

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (March 1, 2024)

- On February 12 & 26, Norfolk Southern, EPA and Ohio EPA updated the East Palestine Village Council on upcoming changes to surface water management issues associated with the site, including:
  - The project is approaching an important milestone toward returning the natural flow of water back into Sulphur Run. To prepare for rainwater and water from the upstream wetlands to flow naturally on-site, the north and south ditches alongside the tracks will be evaluated in areas, starting at the western-most end of the derailment site. Robust testing under EPA and Ohio EPA guidance, oversight, and approval will ensure the soils around and within the ditches have no remaining contamination.
  - Once testing in one area of the ditch shows naturally flowing water is safe to enter Sulphur Run, flow will be restored for that area. The testing process will repeat area-by-area until the full natural flow of water is restored. Surface water testing in Sulphur and Leslie Runs will continue through this process. None of this water flow will come from currently contained site water.
  - Rainwater and snowmelt will continue to be collected on-site until water is fully restored to the ditches. If any areas need additional work, they will not be part of the process to restore water flow. Also, there likely will not be a visible water level difference once water flow is restored. This process will begin to occur in the next two-to-four weeks, and the overall process will extend into the summer.
  - More information will be provided in upcoming fact sheets and newsletters in advance of any changes. EPA's website will provide operational updates as appropriate.
- EPA released a storymap last week titled "[A Year in Review](#)", which summarizes the Agency's response to the train derailment. View photos, videos, and an interactive map on the site.
- Confirmatory sampling and investigation, known as Appendix E work, is ongoing.
- EPA and Ohio EPA are continuing to review Norfolk Southern's proposed approach to conduct additional stream cleanup based upon the most recent stream survey and assessments. An [interactive map detailing the sheen survey](#) has been added to EPA's website.
- EPA's Welcome Center is open by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call EPA's information line at 330-775-6517. Questions can also be sent to [r5\\_eastpalestine@epa.gov](mailto:r5_eastpalestine@epa.gov).
- The most recent monthly East Palestine newsletter was released on February 14 and can be found [here](#). Previous editions are available on EPA's East Palestine webpage, available at <https://www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment>.

### Response by the Numbers (as of February 29)

- 176,878 tons of solid waste shipped.
- 52,436,600 gallons of wastewater shipped.
  - *Note: Last week's number erroneously reported the amount of wastewater collected (not shipped). The decline in this this week's number reflects the amount of wastewater shipped off-site.*
- Confirmatory sampling work is approximately 51% complete.

### What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- Continue site-wide confirmation sampling.
- Continue treatment and shipping of wastewater.
- Another round of vapor intrusion sampling will continue at businesses along the site.