

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (March 22, 2024)

- Next week, Norfolk Southern will begin sediment cleanup work in Sulphur Run, in accordance with the [workplan](#) approved by EPA on March 1. Planning for cleanup operations in Leslie Run is ongoing. While ecological conditions in the streams are improving, assessments of the streams identified areas of oil sheening. With EPA and Ohio EPA oversight, Norfolk Southern will remove residual oil discharged during the derailment by conducting stream/sediment washing and physical removal of sediments, as appropriate.
- Site runoff, including rainwater and snowmelt, has been 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 can now 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.
- In the coming weeks, the process to return the natural flow of water back into Sulphur Run will start and is expected to take several months. 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.
- Confirmatory sampling and investigation, known as Appendix E work, is ongoing and approximately 55% 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.
- Recently, EPA mailed a water management update fact sheet. The fact sheet webpage can be found [here](#).

Response by the Numbers (as of March 22)

- 177,032 tons of solid waste shipped.
- 55,256,852 gallons of wastewater shipped.
- Confirmatory sampling work is approximately 55% complete.

What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- Continue site-wide confirmation sampling.
- Continue shipment of untreated non-hazardous water.
- Begin cleanup operations in Sulphur Run.
- Continue tactics planning for cleanup operations in Leslie Run.