

May 27, 2022

EPA Statement Regarding Freeport Road Train Derailment Response

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region has joined in unified command with Allegheny County Emergency Management Agency, United State Coast Guard (USCG), Pennsylvania Department of the Environment (PADEP), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Norfolk Southern. The unified command's priorities are to ensure safety of the workers and protect human health and the environment during this response. During this response, EPA has deployed air monitoring equipment in the surrounding area to ensure we are able to keep the public protected. The EPA is working within the unified command to contain the petroleum distillate within Guys Run Creek and keep it from entering the Allegheny River with boom placed in various locations and collection activities underway. Since the petroleum distillates float on the water, the boom acts as a barrier at the surface of the water for containment. With the warmer ambient temperature, the petroleum distillates are emitting the volatile organic compounds (VOCs), producing a kerosene like smell. Petroleum distillates are formed when crude oil is heated, the gases captured and distilled. Petroleum distillates are used in various industrial applications. Activities are underway to stop the discharge of petroleum distillate from the three tanker cars that were breached during the derailment and removal of the additional derailed cars from the surrounding area of the creek. The Freeport Road will remain closed during the removal of the tank cars and ongoing response actions. An EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) is en route to provide technical assistance.

EPA will release the next written press statement at 4pm on Saturday 5/28/2022; see <https://response.epa.gov/FreeportRoadTrainDerailment>.