

ROUTE 203 SITE RESIDENTIAL WELL SAMPLING RESULTS

TOWN OF NASSAU, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 2021

REGION 2

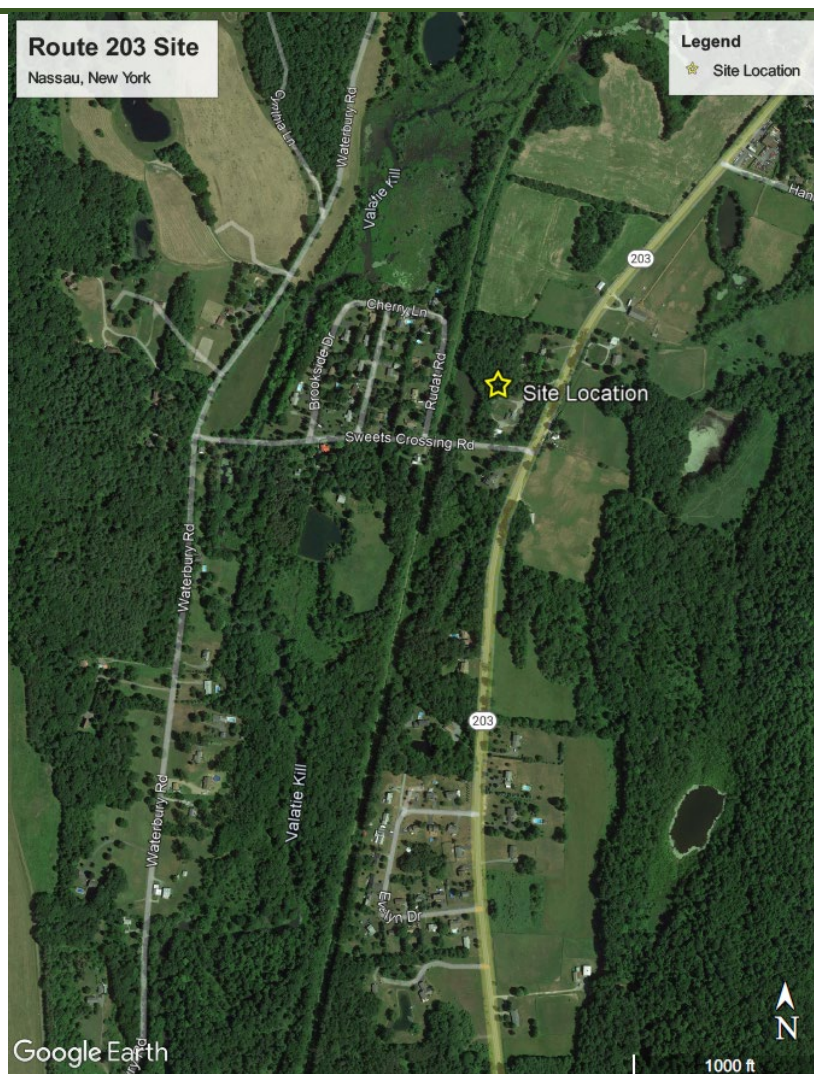


Activity Summary

Samples recently collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of tap water at 61 residences near the Route 203 site in the town of Nassau in October 2021 show one well with levels of contaminants above drinking water standards. EPA sampled to evaluate if there has been any change in conditions since EPA collected samples in March 2019 and to expand the sampling area to the south and southwest. EPA had previously sampled 26 groundwater wells near the site. Samples were analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs).

Sampling Results

Most of the residences sampled in October 2021 had no detections of contaminants in their tap water. Trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected in the on-site well and at twelve residences located to the south of the site. Of these thirteen wells, one south of the site showed TCE levels exceeding the federal and state drinking water standards. TCE is a VOC used mostly in industrial and commercial processes and can negatively affect human health. EPA is providing an alternate source of water to the residence and is arranging for the installation of a treatment system at the residence. Contaminants were not detected at the remaining 48 residences, including all of those to the west of the Route 203 site and west of the Valatie Kill.



TCE (Trichloroethylene)

TCE is a nonflammable colorless liquid used as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. It is also found in adhesives, paint removers, and spot removers.

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs

EPA shared the preliminary results with the homeowners where TCE was detected during the routine quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) evaluation required for this type of sampling. The QA/QC process, which is meant to confirm the sampling results, was completed the week of November 29. EPA is providing all property owners whose water was sampled with a copy of the final results.

Next Steps & Upcoming Activities

EPA is coordinating with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the New York State Department of Health, as well as local and county officials, to respond to questions and concerns raised by the residents.

EPA will sample tap water from additional residences in the Route 203 area in the coming weeks.

In late winter, the drums located on the Route 203 site will be removed and the liquid in the two underground storage tanks will be pumped and disposed off-site.

NYSDEC has designated the Route 203 site as a state Superfund site and will be working with the responsible party or parties on the long-term cleanup of site soil, sediment and groundwater.

Site Background

The Route 203 site is located near the intersection of Route 203 and Sweets Crossing Road in the Town of Nassau, New York. In July 2018, EPA learned from NYSDEC that the property may have been used historically for waste oil handling and disposal activities.

EPA assessed the Route 203 property and collected soil, pond sediment, pond water and groundwater samples in late 2018. Results of this sampling showed elevated levels of PCBs and VOCs in soil and pond sediment. During the assessment, EPA also identified several 55-gallon drums and an underground storage tank containing residual waste material.

EPA and the General Electric Company (GE) signed a legal agreement in March 2020 which required GE to further investigate the contamination on the site. GE was required to extensively sample the soil and sediment and install and sample on-site groundwater wells. In addition, the agreement required GE to further investigate and sample the drums and underground storage tank.

Under EPA oversight, GE investigated the site from May until November 2020. The investigations revealed a total of 14 drums and two underground storage tanks containing water and waste oil. GE's report summarizing the investigation results was finalized in July 2021 and is available at the Nassau Free Library, 18 Church St, Nassau, NY 12123.

EPA Contact Information

Larisa Romanowski
Community Involvement Coordinator
(518) 407-0400, ext. 2
romanowski.larisa@epa.gov

David Rosoff
On-Scene Coordinator
(732) 906-6879
rosoff.david@epa.gov



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