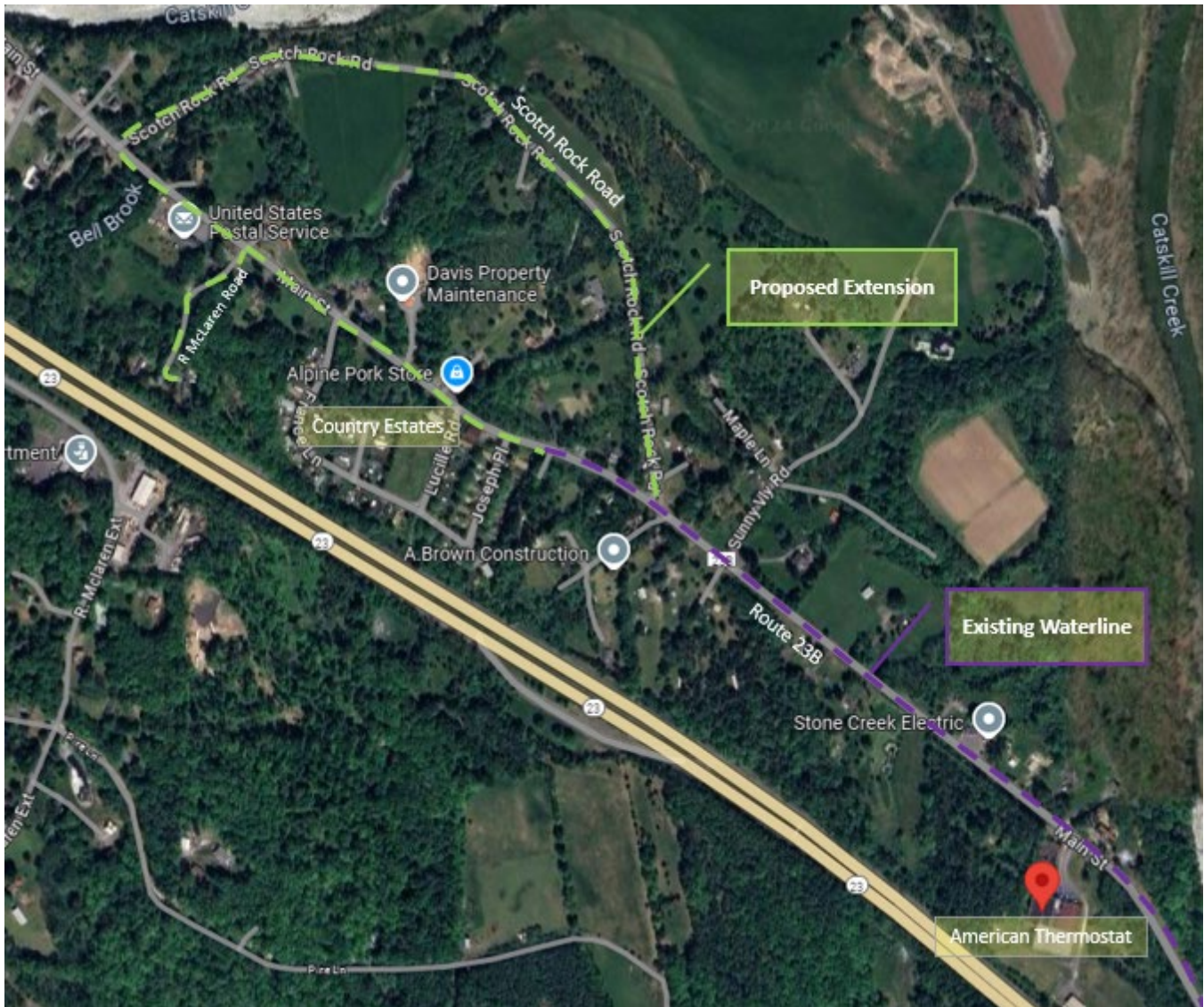




Waterline Extension

The Village of Catskill will begin the first phase of construction to connect the waterline to Country Estates Mobile Home Park in South Cairo this spring. In September 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded funding to the Village of Catskill to extend the village's waterline as part of the cleanup of the American Thermostat Co. Superfund site.

In late 2026 or early 2027, the village plans to install a waterline loop that begins at Country Estates, extends to and along Route 23B to R McLaren Road, to and around Scotch Rock Road, and then back to Country Estates (see figure below).



The extended waterline will provide drinking water to residents who are affected or potentially affected by groundwater contamination from the American Thermostat Co. site in South Cairo. Because the Village of Catskill provides drinking water to the area, the village is designing and constructing the new portion of the waterline.

Water treatment systems are in place on the Country Estates' water supply wells and at one home that has been impacted by contamination from the American Thermostat site to make sure that no one is exposed to unsafe levels of contaminants in their drinking water while the waterline construction work is underway. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, or NYSDEC, will continue to oversee, operate and maintain the treatment systems until the waterline extension is completed.

