



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, January 2009

DTSC is Holding a 30-Day Public Comment Period and a Workshop/Hearing on January 29, 2009, for the Chloroform Release Area at Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, Inc. 5600 Cottle Road, San Jose, California 95193

(para informacion en Espanol, favor de llamara a Jesus Cruz (866) 495-5661)

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is issuing this Fact Sheet to inform the public and request comments on its proposed decision to issue a Corrective Action Complete Determination for the Chloroform Release Area on the Hitachi Global Storage Technologies Inc. (Hitachi GST) Redevelopment Property in San Jose. (Please see Figure 1.) DTSC will also hold a public workshop to present the results of the cleanup of the Chloroform Release Area, followed by a hearing to accept comments. The Chloroform Release Area is an approximately 0.8 (8/10ths) acre area, located on the 143-acre Redevelopment Property. The Chloroform Release Area is located in the vicinity of former Building 028J, approximately 270 feet east of Cottle Road and 730 feet north of Highway 85. (Please see Figure 2.)

BACKGROUND

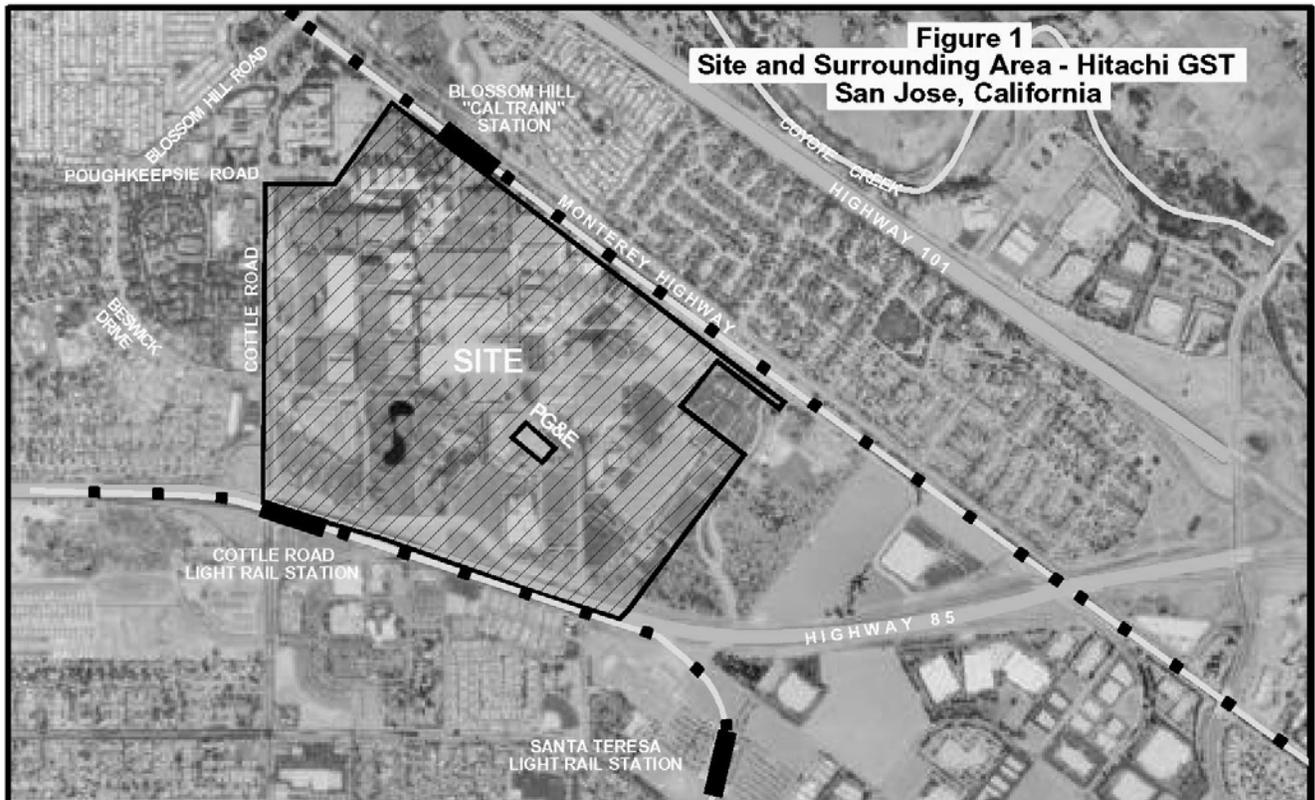
Hitachi GST purchased the IBM facility in January 2003 and has continued research, development and manufacturing operations related to computer storage devices, such as hard disk drives and disk storage media, through the present time. Both IBM and Hitachi GST have stored and treated hazardous wastes generated by their on-site activities. DTSC issued hazardous waste facility permits to IBM in

A Public Workshop/Hearing will be held on January 29, 2009, starting at 6:30 PM at the Southside Community Center located at 5585 Cottle Road, San Jose, California (408) 629-3336. DTSC will present the cleanup project results and answer questions during the Workshop and accept comments during the Hearing.

The Public Comment Period ends on February 13, 2009. Please send your comments to: Paul Ruffin, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826 or e-mail to pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov. Mailed comments must be post-marked and e-mailed comments must be sent no later than midnight on February 13, 2009.

For questions on cleanup of the Chloroform Release Area or the Redevelopment Property, please contact Paul Ruffin, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-6677 or e-mail pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov. For Public Participation questions, please call Jesus Cruz at (866) 495-6551 or e-mail jcruz@dtsc.ca.gov. For Media questions, please call Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Officer, (916) 255-6578 or e-mail cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov.





