

EAST PALESTINE DERAILMENT – SOME INFORMATION & SOME QUESTIONS



Building Environment Council of Ohio

2023 BECO Annual Conference

November 16, 2023

"To build a professional association who cares about the many issues affecting the building environment industry, to have a voice in making sure the industry will not be adversely affected by changes that will affect our future as practicing building environment professionals."



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November 16, 2023

TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 3, 2023 (~8:55 PM): A Norfolk Southern Railroad freight train (32N) originating from the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis yard in Madison, IL (February 1, 2023) on its way to Conway Yard in Conway, PA (~20 miles away) derailed in East Palestine, OH at the Ohio/PA border.

The train contained ~149 cars (141 loaded), stretched ~9,300 feet long (1.76 miles), weighed ~18,000 tons, and was operated by three people (an engineer, a conductor, and a conductor trainee). Approximately 51 of the train cars derailed.

TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 3, 2023: Contents of Derailed Cars Burning



TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 4, 2023: Vinyl Chloride Car PRV Venting



After releasing material, the PRD Closed and Remained Closed (Source: NTSB)

TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 6, 2023 (~4:30 PM): 5 Vinyl Chloride Cars blown up with shaped charges “Controlled Burn” releasing contents to soils, waters, and air.



Video of “controlled burn”:
<https://youtu.be/nJyHH8TiKCo>

TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 6, 2023 late afternoon):




The picture taken from the sky by Jared McLuhan during flight AA1313 on February 6, 2023. McLuhan was on the passenger plane flying from Denver to Philadelphia when he captured the picture of the sky above East Palestine, Ohio just moments after a controlled explosion was ordered on the train that derailed there three days prior.

JARED MCLUHAN

TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 6, 2023 late afternoon):



 5 of 5

FILE - A plume rises over East Palestine, Ohio, as a result of the controlled detonation of a portion of the derailed Norfolk Southern trains, Feb. 6, 2023. After the catastrophic train car derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, some officials are raising concerns about a type of toxic substance that tends to stay in the environment. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File)

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (AP) — Federal environmental authorities have

TIMELINE OF N-S DERAILMENT – BIG PICTURE

Feb. 8, 2023 (evening): Trains Running Again – Debris removed, rails, ties & ballast removed, ballast, ties, and rails replaced – contamination left behind under tracks (removed in April/May).



ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL

Feb. 8, 2023 (All Clear Messages): Governors DeWine and Shapiro, East Palestine fire chief and incident commander Keith Drabick and other officials from both states said East Palestine, OH residents could safely return home. The mandatory evacuation was lifted based on water and air samples taken the day before that were deemed safe.



MY ROLE & TIMELINE

Consultant to Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC: Representing the Folks – Now a Class Action – Sample Surface Soils, Water, and Limited Air – Privilege to be Asked:

Timeline:

2/15/23: Contacted by Simmons Hanly Conroy.

2/16-20/23: Determined what to sample for, what methods, and ID lab for sample media.

2/20/23: Mobilized to Site.

2/21/23-3/4/23 – Phase 1 Sampling -
<https://www.tiktok.com/@jodiomalleyrn/video/7203214066872110382>

4/23 – Phase 2 Sampling.

1st one to recommend and sample for dioxins – 2/21

SOME QUESTIONS AT THE TIME & TO THINK ABOUT

- Why was the all clear given on Feb. 8th when contamination hadn't been determined – drinking a glass of water a flawed basis.
- Why were almost all of the home air monitoring data based on a VOC PID? Did not measure individual contaminants and won't measure ppb.
- Why were the 5 VC cars blown up? Why not off-load contents?
- Who made the decision to blow them up?
- Why was the blow-up decision allowed to proceed with the declared evacuation zone when atmospheric conditions changed?
- What is the extent of contamination and what does it mean?

WHAT IS GOING ON TODAY?

1. Modeling of Plumes
2. Interpretation of Sampling Data

I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THE REST
OF MY TIME TO ANY QUESTIONS?

Some I can answer and others I cannot
due to active litigation

THANK YOU!