

Railroad's cleanup of lye spill in McKean, Cameron counties tops \$2M

By wire reports
Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Norfolk Southern has spent more than \$2 million to clean a pristine trout stream and surrounding areas polluted when a train derailed and spilled 42,000 gallons of lye in McKean and Cameron counties.

In a report filed Monday with the state Department of Environmental Protection, the company said it has replaced polluted soil with clean material and top soil, stabilized and restored stream banks, and installed equipment to measure groundwater pollution.

The June 30 derailment near the village of Gardeau killed fish in Big Fill Run and Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek. The railroad has appealed \$8.89 million in fines the DEP is seeking.

The train's engineer is awaiting trial on charges filed after investigators determined the train was traveling 77 mph in a 15 mph zone.