirmation sampling, prior to restoration.
- Implementation of groundwater characterization will continue.

In the greater community:

- Air monitoring around the perimeter of the derailment area continues with stationary air monitors and two mobile units.
- Water sampling in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run will continue. Sediment sampling is complete. Results will be used to assess the impact from the derailment on the streams.
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) demolished the bridge over Leslie Run in East Palestine. ODOT is expected to continue working on this project. This work is not related to the East Palestine Derailment. For more information contact ODOT at 330-308-7817.
- Norfolk Southern is hosting an open house at their Family Assistance Center for East Palestine and Pennsylvania businesses affected by the train derailment on Tuesday, August 29, from 4 to 7 p.m. Staff will be available to answer questions on how to seek business-loss reimbursement.
- Ohio businesses within a 2-mile radius of East Palestine can apply for 0% interest, forgivable loans through the Ohio East Palestine Emergency Support Program. Applications opened Thursday, August 24. For more information, visit: <https://development.ohio.gov/business/state-incentives/east-palestine>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) [Assessment of Chemical Exposures](#) (ACE) First Responder Meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health will occur on August 28, 6 to 8 p.m. in Darlington, Pennsylvania. This meeting is closed to the public and is only for the first responders of the East Palestine Train Derailment. For more information about CDC's and ATSDR's response

to the East Palestine Train Derailment, visit: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/east-palestine-train-derailment/index.html>. For questions about the meeting, please contact [nwardle@pa.gov](mailto:nwardle@pa.gov).