

East Palestine Update - 2/25/23

(EAST PALESTINE, Ohio)— The following are updates from the State of Ohio regarding remediation work at the site of the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

Aerial Photo of Derailment Site
Aerial photo of East Palestine derailment site taken 02-24-23. Twelve rail cars remain on site.

Contaminated Waste Removal
The removal of hazardous waste from the derailment site has been paused by the U.S. EPA.

In an update to the public on Thursday, the state provided information that Norfolk Southern had chosen to contract with licensed hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities in Texas and Michigan for the disposal of hazardous waste from the derailment.

According to the U.S. EPA, the U.S. EPA ordered the transport be stopped so that additional oversight measures could be put in place to supervise where Norfolk Southern disposes of the contaminated materials.

Of the twenty truckloads (approximately 280 tons) of hazardous solid waste hauled away from the derailment site, 15 truckloads of contaminated soil had already been disposed of at the licensed hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility in Michigan. Five truckloads of contaminated soil were returned to East Palestine.

The licensed hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility in Texas will dispose of liquid waste that has already been trucked out of East Palestine, but no additional liquid waste will be accepted at the Texas facility at this time.

Currently, about 102,000 gallons of liquid waste and 4,500 cubic yards of solid waste remain in storage on site in East Palestine, not including the five truckloads returned to the village. Additional solid and liquid wastes are being generated as the cleanup progresses.

In all circumstances involving hazardous waste in the United States, the waste must be disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility. All licensed treatment and disposal facilities must meet the requirements of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's hazardous waste permitting program, which ensures the safe management of hazardous waste in a manner that protects public health and the environment. Both the Texas and Michigan facilities are licensed.

New Water Monitoring Wells

Out of an abundance of caution, Ohio EPA is conducting additional sampling of the groundwater near East Palestine's municipal water supply. Although it is not believed that contaminants

from the derailment will spread to the municipal water wells, four monitoring wells have been installed to monitor groundwater between Leslie Run and the village's wellfield. Testing the water in these wells will allow for any potential contaminants to be discovered before they reach the village's municipal water wells. Both the Ohio EPA and a private contractor are conducting this sampling and will send the samples to separate laboratories. Sampling will take place once a week, and results are expected within seven days.



VIDEO: Water Sampling in New Monitoring Wells

Video Still Water Sampling

Private Well Sampling

The first water sample results from private water systems of East Palestine area homes showed no harmful levels of contaminants associated with the train derailment.

The Columbiana County Health Department on Friday received verified laboratory results from 12 private water systems that were sampled be-

re-sampled.

Of those 12 systems sampled, eight samples showed no detectable contaminants. Three sample results had trace detections at levels well below safe drinking water standards. At this time, there is no evidence that links these trace detections to the derailment.

One system had elevated levels of disinfection byproducts, which resulted from the resident's well maintenance practices. No harmful levels of derailment-associated contaminants were found. The resident was advised not to drink their water until the system could be flushed and re-sampled.

More information on these results can be found at columbiana-health.org/resources/

Residents of all 12 homes accepted the county health department's offer to have their private water systems re-sampled. The re-sampling schedule has not yet been determined.

In total, 119 private wells have been tested in the impacted area of the derailment. Residents near East Palestine who would like their private water system sampled should call 330-849-3919.

Air Monitoring

The U.S. EPA reported that they have conducted indoor air testing at a total of 574 homes. No contaminants associated with the derailment were detected. Those living in East Palestine who have not yet requested free air sampling can call 330-849-3919. Outdoor air monitoring is ongoing with 15 air

monitors in the area. These monitors have not detected contaminants associated with the derailment.

Business Support

The Ohio Department of Development has a number of programs to support small businesses in Ohio. Businesses impacted by the train derailment are encouraged to visit businesshelp.ohio.gov for more information.

Health Assessment Clinic

Hours for the Ohio Department of Health's Health Assessment Clinic in East Palestine next week are:

- Monday-Tuesday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday-Thursday
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Friday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ohioans will not be called by Ohio Department of Health employees to complete a health assessment. If you receive a call, do not give the caller personal information.

The Health Assessment Clinic is located at the First Church of Christ, 20 West Martin St. The numbers to call to make appointments are 234-564-7755 or 234-564-7888.

More information and previous updates are available at ema.ohio.gov/eastpalestine.



Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted Announce New Projects Expected to Create 223 New Jobs, \$10 Million in Payroll

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today announced the approval of assistance for two projects set to create 223 new jobs and retain 165 jobs statewide.

During its monthly meeting, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) reviewed economic development proposals brought to the board by JobOhio and its regional partners. Collectively, the projects are expected to result in more than \$10.1 million in new payroll and spur more than \$4.4

million in investments across Ohio.

