
Community Update**March 2021**

If you have general questions or would like additional information regarding the site, please contact one of the following:

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For information about this site:
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CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), has completed the planned cleanup work at the Genesee Valley Metal Finishing site at 244 Verona Street, Monroe County, Rochester, New York. EPA disposed of electroplating related chemicals and hazardous waste found within the facility and dismantled the electroplating and wastewater treatment equipment used in the former electroplating process. Electroplating residues that had accumulated as a result of electroplating operations were removed from the facility's interior.

During the cleanup, EPA discovered a common industrial solvent, trichloroethylene (TCE), in the soil underneath the facility from historic operations at the site. EPA will initiate an investigation to determine if TCE contamination is migrating away from the site and potentially impacting neighboring properties. EPA will seek consent from some neighboring property owners to collect samples in March 2021.

EPA and its contractors continue implementing health and safety plans specific to the site and COVID-19 precautions.

BACKGROUND

The Genesee Valley Metal Finishing site is a former metal electroplating facility that had been in operation for several decades at this location. The site is bordered by commercial properties to the north, a parking lot to the east, Brown Square Park to the south, and residential properties, including a school, to the west. The facility plated metal items primarily with zinc, nickel, and chrome finishes.

In recent years, the company experienced declining business and as a result, facility upkeep and proper waste storage and disposal practices were not followed. Ultimately, the company was not able to properly address contamination at the site and in June 2019, the property was purchased at a tax auction by a new owner. NYSDEC requested EPA's assistance in evaluating the site for an emergency cleanup action under EPA's Superfund authorities. EPA assessed the property in January 2020 and cleanup activities began the following month.