

## (Community Update Begins Next)

# Act Now to Continue Receiving Information About This Site!

DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (DER) now distributes information about contaminated sites electronically by email.

If you would like to continue to receive information about the contaminated site featured in this community update:

**You must sign up for the DER email listserv:**

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

DER cannot register your email address - only

the email address owner can do so. If you already have signed up for the listserv for the county in which the site is located, you need do nothing.



### **Why You Should Go “Paperless”:**

- Get site information faster and share it easily;
- Receive information about all sites in a chosen county - read what you want, delete the rest;
- It helps the environment and stretches your tax dollars.

**If “paperless” is not an option for you**, call or write to the DER project manager identified in this community update. Indicate that you need to receive paper copies of updates through the Postal Service. Include the site name in your correspondence. The option to receive paper is available to individuals only. Groups, organizations, businesses, and government entities are assumed to have email access.

## ROUTE 203, State Superfund Site No. 442064: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan Finalized

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently executed an Order on Consent with General Electric (GE) and GE will soon begin a detailed environmental study at the Route 203 State Superfund Site (“site”) located at 5225-5239 Route 203, Nassau, Rensselaer County. Please see the map for the site location.

The investigation work plan, called a “Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan” (RI/FS WP) was developed by GE and approved by DEC as part of the Order. The site is listed as a Class “2” site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund Sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health and the environment; action is required. DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) will oversee the investigation.

### Highlights of the Upcoming Investigation

The investigation will build off the significant amount of work already completed by GE and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), to further define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, soil vapor, surface water, groundwater, and pond sediments. Past investigations in the area have determined that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) have impacted site soils and sediments. VOCs and SVOCs have also been detected in on-site groundwater. Trichloroethene (TCE) has been detected off-site in residential drinking water wells south of the site.

Additional investigation work under the RI/FS WP is anticipated to begin spring 2026 and include:

- Installation and sampling of additional deeper wells to help understand groundwater flow and contaminant transport,
- Additional soil investigation in the vicinity of the drum excavation area, former above-

ground storage tank (AST) area, and former lagoon area,

- Assessment of on-site underground storage tank (UST), and
- Additional private well sampling for some previously sampled homes that are near affected homes with Point-of-Entry Treatment Systems (POETs).



### SITE BACKGROUND

In July 2018 the USEPA learned that the Route 203 site may have been used historically for waste handling and disposal activities. In late 2018, USEPA collected samples of environmental media, with results identifying elevated levels of PCBs, VOCs, and SVOCs at the site. USEPA also identified several buried drums and a 30,000-gallon UST containing residual waste.

GE and other companies were former customers of the waste oil business that operated at the site. As a result, USEPA and GE entered into an agreement for additional on-site investigation work including removal of waste oil from the UST and the excavation, sampling and disposal of 143 buried drums. The investigation identified low levels of TCE in wells south of the site. As a result, USEPA and GE provided water treatment systems to 13 homes with residential wells to filter out TCE and provide clean drinking water.

In July 2024 USEPA closed out their agreement with GE, with DEC transitioning to the lead agency overseeing future work by GE.

## Site Description

The 8.4-acre site is located in a rural residential area in the Town of Nassau near the intersection of Route 203 and Sweets Crossing Road, which border the site to the east and south, respectively. The Albany-Hudson Electric Trail borders the site to the west and a residential property is to the north. A private residence occupies the northeastern corner of the property. Three buildings are present in the southeastern portion of the property, including a pole barn structure that is occupied by a commercial business. A pond is located in the southwestern portion, and areas not occupied by driveways, buildings, or the pond are wooded. The southern portion of the property was formerly used by a waste oil transfer/disposal company. Three ASTs were formerly present inside the circular driveway of the property and a 30,000-gallon UST is in the southwest corner of the property. An ephemeral stream is also located along the eastern edge of the property.



## On-Site Activities and Residential Well Testing and Treatment

Based on investigation results conducted in 2018, USEPA and GE entered into an agreement for additional on-site investigation work including removal of approximately 25,000 gallons of waste oil from the UST, and the excavation, sampling and disposal of 143 buried drums. Investigation results also identified low levels of TCE in wells south of the site.

GE and USEPA produced several reports documenting the investigation and on-site removal work performed from 2018 through 2023. These documents are available via USEPA at [response.epa.gov/Route203](https://response.epa.gov/Route203) and via DEC at [dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/442064/](https://dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/442064/).

USEPA collected drinking water samples from over 75 residences near the Route 203 site beginning in 2019. No actions were needed at residences north or west of the site; however, TCE was detected in the tap water at residences located to the east and south of the Route 203 site. USEPA 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. Thirteen homes were provided with POETs to remove TCE and provide clean drinking water; two homes with TCE detections declined POETs. The 13 POETs are currently being maintained by GE. Previously sampled private wells located south of the site that did not have detections of TCE in the past will be re-sampled as part of the RI/FS investigation under DEC's order.

## Next Steps

The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a Remedial Investigation Report. After the site investigation is complete, GE, with oversight provided by DEC, will also conduct a "Feasibility Study." This study uses information developed during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination that was found at the site. The information collected during the site investigation may also support the conclusion for potential further actions, as needed to address site-related contamination. NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan" which describes the cleanup actions preferred by NYSDEC.

The draft cleanup plan explains the decision that led to the preferred action by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the availability of the draft cleanup plan in a future fact sheet and will present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.



## Ongoing Community Engagement

DEC and DOH, in consultation with USEPA and RCDOH as necessary, will continue to be available to answer questions from the community. Please see "Who to Contact" below for key points of contact.

Access project documents through the DEC Info Locator and at these location(s):

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/442064/>

Nassau Free Library  
 18 Church Street  
 Nassau, NY 12123  
 (518) 766-2715

### WHO TO CONTACT

#### DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

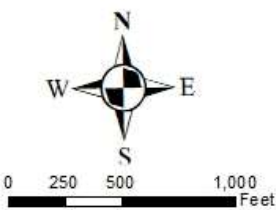
**Kyle Forster (518) 402-8644**  
 kyle.forster@dec.ny.gov

#### DEPT. OF HEALTH

**Shaun Surani (518) 402-7860**  
 shaun.surani@health.ny.gov

#### RENSELAER COUNTY DEPT. OF HEALTH

**Rich Elder (518) 270-2632**  
 RElder@renesco.com



Route 203  
Site No. 442064  
Nassau, NY

**Figure 1**  
**Site Map**





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<b>Español</b> Spanish	Para solicitar la traducción de este documento al idioma que prefiera, comuníquese con la persona que aparece abajo. La traducción es gratis.
<b>简体字</b> Simplified Chinese	如需将此文件翻译成您偏好的语言，请与以下人员联系。翻译服务免费。
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<b>বাঙালি</b> Bengali	এই নথিটি আপনার পছন্দের ভাষায় অনুবাদ করার অনুরোধ করতে, অনুগ্রহ করে नीचे উল্লেখ করা ব্যক্তির সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। অনুবাদের জন্য কোন অর্থ লাগবে না।
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<b>اردو</b> Urdu	اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ آپ کی ترجیحی زبان میں کروانے کی درخواست کرنے کے لیے، براہ کرم ذیل کے فرد سے رابطہ کریں۔ اس ترجمہ کے لیے کوئی چارج نہیں ہے۔