

# East Palestine Train Derailment

An operators experience

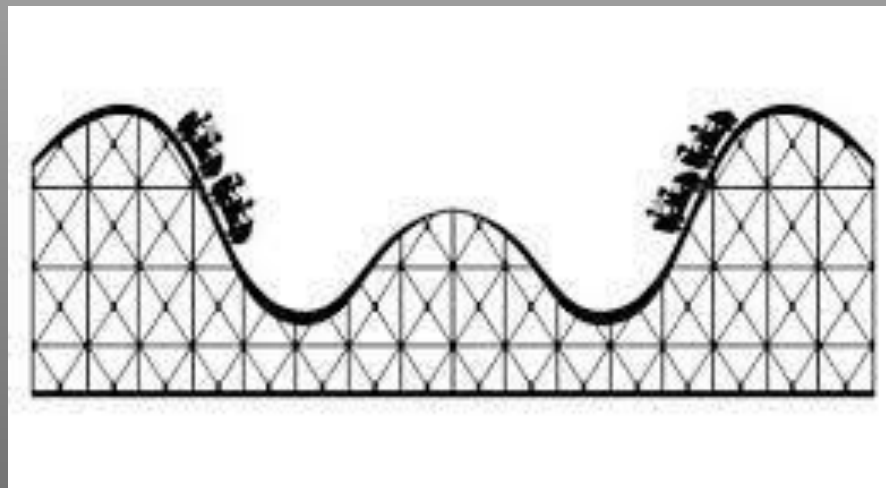
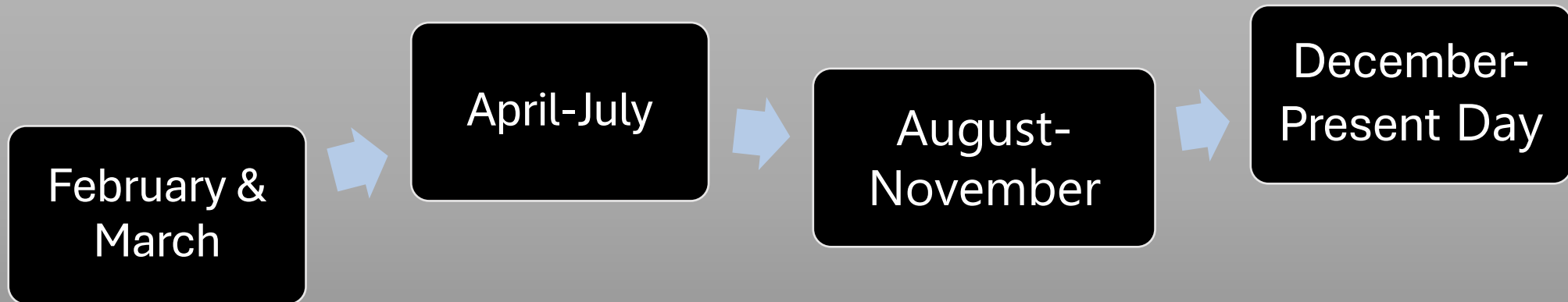
Scott Wolfe

Water & Wastewater Superintendent



VILLAGE OF  
**EAST PALESTINE**  
OHIO

# Timeline Breakdown



# Night of the event

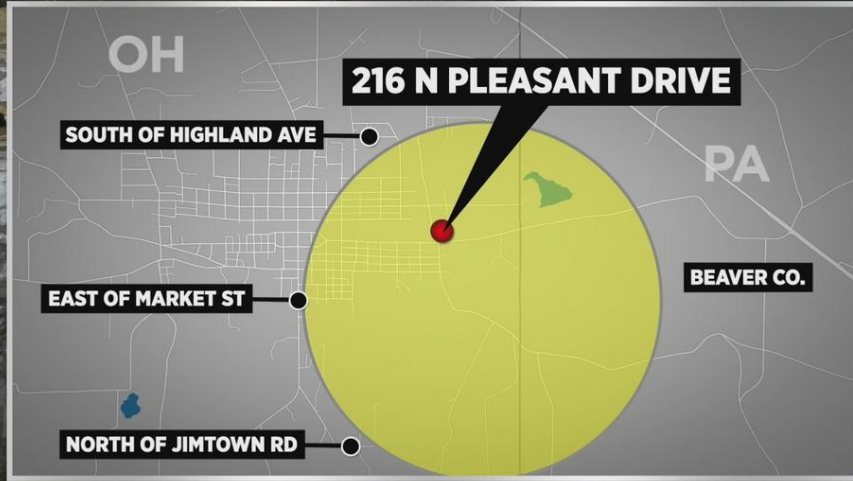
- Train derailed with 51 cars (11 were hazardous materials)
  - Massive fire demanding a lot of water
- Evacuation of homes
- Road Closures
- Massive Response
- What was on the train?





# EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT

EVACUATION ZONE • 1 MILE RADIUS FROM DERAILMENT



# OHIO'S CHEMICAL EXPLOSION MAPPED





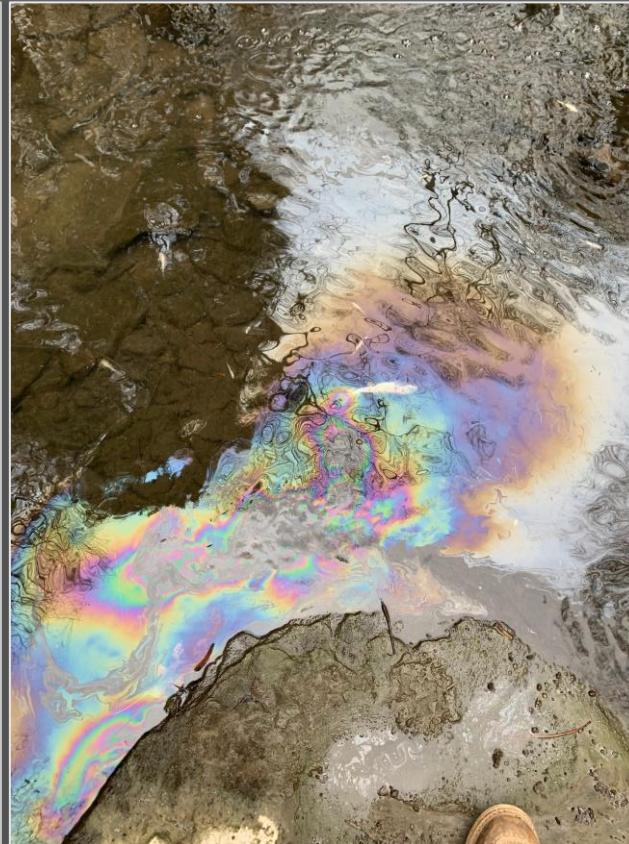
# Emergency Response

## February-March

### Steps Taken:

Facilities checked every 4 hours

- Sanitary Sewer System
- Distribution System
- Wastewater treatment facility
- Water treatment facility



