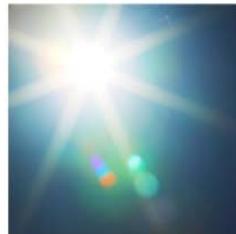


# NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN DERAILMENT – HARRISONBURG, VA

Jennifer Welcher

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Pollution Response Program

RRT III Meeting  
Solomon's Island, MD  
May 23, 2018



# CORN MAGEDON

- MAY 8, 2017 – NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN DERAILMENT IN HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA
- 5 RAIL CARS CARRYING 100 TONS OF FEED CORN OVERTURNED INTO BLACKS RUN
- APPROXIMATELY 200-300 TONS OF CORN SPILLED INTO STREAM COATING THE STREAM BED AND BANKS
- W. E. L., Inc. and HEPACO WERE BROUGHT IN TO REMOVE THE CORN
- TOOK 11 DAYS TO REMOVE THE CORN BY VACUUM TRUCK, EXCAVATOR AND HAND



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment

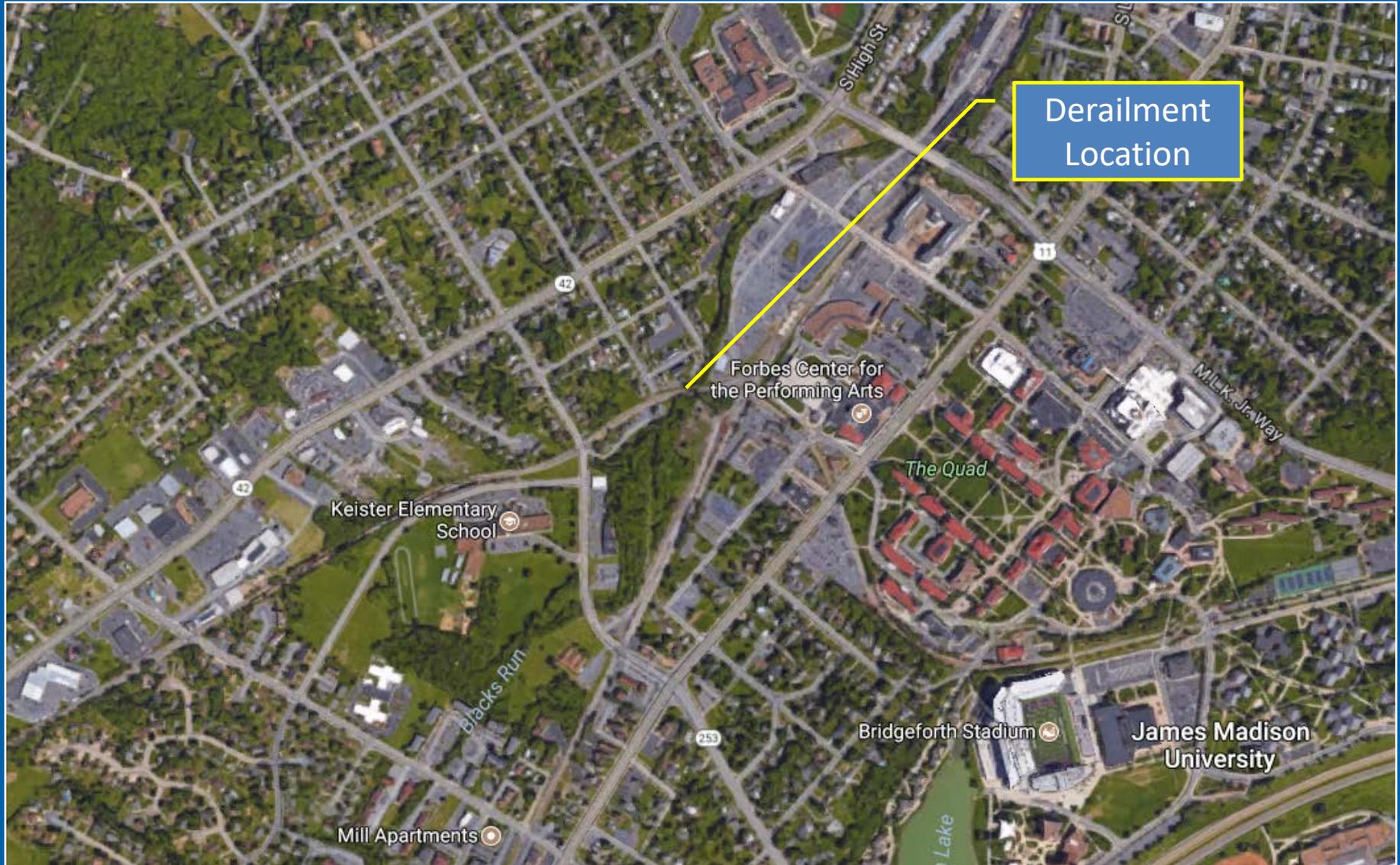




# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment

- Notifications were made by NSRC to NRC, VDEM, VDEQ
- VDEQ made notification to VDACS, VDH, VDGIF
- VDACS responded to the site and oversaw the process of donating the good, dry corn to local farmers

# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



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# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment

