



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCES FOR SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Small businesses in Pennsylvania may have concerns about impacts on their business operation relating to the February 3, 2023, train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. This handout and the DEP website (scan DEP QR code below) provide information available from several local, state, and federal agencies or organizations that have resources to keep businesses informed of potential impacts and to enable businesses to operate more efficiently to offset any potential losses resulting from the event.

In addition to the resources provided below, small businesses should track their losses and reach out directly to Norfolk Southern at 1-800-230-7049 or via email at media.relations@nscorp.com.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



- The PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) continues to provide updates on the East Palestine train derailment, including air, water, and soil sampling results.
- Small Business Ombudsman Office - grant and loan programs (SBAG and PPAA) to improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution; confidential assistance to small businesses (industrial, agricultural, etc.) for any issues related to PA DEP. RA-epombudsman@pa.gov
- Energy Programs Office. – provides funding programs and other resources to businesses (see Energy Financial Incentives Fact Sheet), to assist in saving energy and completing energy upgrades or conversions. RA-epenergy@pa.gov
- Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) – technical compliance assistance for PA DEP requirements.
- Additional information on solar resources and watershed protection available.
- Contact Information available on the website.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- The PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) encourages, protects and promotes agriculture and related industries throughout the commonwealth while providing consumer protection
- PDA Derailment Hotline – 1-855-777-6735.
- Agricultural Business Development Center – provides support for business planning, efficient transitions, and other activities for farmers.
- Links to PDA Grants and Funding, and information on Business and Industry, Animals, Consumer Protection and Food Safety, Food, and Plants, Land, and Water.



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



- The PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) helps communities and citizens mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other human-made disasters.
- Scan this code to view the PEMA Train Derailment Dashboard.



PA pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



- The PA Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Programs and Funding webpage can be searched by entity type (businesses) and by funding type (grant, loan, etc.)
- PA Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) - low-interest loans and lines of credit for eligible businesses that commit to create and retain full-time jobs and develop industrial parks and multi-tenant facilities.
- Industrial Sites Reuse Program (ISRP) - grant and low-interest loan financing to perform environmental site assessment and remediation work at former industrial sites.



OSBA



- The PA Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA) is an independent state agency, administratively situated within DCED.
- OSBA is responsible for representing and protecting the legal rights and interests of Pennsylvania's small business utility consumers (employing from one to 250 employees) in all legal matters before the Public Utility Commission (PUC), corresponding state and federal regulatory agencies, and in higher courts.
- Contact OSBA by phone at 717-783-2525 or by email osba@pa.gov.



- The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been onsite since the onset of the train derailment, supporting local and state partners.
- Links are provided for EPA's Emergency Response page, its About Air Monitoring page, and to two new funding programs focusing on pollution prevention from businesses in areas impacted by environmental justice concerns.



U.S. Small Business Administration



- The US Small Business Administration (SBA) provides services including funding programs, counseling, federal contracting certifications, and disaster recovery.
- Links included are SBA funding opportunities, SCORE – Pittsburgh (business counseling), the Center for Women's Entrepreneurship, and the Veterans Outreach Business Center.



Small Business Development Centers
Helping businesses start, grow, and prosper.



- PA Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) – consultants work with entrepreneurs in confidential, one-on-one sessions to help them with business issues including testing a new business proposition, shaping a business plan, investigating funding opportunities, and much more.
- There are 15 SBDCs spread throughout the Commonwealth.
- Contact information is provided for the two local SBDCs: Duquesne University SBDC and the University of Pittsburgh SBDC.

Business Organizations



- Chambers of Commerce are organizations comprised of member businesses, that provide advocacy, education, and other opportunities and resources for their member businesses.
- Beaver County Chamber of Commerce – info@bcchamber.com
- Lawrence County Regional Chamber of Commerce – info@lawrencecounty.com
- The PA Farm Bureau represents farm families engaged in all types of agriculture and agrotourism, and advocates on behalf of members for policies that benefit PA agriculture and rural communities.

Community Relief Fund



- The Community Relief Fund is a fund established by Norfolk Southern to assist businesses and residents who lost revenue as a result of the train derailment.
- Information about how to access funds and who to contact will be posted to the Local Resources section of the website as it becomes available.

Local Governments



- If you have questions about business operations or assistance from local government, please contact the appropriate entity.
- Contact information is provided for the following local government entities on the PA DEP resource webpage:
Darlington Township
Beaver County Government
Little Beaver Township
Enon Borough
Lawrence County Government



Scan this QR Code to access links to all the agency or organization resources referenced on this handout.