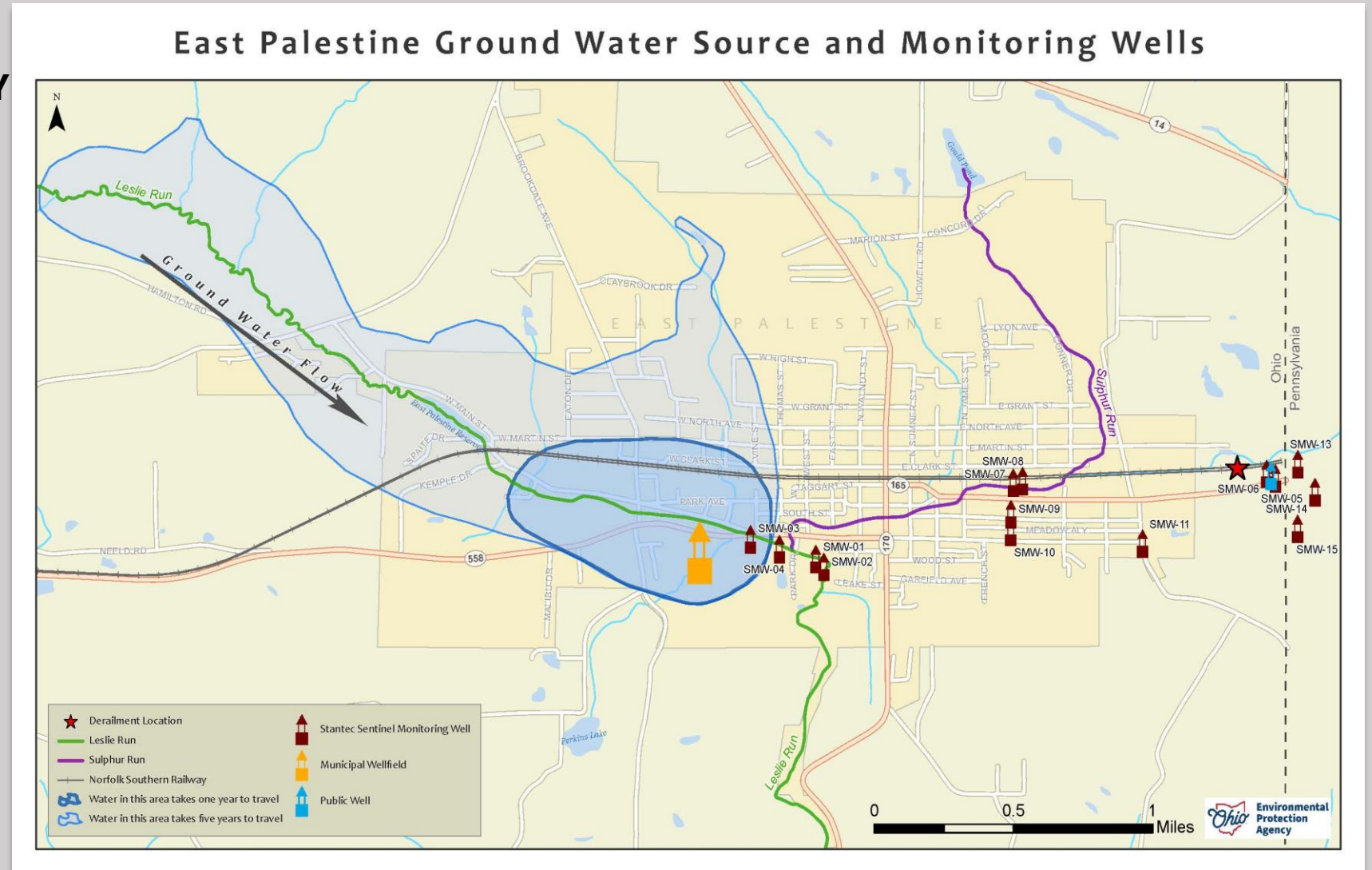


# Emergency Response

## February-March

### Steps Taken:

- Sentinel Wells (4)-**IMMEDIATELY**
- Water Plant Sampling
- Private Well Sampling



# Sampling



- ✓ **Every Tuesday at Village WTP (OH EPA & Norfolk Southern contractors)**
- ✓ **Every Wednesday/Thursday at Sentinel Wells-Between Leslie Run/Sulfur Run & Village well field**

# Perception

February-March

News says East Palestine's water is contaminated, BUT IT'S NOT!

- National News, State News, Local News,
- Social Media
- Water donations
- Getting the word out that the drinking water is SAFE
- Differences in drinking water, surface water, wastewater



(Credit: Nick Sortor via Story)





# Open house & Public meeting



East Palestine Water Treatment Plant  
Open House - March 4, 2023

# Contingency Stage

April-July

**Biggest question.....What if the drinking water becomes contaminated????**

**What is the Village doing?????**



# Contingency Stage

April-July

## Contingency plan for Village drinking water:

- More sentinel wells
- Weekly WTP sampling
- Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)

**VILLAGE OF EAST PALESTINE  
EMERGENCY WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS  
CONTINGENCY PLAN**


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**EAST PALESTINE, OHIO  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY**



JUNE 2023

PREPARED BY: \_\_\_\_\_


**ms consultants inc.**  
engineers \* architects \* planners  
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO


BY:  DATE: 06-02-2023 PROJECT LOCATION

EUGENE J. LESON III, P.E.  
REGISTERED ENGINEER No. 79632  
STATE OF OHIO




REVIEWED & APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY:  DATE: 06/02/2023  
TRACI SPRATT  
INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER

BY:  DATE: 06/02/2023  
SCOTT WOLFE  
WATER SUPERINTENDENT

**LOCATION PLAN**  
SCALE: 1"=1000'



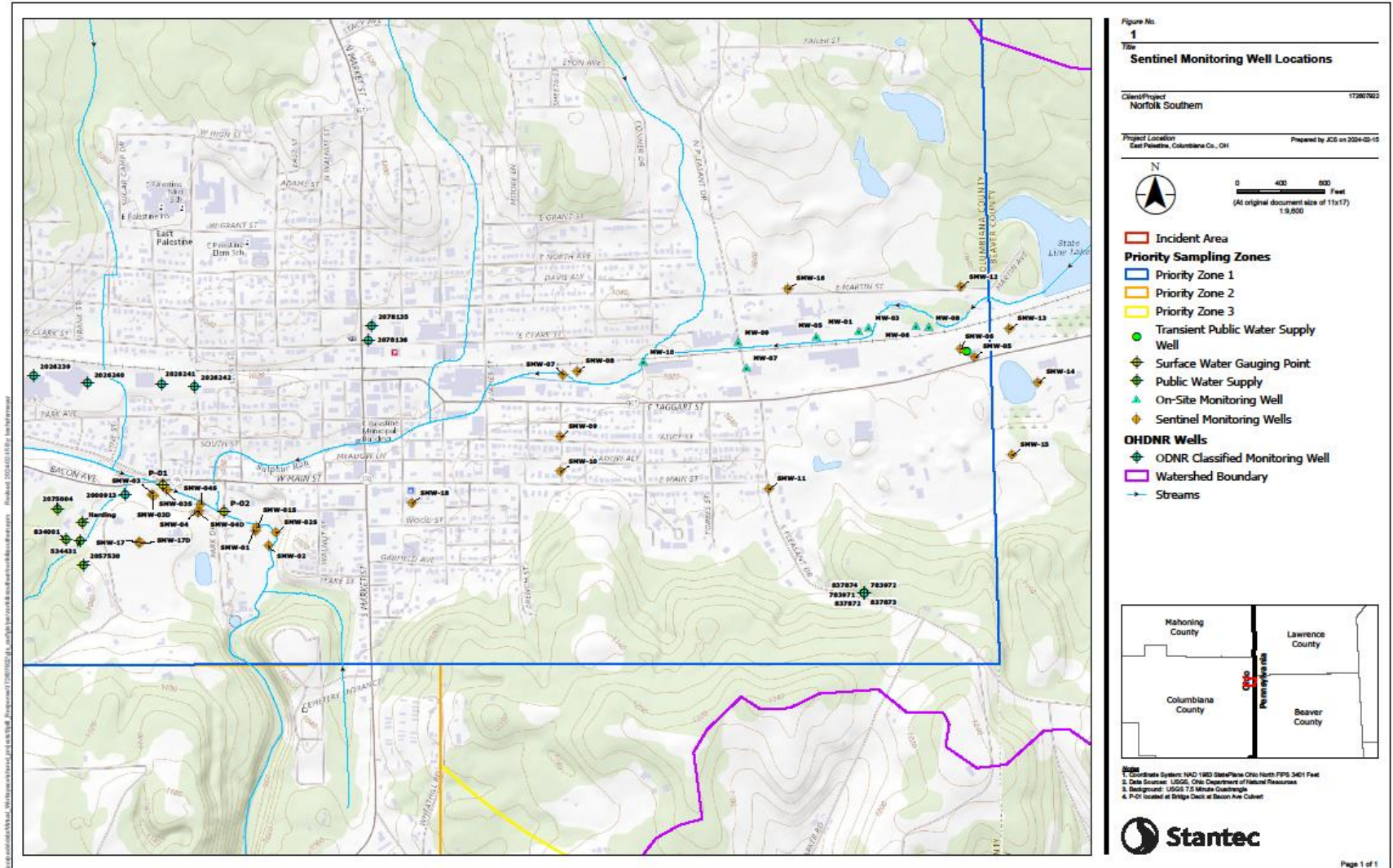
OHIO  
Utilities Protection  
SERVICE  
Call Before You Dig  
CALL 811 OR 1-800-368-5848

CTC

# Contingency Stage

## April-July

Sentinel Monitoring Wells—across the Village





# Contingency Stage

April-July



Weekly sampling

# Contingency Stage

April-July



**If the water is safe why is the Village installing GAC filters???**



# Water Plant Construction

August-December





# Water Plant Construction

August-December





# Entities Involved

- ❖ Many moving pieces for a small department
- ❖ Directly working with: Norfolk Southern, Ohio EPA, US EPA, Stantec, Arcadis, MS Consultants, ODNR, HEPACO, Ohio Dept of Health



# Additional

- New waterline installs
- Stopping at my house
- Questioning my wife in the grocery store
- Constant ridicule
- Interviews
- **Handling of wastewater from derailment site**
- New park—New fire training center—economic development
  - EXPANSION



# Derailment site wastewater

- Treating hazardous waste onsite
- Hauling offsite as nonhazardous waste
- Village entertaining the idea of accepting the treated wastewater
- Public meeting to answer questions/concerns



# Changes

- Get word out water is SAFE sooner
- More openness from Village to residents
  - Be “straight-up”
- PR Firm
  - Utilize all the resources available
- Public/Townhall meetings
  - Ran a little differently



Any questions???