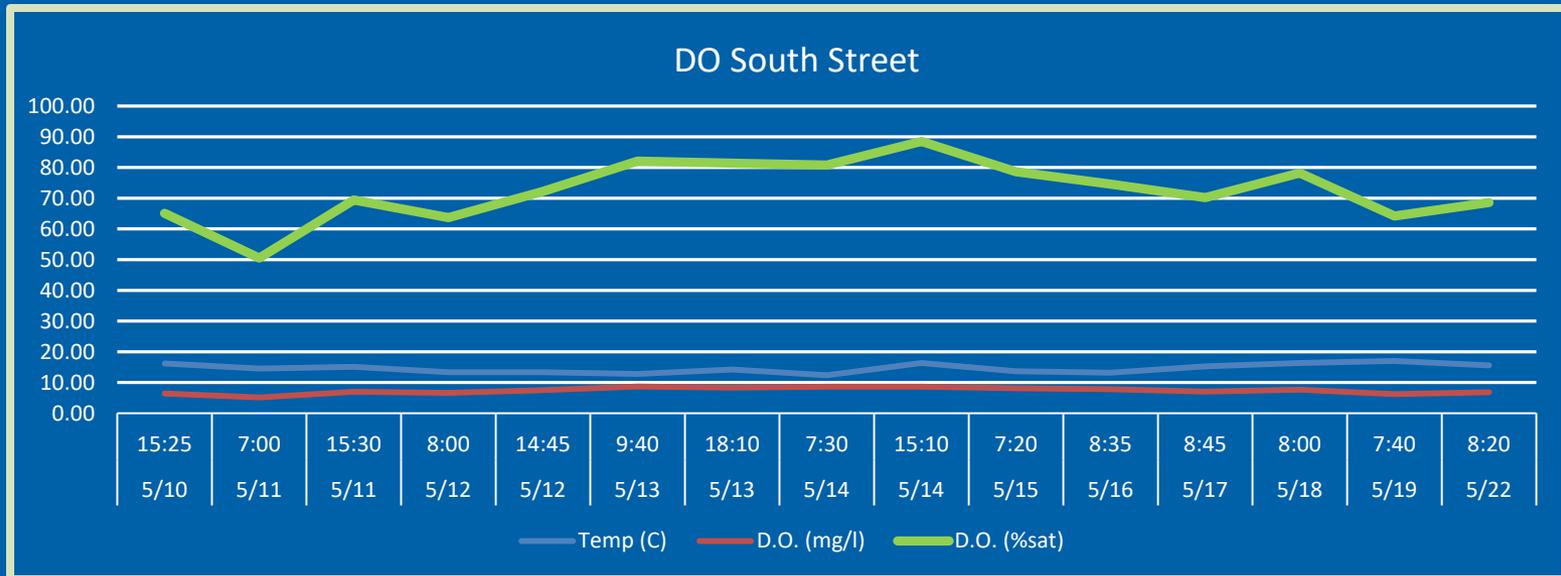


# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment

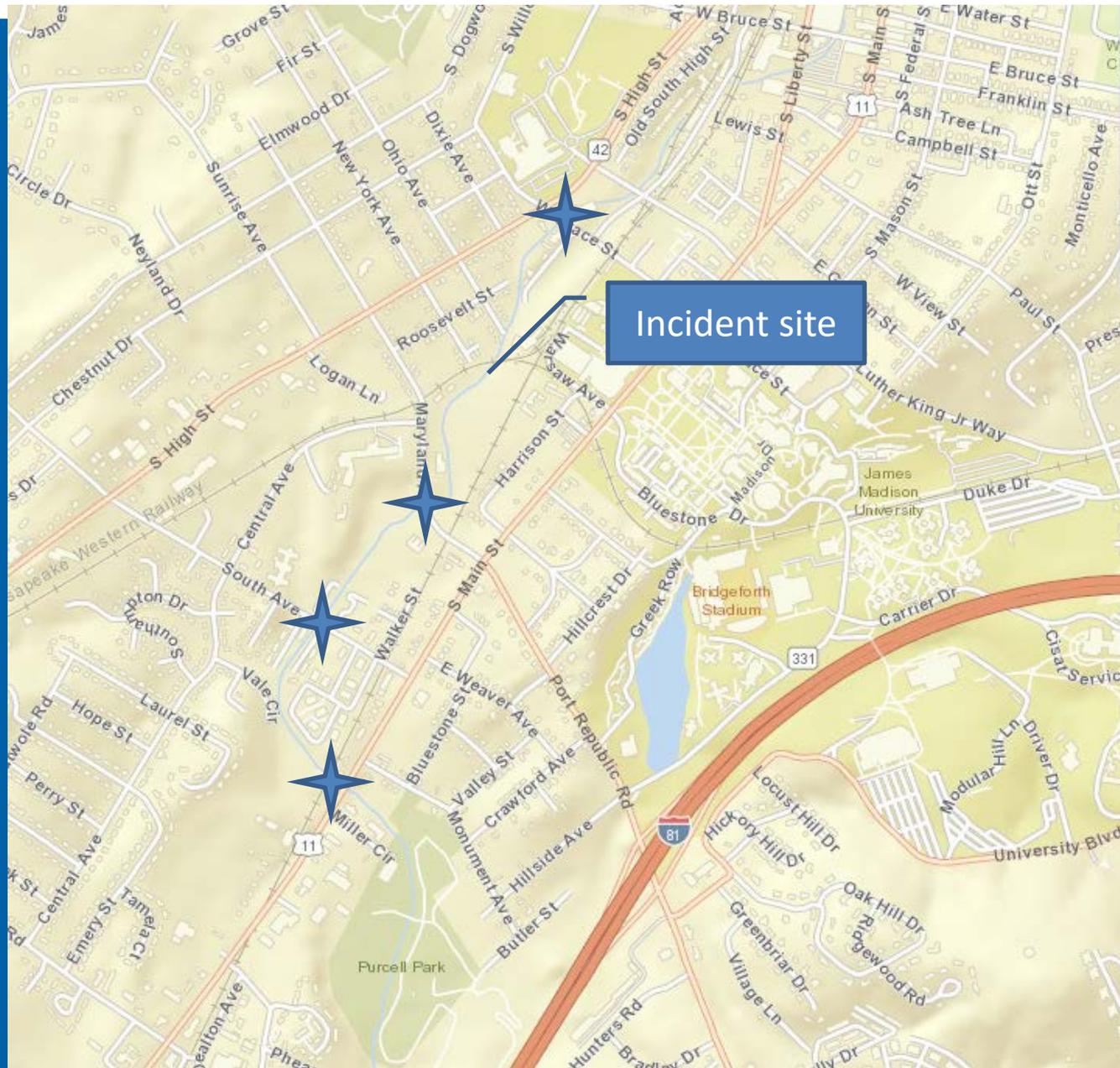


# Concerns

- DEQ staff monitored DO at 4 locations due to the concerns bacterial levels would increase from corn and drop the DO
- May 11 at 0700 the lowest DO level of 5.14 mg/l at South Street – 0.5 miles from site
- No fish kill occurred



