

# East Palestine

## TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

Serving East Palestine, Negley, Darlington and surrounding communities

# NEWSLETTER

October 31, 2024



One of the fully restored tank farm areas visible from Taggart Road

## PROGRESS MADE

### Confirmation Sampling

Final soil confirmation sampling is more than 90% complete. Results are then evaluated, along with groundwater and soil vapor data, to make sure all cleanup work is complete. To date, out of the thousands of samples collected, about 14 small areas have been identified where soil is contaminated above cleanup goals. Three of these locations had vinyl chloride exceedances and were discussed in the July newsletter. These areas were promptly excavated, and soil was shipped offsite for disposal.



Decision Unit Boundaries are the work areas that are being sampled

Towards the east end of the derailment site, low levels of other chemicals, like ethylene glycol monobutyl ether (known as 2-butoxyethanol) that spilled during the derailment, have been detected. This fall, more sampling is being done in these areas to better determine the level of contamination. Then, EPA will determine how much cleanup will be required on the east end, near the Pennsylvania border.

**Note:** The areas assessed in the East Palestine Park did not find locations requiring cleanup.



Backfill is ready for grading in one of the tank farm areas

### Site Restoration

Restoration of the former tank farms, waste staging areas and the north and south ditches continues. You can see the fully restored areas with fresh sod from E. Taggart Street. Also, crews are removing over half a mile of sheet piling from the former cleanup areas. The current restoration work in these areas will be completed in the coming weeks and most field activities are expected to be completed before the end of the year.

## KEY PROJECT UPDATE | The Creeks

The fall round of sediment sampling in Leslie and Sulphur Runs is complete. Crews are planning another shien survey when there is enough water in the creeks to properly assess them. The next quarterly creek assessment is not scheduled but is planned for early 2025.

### United States' Settlement with Norfolk Southern

In early October, the motion to enter with the Court for the United States' consent decree with Norfolk Southern was filed with the US District Court. The timeline for judicial review is unknown. The documents include responses to public comments and can be found on EPA's East Palestine webpage.

### East Palestine Resiliency Center

This past summer, The Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board opened the Resiliency Center in East Palestine. The center focuses on the mental health of those affected by the train derailment and services are free for anyone eligible, such as first responders, people who worked in the village, or anyone living in an affected Ohio zip code. More information on the Center and upcoming workshops can be found at:

[facebook.com/p/East-Palestine-Resiliency-Center-61555198420603/](https://facebook.com/p/East-Palestine-Resiliency-Center-61555198420603/)



## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This newsletter is developed through a joint effort of state and federal agencies and community organizations. If you would like more information about topics discussed, please visit [epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment](https://epa.gov/east-palestine-oh-train-derailment) or call EPA's Information Line at **330-775-6517**



**SCAN ME** for a list of additional resources

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