Projects approved by the TCA include:

SOUTHEAST

Starr's Auto Body LLC, city of Chillicothe (Ross County), expects to create 150 full-time positions, generating more than \$7.4 million in new annual payroll as a result of its new location in Chillicothe. Starr's manufactures a variety of products, such as cab caps, for Class VIII Heavy Duty Trucks. The TCA approved a 1.384%, eight-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project. Vinyl Kraft

Acquisition LLC, village of New Boston (Scioto County), expects to create 73 full-time positions, generating more than \$2.6 million in new annual payroll and retaining more than \$5.4 million in existing payroll, as a result of its expansion project in New Boston. Vinyl Kraft is a manufacturer of vinyl remodeling windows and doors. The TCA approved a 1.500%, 10-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review *For the week ending February 24, 2023*



Governor DeWine addressing the media with, from left, U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson, First Lady Fran DeWine, U.S. EPA Administrator Michael Regan, and Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro

On Tuesday, Governor Mike DeWine joined state, local, and federal officials in East Palestine to provide an update on the status of remediation work at the site of the Norfolk Southern train derailment. Governor DeWine discussed the opening of the new Health Assessment Clinic, which is available for area residents who have medical questions or concerns related to the derailment.

Also on Tuesday, Lt. Governor Jon Husted joined local leaders from Akron to discuss the \$150 million allocated in the Executive Version of the State Operating Budget toward the creation of new innovation hubs throughout the state. The initiative aims to increase research and development, create new jobs, preserve existing jobs, and support improved economic conditions throughout Ohio.

Finally, on Tuesday Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Initiative, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Ohio Department of Health announced a collaboration to provide emergency naloxone access cabinets for installation on public college and university campuses around the state.

Naloxone, also known by the brand name Narcan, is a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug (heroin, fentanyl, or prescription pain medications). When administered

during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing. The wall-mounted emergency access cabinet is an effective and easy way to provide the public with access to life-saving naloxone.

"Moments after taking the oath of office, my first action as Governor was to create RecoveryOhio to ensure that we take an innovative approach to addressing the addiction crisis and invest in the health and well-being of our citizens. Through this new partnership with the higher education community, we are taking another step forward in reducing the stigma associated with addiction and mental illness while ensuring that help is available when needed," Governor DeWine said.

On Wednesday, Governor DeWine provided a status update on the ongoing municipal water sampling, private well sampling, air monitoring, surface water cleanup, and soil removal in East Palestine, Ohio.

In addition to the remediation work, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation has created a team to specifically handle any workers' compensation claims related to the derailment.



Lt. Governor Husted delivering his remarks

On Thursday, Lt. Governor Husted provided remarks at the groundbreaking celebration for Rumpke's new 200,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art recycling campus on the northeast side of Columbus.

Also on Thursday, Governor DeWine provided a status update on the contaminated waste removal, impacted aquatic species, animal disease

testing, private well sampling, air monitoring, and surface water cleanup in East Palestine.

On Friday, Governor DeWine issued a proclamation recognizing the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"On the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ohio's support for the people of Ukraine remains steadfast," said Governor DeWine. "Ohio is home to about 42,000 people of Ukrainian descent, and we welcome any Ukrainians who seek refuge in the Buckeye State."

Last March, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 22-02D which prohibited the state from engaging in purchasing activity that would aid Russia in violating the rights of the Ukrainian people, and ordered all state agencies, boards, commissions, state educational institutions, and pension funds to divest investments in, and terminate contracts with Russian institutions or companies in support of Ukraine.

Also on Friday, Governor DeWine signed an Executive Order 2023-06D, officially creating the Ohio Governor's Nursing Home Quality and Accountability Task Force.

During his 2023 State of the State Address, Governor DeWine announced his plan to form the task force to study issues surrounding quality of life and quality of care in Ohio's nursing homes. The Governor also announced during his address that the group would be tasked with completing their work on an expedited timeline. In keeping with this directive, the task force will travel to communities across the state between now and May to hear directly from nursing home residents and their loved ones about their experiences and issue a report of their findings.

"I promised that this task force would move quickly because we can't afford to wait," Governor DeWine said. "While many of our state's nursing homes are very good, others are not meeting the standards we expect for those caring for our older loved ones. All too often - we hear of preventable tragedies occurring: medication errors, failure to provide care, poor infection prevention and control, and sometimes even elder abuse."

Also on Friday, Lt. Governor Husted visited Belcan LLC, a global supplier of design, software, manufacturing, supply chain, information technology, and digital engineering solutions. He spoke with company leadership and employees about their use of the TechCred program and the additional funding allocated in the executive budget to enable the program to grow. Belcan has been approved for almost 100 credentials at more than \$135,000.



After visiting Belcan LLC, Lt. Governor Husted visited Lakota West High School to highlight their Cyber Academy and presented a commendation to instructor Ben Dougherty for being awarded the 2022 Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award.

Also on Friday, Governor DeWine provided a status update on the East Palestine Health Assessment Clinic, contaminated waste removal, surface water sampling, private well sampling, and air monitoring.

In addition to the ongoing remediation, Governor DeWine has directed the Ohio Department of Development to work to identify additional support that may be available for the East Palestine businesses and community members. Representatives from the agency traveled to Columbiana County on Friday to meet with local officials and engage with community members on recovery needs and how the department may be able to assist citizens and business owners. The Ohio Department of Development administers more than 80 programs that support local communities, individuals, and small businesses.