

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (March 8, 2024)

- On March 1, EPA approved the Norfolk Southern workplan to complete sediment cleanup in Sulphur and Leslie Runs. While ecological conditions in the streams are improving, assessments of the streams identified areas of oil sheening. In the next few weeks, Norfolk Southern will target and remove oil discharged during the derailment, including additional stream/sediment washing and physical removal of sediments, as appropriate. This will be the final step in returning the waterways to their pre-derailment conditions. Cleanup will be overseen by EPA and Ohio EPA.
- On March 4, EPA released a fact sheet detailing upcoming changes to surface water management associated with the site, including:
  - Plans to return 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 (nine areas in total) until the full natural flow of water is restored. Surface water testing 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.
  - This process is expected to begin in the next two weeks, with the overall process extending into summer. Operational updates will be shared via EPA's website.
- Confirmatory sampling and investigation, known as Appendix E work, is ongoing.
- 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 March 7)*

- 176,878 tons of solid waste shipped.
- 52,436,600 gallons of wastewater shipped.
- 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.