

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (March 29, 2024)

- On Monday, Norfolk Southern began sediment cleanup work in Sulphur Run, in accordance with the [workplan](#) approved by EPA on March 1. Currently, cleanup is on hold while teams reassess tactics used to collect disturbed sheen in Sulphur Run. Work will not be resumed until EPA approves additional methods of containment to ensure all disturbed sheen is contained and collected.
- Cleanup activities, including sediment removal, started in the remaining culvert that runs underneath Rebecca Street. The cleaning targets areas where sheen was observed during the assessment (conducted in December 2023). Multiple layers of containment and absorbent booms are used to ensure no sheen leaves the work area. This is the remaining culvert left to be addressed as four were previously cleaned last year.
- Planning for the return of natural water flow back into Sulphur Run is underway. This work will occur over the course of several months. To prepare for rainwater and water from the upstream wetlands and derailment zone areas to flow naturally again to Sulphur Run, the north and south ditches alongside the tracks and adjacent areas will be sampled 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. EPA released a [short video](#) describing this process.
 - Once sampling in the ditch shows naturally flowing water can return, flow will be restored for that area. The testing process will repeat area-by-area (nine areas in total) until the full natural flow of water is restored. Surface water sampling in Sulphur and Leslie Runs will continue during this process. None of this water flow will come from currently contained site wastewater.
 - 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.
- Site runoff, including rainwater and snowmelt, continues to be collected in the two one-million-gallon big blue tanks. Previously, this wastewater was sampled, treated, and sampled again to ensure it could be shipped off-site as non-hazardous. Now, the contaminated soil has been removed from the site and testing of the runoff shows no presence of vinyl chloride or other hazardous materials. Because of these ongoing sampling results, this water continues to be shipped off-site as non-hazardous wastewater without additional treatment. This represents great progress and shows how successful the removal of contamination has been.
- Confirmatory sampling and investigation, known as Appendix E work, is ongoing and approximately 57.3% complete.
- 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.

Response by the Numbers *(as of March 29)*

- 177,076 tons of solid waste shipped.
- 56,136,691 gallons of wastewater shipped.
- Confirmatory sampling work is approximately 57.3% complete.

What to Expect Next Week

- Continue site-wide confirmation sampling.
- Continue shipment of untreated non-hazardous water.
- Anticipate resuming cleanup activities in Sulphur Run.
- Cleanup activities in the remaining culvert will continue.