Join Us at the Greene County Community Meeting on March 12



EPA will participate in a Greene County community meeting to talk about the ongoing investigation work at the American Thermostat site. The village's waterline construction engineer will also be there to talk about the village's plans to extend the waterline.

The New York State Department of Health and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be available if residents have questions about the state's activities at the site.

Date: Thursday, March 12

Location: Greene County Emergency Services, 25 Volunteer Drive, Cairo, NY 12413

Meeting Schedule & Format:

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.: Open House

Informal opportunity to speak with participating agencies to learn more and ask questions.

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.: Presentation

PowerPoint presentation – site investigation (EPA) and waterline construction (Delaware Engineering).

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Open House

The evening will conclude with an additional opportunity for informal one-on-one discussions.

*Residents are free to attend all or part of the meeting. Presentation begins at 6 p.m.

EPA Investigations at the Site

For more than 25 years, EPA, and NYSDEC, have been pumping and treating groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, from beneath the American Thermostat Co. property and off-property areas where the contaminated groundwater flows.

Because the level of contamination in the groundwater has not decreased significantly during this time, EPA believes that there could be contamination remaining in the soil on the site property that is impacting the groundwater.

EPA is conducting a study to identify any remaining contamination in the soil at the American Thermostat site property. EPA does not believe that groundwater contamination is spreading beyond previously identified areas. The New York State Department of Health, or NYSDOH, collected water samples in 2024 from nearby homes which confirmed the areas impacted by contamination from the site.

Elements of EPA's study:

- Test soil at the site for contamination. During the investigation, field staff will drill up to 85 small holes in the ground, arranged in rows around the buildings and on either side of the highway (Route 23B) to test for VOCs.
- Evaluate data and create a 3-D map that shows the location and level of contaminants in different areas.
- Drill up to 30 underground holes to collect groundwater samples.
- Install up to eight new groundwater monitoring wells.
- Perform two quarterly groundwater sampling events for all 26 existing and eight new monitoring wells and 12 extraction wells.



EPA anticipates that the investigation, which will include evaluating options to address any contamination that is found, will take approximately three years to complete. After the study is finished, EPA will prepare and share a plan that summarizes the findings of the investigation and will include a proposed cleanup approach for the site.

Site Background

The American Thermostat Co. built thermostats for small appliances at the eight-acre manufacturing facility from 1954 to 1985. As part of the facility's operations, the company used VOCs to clean plant machinery. The NYSDEC discovered that American Thermostat employees were improperly disposing of these chemicals at the facility in 1981, which contaminated the soil and groundwater. EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List in 1983.

In 1988, after completing a study to evaluate alternate water supplies, EPA selected a plan that called for extending the existing Village of Catskill water district pipeline to the affected and potentially affected areas. EPA finished constructing the 3.5-mile water pipeline and connected 52 homes in 1992. The extended waterline ended approximately 400 feet from the Country Estates Mobile Home Park. County Estates was not included in the waterline extension work because the owner at the time did not provide permission.

EPA selected a cleanup plan for the overall site in 1990. The plan included decontaminating the former manufacturing building; digging up the contaminated soil, thermally treating it, and using the

treated soil as backfill in the excavated areas; and constructing and operating a groundwater extraction and treatment system to address the contaminated groundwater on the site property and off-property areas where the contaminated groundwater flows. EPA conducted cleanup work from 1992 to 1998. EPA operated the groundwater extraction and treatment system and conducted groundwater monitoring at the site from 1998 to 2008; in 2008, the NYSDEC assumed these responsibilities.

EPA announced a new investigation at the site in 2023 and held a community meeting to discuss the work in 2024. While there were a few questions from residents about the study during the meeting, most of the questions and comments were related to water supply concerns. Specifically, several Country Estates residents expressed interest in being connected to the existing public water supply and others expressed concerns about the safety of their water.

Since that time, EPA has been working cooperatively with the Village of Catskill, Town of Catskill, Town of Cairo, Greene County, NYSDOH and NYSDEC to sample homes near the site and secure funding to extend the village's waterline.

Project Contacts

For questions and more information about the Superfund site:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (site investigation):

Claudia Shuman, Remedial Project Manager, shuman.claudia@epa.gov or (212) 637-4279

Larisa Romanowski, Community Involvement Coordinator, romanowski.larisa@epa.gov or (518) 407-0400 x 2

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, NYSDEC, (site management):

Gail Dieter, gail.dieter@dec.ny.gov or (518) 402-9645

For questions about the waterline extension:

Village of Catskill:

Matthew Davis, Delaware Engineering, mdavis@delawareengineering.com or (518) 452-1290

For site-related health questions:

New York State Department of Health, NYSDOH:

Angela Martin, Angela.Martin@health.ny.gov or (518) 473-4671

American Thermostat Co. Site Webpage: www.epa.gov/superfund/american-thermostat

Site Investigation & Waterline Extension Frequently Asked Questions (January 2025):

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/02/758062.pdf>
