



**EPA COMPLETES INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF STORM  
IMPACTS ON WATERBODIES CONNECTED TO  
DEWEY LOEFFEL LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE  
NASSAU, NY**



**AUGUST 4, 2021**

**REGION 2**

## **EPA Assessment**

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its initial evaluation of the waterbodies connected to the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site after the July 14, 2021 severe weather event that occurred in the town and village of Nassau, New York.

Historic operations at the landfill caused polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to migrate to waterbodies connected to the site, such as Little Thunder Brook, formerly known as Tributary T11A, and the Valatie Kill. During the storm, these waterbodies experienced high flows, erosion, and flooding.

Following the storm event, samples were collected to assess conditions in the waterbodies. Surface water samples were collected from Little Thunder Brook and the Valatie Kill. Sediment samples were also collected downstream on residential properties where sediment was deposited as a result of the flooding.

## **Sampling Results Overview**

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The sediment deposit sampling targeted residential areas located along the Valatie Kill within the village of Nassau, as well as residential areas north of the village along the Valatie Kill and Nassau Lake. The samples were collected between July 22 and 26, 2021 and analyzed for PCBs.

In the village of Nassau and around Nassau Lake, PCBs were either not detected or were present at low concentrations below the regulatory level established by New York state for residential soil. Based on the results, EPA does not anticipate further sampling in these areas as part of the ongoing storm response.

Follow-up sampling is being performed to evaluate an area where PCBs were detected near the site in the vicinity of Mead Road.

Surface water samples were also collected from Little Thunder Brook and the Valatie Kill on July 19 to assess post-flood conditions. The results are consistent with historical results and in line with levels previously observed at the sampling locations. Additional water sampling will be performed as part of the ongoing assessment of post-flood conditions.

## **Little Thunder Brook Repairs**

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A portion of Little Thunder Brook was cleaned up in 2018 and 2019 to address sediment and soil impacted by PCBs. The storm event caused high flows that eroded some areas of Little Thunder Brook.

Repairs are underway in Little Thunder Brook. Areas that experienced erosion will be replaced with clean soil and stone. Measures to control turbidity, such as stone dams, have also been reinstalled in Little Thunder Brook to limit the potential for sediment to move downstream.

## Assessment of Landfill and Treatment System

There were no significant impacts to the landfill at the site or to the site's groundwater extraction and treatment system, which remained operational throughout the event. The driveway leading to the treatment plant, located off of Mead Road in the town of Nassau, experienced some erosion and was repaired immediately following the storm event.

## Next Steps

EPA's assessment of the impacts of the storm event on the waterbodies connected to the site is ongoing. Additional water and sediment samples will be collected to further evaluate post-flood conditions. Long-term repairs will be implemented in areas of Little Thunder Brook that experienced erosion. The turbidity control structures in Little Thunder Brook will be maintained to limit the potential for sediment to move downstream.



*Short-term repairs in Little Thunder Brook until long-term repairs are designed and implemented*



*Stone dams installed near the outlet of Little Thunder Brook to reduce the downstream transport of sediment*

EPA will continue to closely coordinate with the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health and the General Electric Company, one of the companies responsible for performing work at the site, to evaluate both short-term and long-term response measures. EPA is also in regular contact with the town, village and county.

Under the federal Superfund program, the comprehensive investigation and study of the landfill, groundwater and drainageways, including Little Thunder Brook, is ongoing and will lead to the selection of final cleanup plans for the site.

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