

September 16, 2024

Dear Council Chair Ivey,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on behalf of CSX Transportation regarding the September 23, 2023, railroad incident in Hyattsville. Below is further background and the latest update on the incident. I have included my contact information, for any further inquiries on this or other matters. I will keep the County Council informed with any timely updates as the incident is finalized with the City of Hyattsville.

***Incident Description:***

- On September 23, 2023, at approximately 1:39 AM, a CSX train derailed near Baltimore Avenue crossing in Hyattsville, MD.
- The incident resulted in the derailment of 17 rail cars and one locomotive. Five rail cars turned on their side, spilling polyurethane pellets onto CSX and adjacent properties. A small amount of diesel fuel spilled as well.
- Fortunately, there were no injuries.
- Baltimore Avenue was shut down to through traffic at the time of the incident and was reopened to through traffic on October 5, 2023, at approximately 3:00 PM.

**Incident Response:**

- The Prince George's County Fire Department took incident command and reported there were no hazardous material releases.
- The Hazardous Materials Unit determined there was no immediate threat to the public.
- CSX derailment response efforts began immediately, with multiple specialized contractors and environmental professionals responding to assist. The response included:
  - Removing rail cars from the incident location and rebuilding the damaged track.
  - Recovering pellets directly from the damaged rail cars.
  - Installing erosion and sedimentation controls (E&SC) to contain released material and protect stormwater conveyance features.
  - Assessing floodplain of the Anacostia River downstream from the site for potential surface water impacts from the derailment. No impacts were observed to either the floodplain or river.
  - Recovering released pellets from the ground surface.
  - Staging recovered waste materials pending characterization and off-site disposal.
- Contractors continued to monitor erosion controls to ensure no pellets had the potential to leave the site with stormwater.
- In addition to maintaining communications with county and municipal first responders, CSX coordinated with the Maryland Department of Environment regarding the incident. Regional Inspector Michael Brown led the response and on January 5, 2024, provided CSX a "no further action" notice after inspection determined the cleanup was complete.
- From a community impact standpoint, CSX Risk Management has resolved several property damage and business loss claims and continues to work with the City of Hyattsville to reimburse for public roadway repairs.

**Further Outreach:**

- First Responder Presentation - October 30, 2024

- CSX emergency management & Hazardous Materials Team personnel met with first responders, municipal staff, and elected officials from Prince George's County and a number of towns/cities within the county.
- The focus of this meeting was to discuss CSX's derailment response protocols and ensure local agencies readiness.
- CSX staff presented an overview of all the response resources available to first responders to obtain training and awareness about the railroad as well as an overview of the resources responders should expect the railroad will deploy to an incident.
- Ongoing First Responder Training: CSX emergency management & Hazardous Materials Team personnel are working with the City of Hyattsville Department of Public Works to plan additional rail incident training in 2025.
- Legislative briefings during 2023 Legislative Session: Joe McCann, CSX Director of Emergency Management and Hazardous Materials Response, Graham Clark, CSX Manager Hazardous Materials, and Brian Hammock, CSX Director State Relations.

**Additional Railroad Resources for local government:**

- Local emergency managers (fire chief, etc) can request density studies of hazardous materials moved through their jurisdiction by submitting a request to [HazMatSafety@csx.com](mailto:HazMatSafety@csx.com).
- The Maryland Department of Emergency Management maintains a high hazardous flammable train report required by the federal FAST Act. Our contact at MDEM is Terrye Thompson, [terrye.thompson@maryland.gov](mailto:terrye.thompson@maryland.gov). Our latest report was shared on March 1, 2024.
- Another great resource for local first responders is the AskRail app, the railroad industry standard mobile web application with access to detailed information about trains in your jurisdiction. The app can be downloaded at [www.askrail.us](http://www.askrail.us).

Sincerely,

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