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# Water Monitoring Reveals More Well Contamination

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## Wedron Groundwater Site

Wedron, Illinois

November 2016

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### For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the Wedron Groundwater Site, you can contact:

*For technical questions*

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**Webpages:**

RCRA Corrective Action site:  
*Coming soon*

Superfund:

<https://www3.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/wedron/index.html>

In a partnership with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the LaSalle County Health Department have been monitoring residential wells and groundwater in Wedron. During this summer, officials identified three private wells as having BTEX contamination. Of the three contaminated private wells, one previously was found with pollution detections, another one was previously nondetect, and the third well was sampled for the first time. Groundwater is an environmental term for underground sources of fresh water. BTEX stands for petroleum-derived pollutants named benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. The four contaminants often are found together.

IEPA is supplying bottled water to one home that exceeded maximum contaminant levels, or MCLs, and to another home below MCLs that had children present. Illinois EPA is leading the effort to get these two homes, and a third home using carbon filtration, connected to a nearby deep replacement well that U.S. EPA installed as part of the federal Agency's Superfund program.

A recent residential well sampling event tested 21 wells in Wedron on Sept. 27. The LaSalle County Health Department assisted Illinois EPA in collecting the water samples. IEPA's laboratory analyzed the tests. The Illinois Department of Public Health will interpret the results and prepare a letter for property owners and occupants to explain their specific results.

In addition, this October Illinois EPA sampled six monitoring wells in and around Wedron and one deep well installed by U.S. EPA to identify if contamination has reached these locations. The IEPA laboratory analyzed the groundwater samples. The results were nondetect for all wells.

### Next steps

This July, an Illinois EPA contractor performed a pumping test of the lower aquifer in Wedron to better understand hydraulic properties of that water layer. The pumping test results will help identify whether the uncontaminated lower aquifer will support additional new private wells and whether it is isolated from the upper aquifer. With this information in hand, Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA will work to identify cleanup technologies and options. A report on the pump test results was received by IEPA in October and is currently under review.

### Coming soon

In the near future, U.S. EPA Region 5's program that manages the federal Resource Conservation Recovery Act, or RCRA, will post a new webpage and address to present information and activities at the site. Also available will be access to past information with a link to the current Superfund program webpage that is still being maintained (*see left-hand box*).