

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (August 19, 2023) – Excavation of contaminated soil is underway at the South Ditch area running along the south track.

Waste characterization and delineation sampling are complete in Car Scrapping Area 4 (CSA 4 on south side of the tracks) in preparation for contaminated soil excavation set to begin 8/21/2023.

Sheet piling activity is ongoing as needed along the South Ditch to stabilize the tracks in preparation for excavation of contaminated soils.

Sediment and water samples are being collected in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run to assess for impacts from the derailment. In addition to 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 is scheduled to begin the week of on 8/21. 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, 2023. 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 August 22. All newsletters are available on the EPA [website](#).

Response by the Numbers

- 90,197 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped (*as of August 18, 2023*)
- 30,439,689 gallons (estimated) of liquid waste shipped (*as of August 18, 2023*)
- 887 private well samples collected (*as of August 18, 2023*)
- 1,198 EPA assistance line calls received (*as of August 18, 2023*)
- 987 visits to the Welcome Center (*as of August 18, 2023*)

What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- Contaminated soil and waste are being removed for off-site treatment and disposal. In-situ characterization work will continue in South Ditch. Sheet piling work will continue as needed in South Ditch in preparation for excavation work in these areas.

- 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 and sediment sampling in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run will continue.
- 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.
- Interviews for indoor cleaning for eligible homes and businesses started on 8/10/2023; deadline to express interest is September 5.
- EPA staff were present at the East Palestine Historic Car Cruise on August 19, 12-4PM EST.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) [Assessment of Chemical Exposures](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/east-palestine-train-derailment/index.html) (ACE) First Responder Meeting will occur on August 28, 6-8PM 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.

Air Quality

EPA continues to review preliminary and final air sampling data, which supports air monitoring trends showing air quality has remained below screening levels.

Soil Removal at the Derailment Site

Excavated soils are shipped off-site for proper disposal, and clean material is brought in to fill the excavated areas. Continuous stationary air monitoring is performed daily to ensure the air remains safe. Roving air monitoring is conducted by NS.

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.

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. EPA anticipates that findings will be available in August.

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.

Columbiana County Health District and Norfolk Southern continue to sample private drinking water wells around the derailment area.

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 and Leslie Run, which includes sediment sampling. Sediment sampling is underway.