

Press Statement:

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region continues to work in Unified Command with Allegheny County Emergency Management Agency, United States Coast Guard (USCG), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (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. EPA has continued conducting air monitoring in the surrounding area to ensure public safety.

One rail car containing petroleum distillate was removed from the creek during the evening of May 28. While moving the rail car, it was discovered that the bottom valve had been damaged during the incident and was leaking product into the creek. N&S plugged the rail car before it was removed and estimates that 3,000 gallons discharged into the boomed containment area. Some minor sheening was observed outside the boomed area. EPA notified ORSANCO and the US Coast Guard of the event.

EPA continues to work with 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.

EPA contractors collected samples yesterday and today from surface water in the vicinity of the incident to evaluate potential impacts to the river. ORSANCO reports that drinking water intakes in the Allegheny River are reporting no detections from the incident to date. EPA will collect surface water samples over the next few days while recovery actions are ongoing.

The last tank car containing petroleum distillate was removed from the creek this morning and all rail cars have now been removed from the creek. Materials in the rail cars will be removed and transported off-site.

Freeport Road will remain closed during the removal of material from tank cars and ongoing response actions. Pedestrians and non-emergency vehicles will not be permitted in the vicinity of response operations.

EPA will release the next written press statement at 4pm on Tuesday 5/31/2022; see <https://response.epa.gov/FreeportRoadTrainDerailment>.