



Current and Upcoming Activities

This summer, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will oversee the removal of previously secured drums containing contaminated material from the Route 203 site that were buried on the property many years ago. This work will take several months to complete.

Under EPA oversight, the General Electric Company (GE) finished digging up and securing buried drums at the Route 203 site in February 2023. Field staff removed 134 buried drums from the ground. The contents of 85 drums were sampled (49 were empty) to determine the appropriate type of disposal facility. The sampling showed that the drums contain various chemicals including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides and metals. Field staff had discovered the partially buried drums in a raised bank area of the site during investigation work in 2022. GE agreed to investigate and remove the buried drums.



Partially buried drums at the site before removal

GE will also remove and dispose of liquids from the large underground storage tank located on the site this summer. When this work is finished, GE will have completed the drum and tank work required under its legal agreement with EPA.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) expects to reach a legal agreement with the responsible parties this year, with investigation work to begin soon after. NYSDEC designated the site as a state Superfund site in October 2021 and will be working with the responsible parties on the long-term cleanup of the site.

Residential Well Monitoring and Water Treatment Systems

EPA reached an agreement with GE in spring 2022 to perform additional well water sampling and to install, operate and maintain water treatment systems at the homes where trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected south of the Route 203 property. To date, 13 treatment systems have been installed in coordination with the property owners. GE will also periodically test the residential wells in the area where TCE has been detected in groundwater.

Under the agreement with EPA, GE will maintain and monitor the residential treatment systems into 2024. It is anticipated that NYSDEC will oversee the installed treatment systems and sampling of residential wells 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

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 and other companies were former customers 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 performed the initial investigation from May until November 2020, under EPA oversight. The investigation revealed 14 drums at or near ground surface 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. GE removed the drums and the water and waste oil from a smaller underground storage tank in 2021 and from one compartment of a larger underground storage tank in spring 2022. During the pumping, they discovered that the larger tank has two separate compartments. During further investigation work, they discovered more drums at the site which were removed in February 2023. The liquids from the second compartment of the larger underground storage tank are scheduled to be removed and disposed of in summer 2023.

EPA collected drinking water samples from residences near the Route 203 site in fall and winter 2021. EPA found TCE in the tap water at a number of residences located to the south of the Route 203 site. EPA reached an agreement with GE in spring 2022 to perform additional sampling and to install, operate and maintain water treatment systems at the homes where TCE was detected.



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