

Updates from East Palestine Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio – Northern track removal and excavation are underway and are expected to take a few weeks to complete. Trains are operating on the southern track in both directions.

U.S. EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) and two Proton-Transfer-Reaction Mass Spectrometer (PTR-MS) mobile units contracted by Norfolk Southern (NS) continue air monitoring for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and butyl acrylate during work operations. EPA is also evaluating the use of a portable air monitoring unit called a HAPSITE to conduct screenings in the event of detections of VOCs and butyl acrylate above 50 ppbv (parts per billion volume in air).

Containerized soil and debris are being prioritized for removal and off-site treatment or disposal this week.

Response By the Numbers (*as of the morning of April 25, 2023*)

- **33,905 tons est. of contaminated soil shipped (+689 tons)**
- **13,240,235 gallons (+180,181 gallons) of liquid waste shipped to date**
- **631 indoor air screenings conducted**
- **466 private well samples conducted**
- **The Welcome Center has received 668 visitors**

What to expect this week

Cleanup and excavation of the northern track began April 22. Members of the community and response personnel should be aware of the change in rail traffic after both lines were operational for a few days.

At the derailment site:

- Contaminated soil and waste stockpiles are being covered overnight and when not in use.
- Vapor suppressants are being utilized to address odor and vapor issues associated with excavation activities.
- EPA continues to document all excavation activities including soil confirmation sampling prior to restoration. Trains are operating in both directions on the southern track.

In the greater community:

- EPA's Welcome Center will have reduced hours on Sunday, April 30. The Welcome Center will be open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Monday through Saturday, the EPA Welcome Center will continue to remain open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Air monitoring continues at 23 locations around the community. Review of data supports air monitoring trends that air quality has remained below screening levels.
- The Way Station and First United Presbyterian at 109 W. Rebecca St. in East Palestine will host an information session about air monitoring and sampling with response staff from EPA on Thursday April 27 from 6-7 pm.

Air Quality

Air monitoring continues 24/7 at 23 stations throughout the community. No detections of vinyl chloride or hydrogen chloride have been identified.

EPA's TAGA mobile laboratory resumed perimeter air monitoring on Saturday, April 22, when excavation and cleanup began on the northern track.

Soil Removal at the Derailment Site

Excavation of contaminated soil around the northern track began last week and continues. Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean fill dirt is brought in to fill the excavated areas.

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.

Soil Sampling

Sampling associated with Phase I of the Preliminary Residential/ Commercial/Agricultural Soil Sampling Plan is complete. Sample results are being provided to property owners both over the phone and in writing.

On Thursday, April 20, EPA participated in a soil sampling information session at the First United Presbyterian Church in East Palestine. 50 members of the community attended the event and asked questions about soil sampling data, soil sampling procedures, and raised questions about health concerns.

Preliminary soil sampling results are expected to be posted to EPA's East Palestine Train Derailment [response page](#) later this week.

Drinking and Groundwater Sampling

Ohio EPA continues to conduct drinking water testing of East Palestine municipal water wells on a weekly basis.

Water Quality Monitoring

Norfolk Southern continues surface water sampling of affected waterways daily. Cleanup of contaminated material and product recovery is being performed in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run downstream of the incident.

Cleanup operations are being done with particular care to sensitive habitats in Leslie Run to ensure protectiveness of those habitats during cleanup. Air monitoring is performed during these operations.

Future JIC Media Updates

Because of reporting changes within Unified Command, this Update distribution will be revised to provide updates on Monday evenings to reflect plans for the week, and Friday afternoons to reflect accomplishments for the week.

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