

East Palestine

TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

NEWSLETTER

November 15, 2023



Scaffolding will be used to support the installation of the heating systems for the big blue Lake tanks

PROGRESS MADE

Stream Assessments Underway

As required under EPA's October 18 Clean Water Act Order, the stream assessment work is underway. Crews will be looking for sheen in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run. The field team is agitating the stream sediment using their feet and poles, and by turning over rocks. The team records visual observations depending upon the amount of sheen observed. Sheen locations are recorded according to a scoring system and samples of sheen and sediment are collected at those locations. Background samples are also being collected in Leslie and Sulphur Runs as part of the assessment process.

Cleaning Out the Culverts

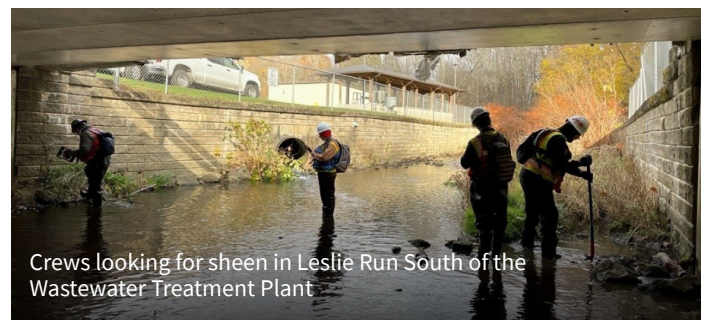
Work has begun to clean out underground culverts in East Palestine. Drones and robots are used to access, survey, and monitor the culverts. A remote-controlled robotic "dog" can enter and exit the culverts to take pictures and check air quality, if needed. Once the initial survey and safety assessments are complete, sediments and some debris will be removed.

Executive Order Report

On November 9, EPA released its initial report to the White House pursuant to Executive Order 14108, "Ensuring the People of East Palestine Are Protected Now and in the Future." The report provides an overview of the

response to date and explains the status of air, soil, surface water, groundwater, and drinking water sampling and monitoring. The agency will submit updated reports to the President every 60 days until all required cleanup, assessment, and monitoring work has been completed. The report can be viewed at the link below.

epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/about-executive-order-14108



Crews looking for sheen in Leslie Run South of the Wastewater Treatment Plant



Crews in Leslie Run Northeast of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

A LOOK AHEAD

- Surface water sampling and visual inspections continue in Sulphur and Leslie Runs.
- Additional investigation in and around the derailment continues, including confirmatory sampling.
- Sampling results from the on-site wastewater treatment system continue to show treated wastewater can be disposed of off-site as non-hazardous. Each tank of treated wastewater is sampled before being shipped off-site. Wintertization measures will make sure the wastewater treatment system can operate in colder temperatures.
- Site operations will be reduced during the week of Thanksgiving. Some staff will be on site and wastewater treatment will continue. The Norfolk Southern Family Assistance Center will be closed during the week of Thanksgiving.



Mudge, a robotic dog, will be used to assess conditions inside culverts

COMMUNITY CORNER

New Health Resource for Pennsylvania



The **Pennsylvania Department of Health** has opened a new **Beaver County State Health Center**. The location is *3582 Brodhead Road, Suite 108, Monaca, PA 15061* and there are a number of services that will be available at the state health center.

The state health centers are open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

DID YOU KNOW?

As the weather gets colder, winterization is starting at the derailment site to limit freezing and protect workers. The large black Sulphur Run bypass pipes will be winterized to prevent freezing—this may include some repositioning. The big blue Lake tanks, and the other tanks containing treated non-hazardous liquid, are being outfitted with heating systems. Some water vapor may be visible due to the temperature difference, but it poses no health risks. These efforts will not hinder water quality monitoring, and regular system testing will continue. Also, you may notice a crane which will be used to install a large tent to cover the temporary wastewater treatment plant and provide an indoor area for workers.



The Sulphur Run water bypass system is wrapped to prevent freezing

TOP 3 QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

01 How is the current creek assessment different from the assessment done over the summer?

Over the summer, stream assessments were done to determine if there were remaining impacts to the streams from the derailment. Contamination was found in some areas and the current work is meant to clean out culverts and get more detail on what remains in the sediment to inform any future cleanup plans that might be necessary.

02 How much waste was removed as part of the cleanup efforts?

In late October, EPA announced the completion of major derailment site excavation. Remaining contaminated soil and debris were removed for off-site treatment or disposal. Contact water continues to be treated in an on-site wastewater treatment system prior to removal for off-site disposal. As of November 13, over 174,000 tons of contaminated soil has been removed and over 39 million gallons of wastewater have been collected with over 38 million removed off-site.

03 What work still needs to be done at the derailment site?

Although contaminated soil has been excavated and removed from the derailment site, some additional work remains. Soil sampling continues to check all areas where cleanup operations took place. Stream assessments continue, and culvert clean out has started. Groundwater and drinking water sampling also continues. Expect these investigations and possible additional cleanup actions to continue into the winter.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

On November 6 and 7, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) held a two-day virtual public workshop, Public Health Research and Surveillance Priorities from the East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment. The workshop assembled a wide range of participants and experts to discuss human health impacts, surveillance priorities, and research on similar incidents. A panel of local community members spoke about the difficulties they faced in the derailment's aftermath. Other sessions featured presentations from Columbiana County healthcare providers, governmental response coordinators, medical researchers, and other professionals.

Presentations can be found on the National Academies website at the QR code.



WELCOME CENTER CHANGES

EPA's Community Welcome Center has now transitioned to meeting community members by-appointment. Call **330-775-6517** to make an appointment to meet with EPA staff either by phone, online, or at the Welcome Center. You can also send your derailment response-related questions by email to:
R5_EastPalestine@epa.gov

DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

These newsletters are now monthly. Mailings will also shift to Wednesday. Expect to receive the next edition on or around **December 13**.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This newsletter is developed through a joint effort of state and federal agencies and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment or call EPA's Information Line at **330-775-6517**.



SCAN ME for a list of additional resources

EPA Welcome Center - EPTD
25 N. Market St
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