



UWSS Monitors East Palestine, Ohio Chemical Spill

February 24, 2023

The Union Water Supply System (UWSS) has been monitoring the situation on the chemical spill from the train derailment that occurred in East Palestine, Ohio in early February 2023, to assess for any impacts to UWSS' drinking water source in the western basin of Lake Erie.

The location of the spill is approximately 120km south of Lake Erie and is noted to be situated outside the Lake Erie drainage basin. Waterways in that area run south to the Ohio River, which itself flows into the Mississippi River. There is no direct water connection between this spill and Lake Erie and thus it is very unlikely that UWSS would be affected by this incident.

UWSS participates in a number of Lake Erie research and monitoring projects that include universities, water utilities and government agencies from both Canada and the US and has a network of contacts with water utilities and government agencies on the U.S. side of Lake Erie. UWSS would be notified of such chemical spills and contamination to Lake Erie water. Should such a situation occur, UWSS would implement its Risk Management and Contingency Plans to mitigate any impacts on the UWSS drinking water system.

UWSS will continue to observe the situation to ensure that UWSS treated drinking water remains safe.

Further information on the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment chemical spill is available at the following links:

<https://www.epa.gov/oh/east-palestine-ohio-train-derailment-emergency-response>

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/news/ohio-river-test-results-show-no-contaminants/>