# Concerns



 Monitoring Locations

# Concerns



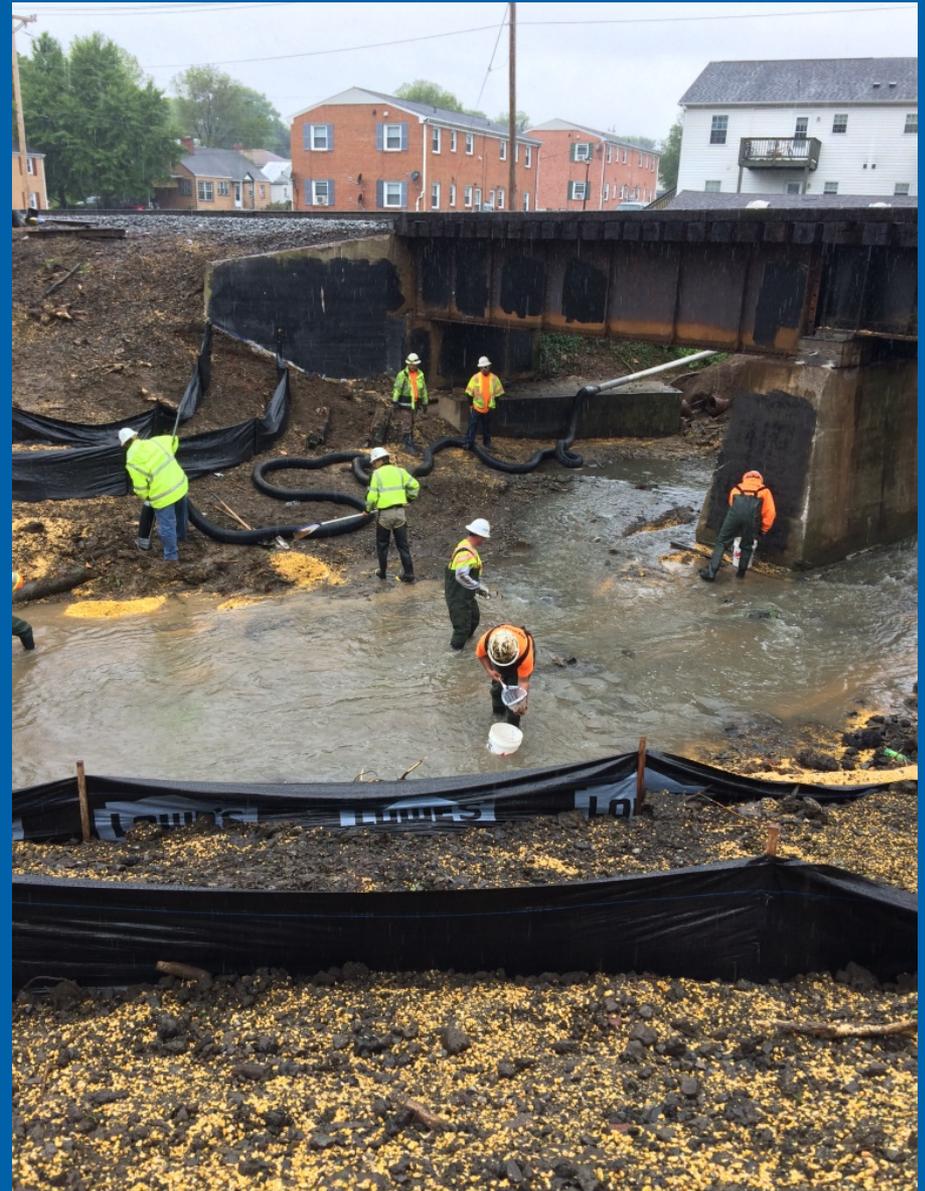
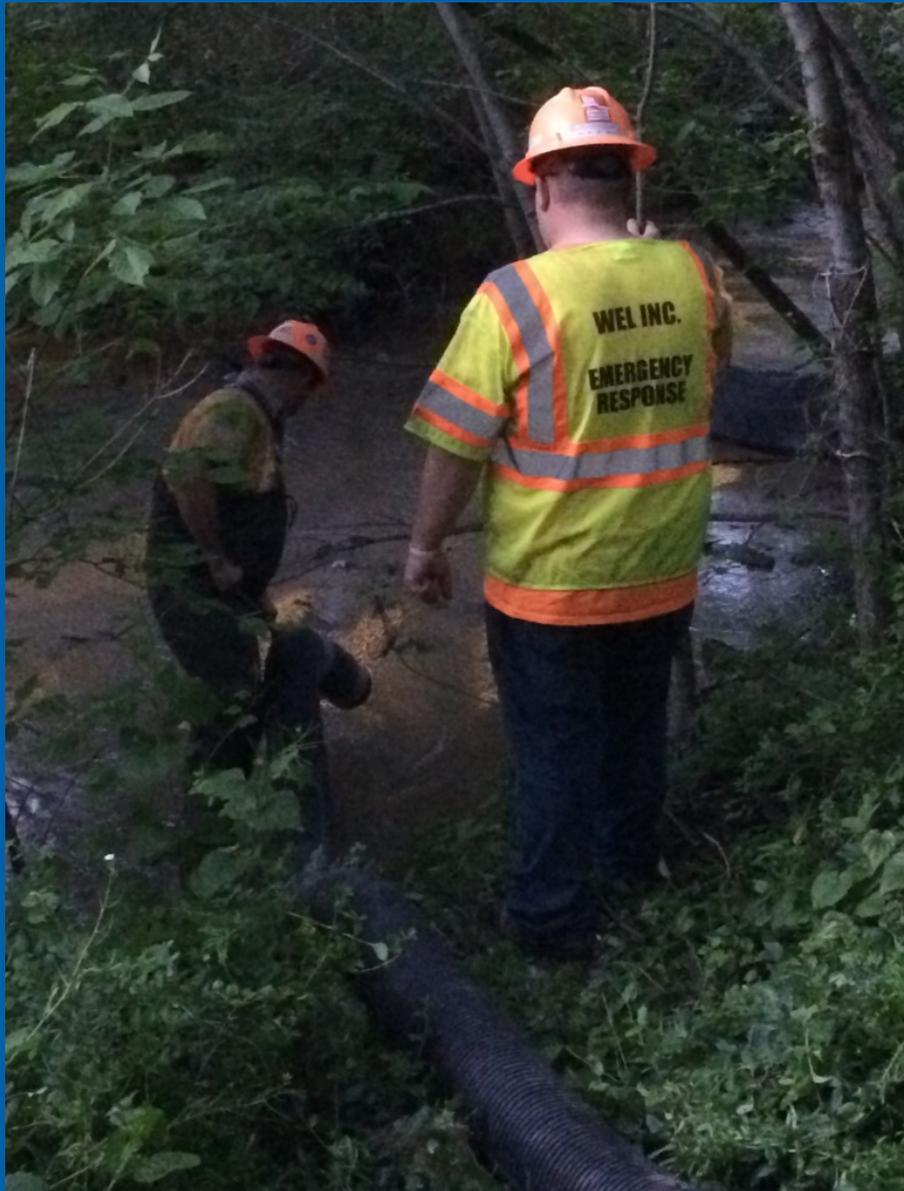
# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2017 – NS Derailment



# MAY 2018 – Site Today



# MAY 2018 – Site Today



# Incident Details

- Approximately 600' of Blacks Run impacted
- USACE allowed work under Nationwide 38, no DEQ permit required
- May 8 – 18 corn removal by vacuum trucks, excavator and manual removal with buckets, nets and pool skimmers. Overnight operations were discontinued May 11.
- 942 tons of wet corn/stream material disposed of at the Rockingham County Landfill at a cost of \$47,494
- EnviroScience provided a restoration plan to VDEQ and USACE – it was approved on June 8.
- Restoration began on June 11 and was completed on June 20 – total area of 1.137 acres restored
- Monitoring will continue through 2018