

**ROUTE 203 SITE**  
**RESIDENTIAL WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM**  
**INSTALLATION & CONTINUED MONITORING**  
**TOWN OF NASSAU, NEW YORK**

**MARCH 2022**

**REGION 2**



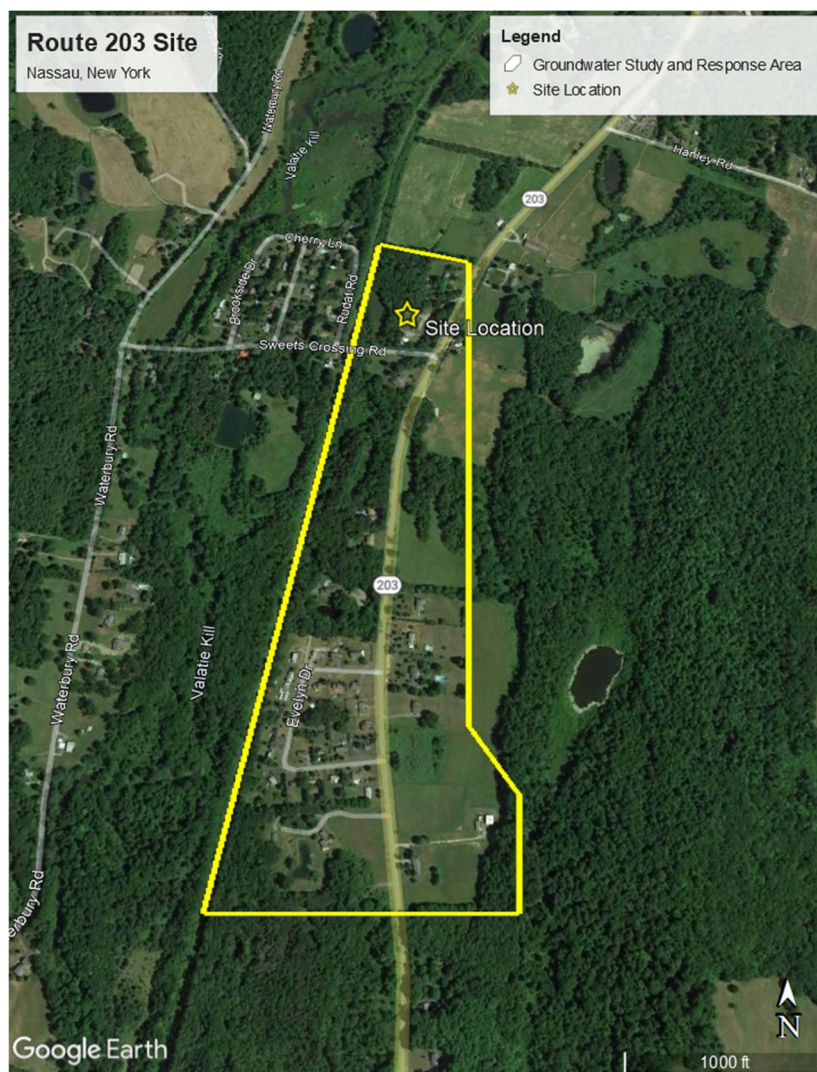
## Activity Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached an agreement with the General Electric Company (GE) to perform additional sampling and to install, operate and maintain water treatment systems at the homes where trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected near the Route 203 site in the town of Nassau, New York. The water treatment systems will prevent any potential exposure to TCE, even if the TCE levels are below state and federal standards. These standards apply to public water supplies but can also be used as guidelines to recommend actions to reduce exposures in private wells.

Under the agreement, GE will:

- Maintain and monitor the residential treatment system already installed by EPA
- Temporarily provide bottled water and install water treatment systems at all homes where TCE was detected, and maintain and monitor the systems
- Monitor drinking water at homes in the area where contamination was detected

EPA will oversee all of the work performed under the existing legal agreement. GE is expected to begin all actions by spring 2022 and continue monitoring and maintenance until they are determined to no longer be necessary or are taken over by other parties.



## Sampling Overview

EPA sampled and analyzed tap water from 61 residences near the Route 203 site in October 2021 for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs). EPA found TCE in the Route 203 on-site



### 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/toxfags](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags)

commercial well and at 12 residences located to the south of the site. Of these 13 wells, one located south of the site showed TCE levels above the federal and state drinking water standards. EPA installed a treatment system at the residence where TCE was found above federal and state standards.

EPA did not find TCE at the remaining 48 residences, including all of those to the west of the Route 203 site and west of the Valatie Kill.

EPA sampled tap water from 12 additional residences in the Route 203 area in December 2021 and found TCE in two wells; however, results were below federal and state drinking water standards.

## Next Steps & Upcoming Site Activities

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Under the latest agreement, GE has proposed installing additional groundwater monitoring wells along the southern boundary of the Route 203 property to test for VOCs.

This spring, GE will remove the drums located on the Route 203 property. The liquid in the two underground storage tanks will also be pumped and disposed off-site. This work is being performed by GE as part of the existing legal agreement with EPA.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (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. It is anticipated that NYSDEC will oversee future monitoring and maintenance of the treatment systems installed, and the sampling of homes in the impacted area, as they transition to the lead agency in the future. The New York State Department of Health is assisting with health-related questions and concerns.

## Site Background

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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 that the property may have been used historically for waste oil handling and disposal activities by the property owner. EPA assessed the Route 203 property and collected soil, pond sediment, pond water and groundwater samples in late 2018. The 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.

GE was a former customer of the waste oil business that operated at the Route 203 property. As a result, EPA and 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.

GE investigated the site from May until November 2020, under EPA oversight. 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

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