

Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (September 29, 2023) –

Potential Government Shutdown: EPA’s emergency response efforts, such as in East Palestine, would move forward under a lapse in appropriation. As a result, EPA personnel would continue to fully support those efforts during a lapse.

Leslie and Sulphur Runs: Some cleanup work has been performed in the creeks and the areas that are most impacted are still marked with “keep out” signs. Surface water sampling has shown that levels of chemicals from the derailment are below action levels, which are levels considered hazardous to human health and the environment and needing immediate action. If, in the future, testing shows results above action levels, immediate action would be taken to notify the community and steps would be taken to reduce risks. Ohio EPA is overseeing water quality monitoring and posting results daily on their webpage. Visit <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/ep-surface-water-results> to see those results.

As many in the community have observed, some of the sediment in Leslie Run can produce a hydrocarbon sheen when agitated. The extent of sediment contamination is being evaluated and is expected to lead to additional cleanup and investigation measures being implemented. Details of that work plan are available here: <https://www.epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment/full-characterization-workplan>.

Response by the Numbers *(as of September 29, 2023)*

- 136,220 tons (estimated) of solid waste shipped
- 34,025,339 gallons (estimated) of wastewater shipped
- 1,281 EPA assistance line calls received
- 1,069 visits to the Welcome Center
- 47 structure cleanings completed

What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- Earlier this week, N. Pleasant Drive was closed from E. Martin Street to E. Taggart Street. The closure will allow the installation of sheet piling and the excavation of contaminated soil underneath the road at the rail crossing. We anticipate reopening N. Pleasant Drive in early October.
- Contaminated soil excavation from South Ditch and Car Scrapping 4 will continue. EPA will continue to oversee all excavation activities, including post-excavation soil sampling, prior to restoration of excavated areas.
- Sitewide characterization will continue in areas near the derailment location where equipment, materials, and debris were handled as part of the overall emergency response.
- The on-site wastewater treatment plant is operating around the clock; non-hazardous treated wastewater continues to be shipped off-site for disposal at an EPA approved facility.

In the greater community:

- Indoor cleaning of eligible homes and businesses continues. To date, 47 structures have been

cleaned and 69 cleanings are scheduled in the coming weeks. 92 interviews have been completed with an additional 115 interviews scheduled (of which 20 have been cancellations or no shows).

- Air monitoring and sampling around the perimeter of the derailment area and in the community continue.
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) continues replacing the bridge over Leslie Run in East Palestine. This work is not related to the East Palestine Derailment. For more information contact ODOT at 330-308-7817.
- The next biweekly edition of the East Palestine Train Derailment Response newsletter is planned for October 3. All editions of the newsletter to date are available on the EPA website.

