

## Updates from the East Palestine Train Derailment Emergency Response EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (February 16, 2024)

- On February 16, President Biden visited East Palestine. The President first met with local officials from Darlington, Pennsylvania. He then was escorted around the site by local East Palestine officials and the FEMA coordinator. EPA briefed the President on the current site status and next steps of the cleanup. President Biden's East Palestine press conference can be viewed [here](#).
- EPA has released "[A Year in Review](#)" [storymap](#), which summarizes the Agency's response to the train derailment.
- Norfolk Southern has completed backfilling new stone and gravel at former Car Scrapping Area 4 north of Taggart Street near CeramFab. Residents should notice reduced truck traffic and traffic controls on East Taggart St. The speed limit will remain at 15 mph to ensure both community and worker safety while site restoration and other work continue.
- Throughout the response, stormwater collected from the site was treated at the on-site wastewater treatment plant before being shipped off-site as nonhazardous waste. Now that all contaminated soils have been removed, and after many months of testing the collected water before on-site treatment, the stormwater can now be disposed of as non-hazardous without treatment if it is first tested to show it doesn't contain vinyl chloride or other hazardous materials.
- Field work to implement requirements of EPA's order to Norfolk Southern to conduct a qualitative assessment and collect sediment/sheen samples in Sulphur Run and Leslie Run is complete. EPA and Ohio EPA are reviewing Norfolk Southern's proposed approach to conduct additional stream cleanup based upon these assessments. An [interactive map detailing the sheen survey](#) has been added to the website.
- The initial work in the underground culverts in East Palestine is complete. Drones and robots were used to assist workers as they accessed, surveyed, and monitored the culverts. The assessments of all 5 culverts are complete and 4 of the culverts have been cleaned. The fifth culvert will be cleaned during the upcoming stream cleanup mentioned in the previous bullet.
- 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](#). The next newsletter is expected to be released in mid-March. 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 15)

- 176,862 tons of solid waste shipped.
- 50,709,983 gallons of wastewater shipped.
- Confirmation sampling work is approximately 44% complete.

### What to Expect Next Week

At the derailment site:

- Continue site-wide confirmation sampling.
- Continue sampling in the creeks.
- Continue treatment and shipping of wastewater.