1985 and 1992 and to Hitachi GST in 2005. Hitachi GST plans to sell 143 acres of its 321-acre facility for redevelopment into commercial, residential and park areas. The 143-acre property is known as the Redevelopment Property. Hitachi GST has been investigating and cleaning up the Redevelopment Property, including the Chloroform Release Area, pursuant to federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action for several years.

CORRECTIVE ACTION AT THE REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTY

Hitachi GST prepared a Corrective Measure Study (CMS) Report for the Redevelopment Property in August 2006 that identified cleanup goals for soil and proposed removal of all contaminated soil. The CMS Report also indicated that alternative remedies, such as soil vapor extraction (SVE) may be needed, if soil excavation was not feasible. DTSC approved the proposed remedy on December 20, 2006. During implementation of the approved remedy, a previously identified release of chloroform in the vicinity of former Building 028J was further

characterized.

Hitachi GST removed all contaminated soil, except in the Chloroform Release Area, and prepared a Final Remedy Completion Report, dated August 29, 2007. In November 2007, DTSC approved the Final Remedy Completion Report and issued a Corrective Action Complete Determination for the Redevelopment Property, except for the Chloroform Release Area. Also, the Hitachi GST hazardous waste facility permit was modified to remove the Redevelopment Property from the permitted facility.

CORRECTIVE ACTION AT THE CHLOROFORM RELEASE AREA

In August 2007, Hitachi GST also prepared a CMS Report for the Chloroform Release Area that proposed operating a 2-PhaseTM Extraction system to remove chloroform from groundwater, soil gas, and soil. (Please see Figure 3.) 2-PhaseTM Extraction is similar to SVE in that a vacuum is applied to the subsurface inducing air flow to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as chloroform. In November 2007, DTSC approved 2-PhaseTM Extraction as the

cleanup remedy for the Chloroform Release Area. The Final Statement of Basis that DTSC approved in November 2007 provided the basis for DTSC's approval of the 2-PhaseTM Extraction system. Also in November 2007, DTSC and Hitachi GST entered into a Corrective Action Consent Agreement that required Hitachi GST to complete corrective action in the Chloroform Release Area.

Hitachi GST operated the 2-PhaseTM Extraction system from July 2007 to August 2008, with a one month shutdown in November 2007. During approximately 8,000 hours of operation, the 2-PhaseTM Extraction system removed approximately 68 million cubic feet of soil vapor and 535,000 gallons of groundwater. The average system vapor extraction rate was 169 cubic feet per minute and groundwater extraction rate was 1.2 gallons per minute. Investigation activities included the collection of approximately 200 discrete soil gas samples, over 100 soil samples, and approximately 200 groundwater samples.

Hitachi GST has submitted to DTSC the Final Remedy Completion Report for the Chloroform Release Area, dated November 17, 2008, and the Groundwater and Soil Gas Sampling Results – December 2008 Report, dated January 5, 2009. These results indicate that the risk-based target concentrations (cleanup goals) for chloroform in soil, soil-gas, and groundwater have been achieved.

One of the other cleanup goals proposed in the August 2007 CMS Report, the Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL), a drinking water supply criteria, of 80 parts per billion (ppb) for chloroform was not achieved in groundwater prior to preparation of the November 2008 Final Remedy Completion Report. However, land use restrictions on the Redevelopment Property, including the Chloroform Release Area, ban the use of groundwater for drinking water. Further, it is not necessary to reach the MCL for drinking water in order to achieve the DTSC approved risk-based cleanup goals established in the CMS Report to ensure that the site is suitable for residential use.

DTSC is proposing to determine that RCRA corrective action for the Chloroform Release Area is complete and that it is appropriate to discontinue operation of the 2-PhaseTM Extraction system for the following reasons:

1. The risk-based cleanup goals have been achieved and the property is suitable for its intended residential use.
2. Although the MCL for chloroform in drinking water was not achieved, this cleanup goal is based on health risks associated solely with ingestion of contaminated drinking water. Because existing deed restrictions for the former IBM property prohibit use of shallow groundwater as a drinking water supply, and for other reasons discussed below, DTSC finds that failure to reduce the chloroform concentration in groundwater to the MCL for drinking water should not preclude a determination that corrective action is complete for the Chloroform Release Area.
3. The areal extent and amount of chloroform in groundwater at the Chloroform Release Area are both insignificant. The size of the chloroform plume (greater than 80 ppb) in groundwater has been reduced to less than 0.09 (9/100th) acres. The 2-PhaseTM Extraction system is estimated to have removed approximately 98 percent of the chloroform from the upper aquifer and overlying soil.
4. Most of the remaining chloroform is contained in the clayey soil layer (aquitar) between the thin shallow upper aquifer (A-aquifer) and the underlying B-aquifer. Due to the downward groundwater flow from the A-aquifer to the B-aquifer, the chloroform concentration in the A-aquifer is expected to decrease over time.
5. Continuing operation of the 2-PhaseTM Extraction system is not an effective or practical way to remove chloroform from the aquitar, which is not required in any event to meet DTSC's risk-based cleanup goals.

DECISION DOCUMENTS

DTSC has prepared an updated Final Statement of Basis that describes the cleanup remedy as it was actually implemented and provides the basis for DTSC's proposed decision that corrective action is complete for the Chloroform Release Area. The updated Final Statement of Basis is available for review at the information repositories listed in this Fact Sheet.

DTSC prepared a Negative Declaration for implementation of the remedy for the Chloroform Release Area. DTSC determined that operation of the 2-Phase™ Extraction system will not cause a significant environmental impact. Because there were some minor changes between the project description in the Negative Declaration and the project as implemented, DTSC has prepared an Addendum to the Negative Declaration that describes these changes and explains why they have not altered the Negative Declaration's findings of no significant impact associated with the cleanup project for the Chloroform Release Area. The Negative Declaration and the Addendum are available for review at the information repositories listed in this Fact Sheet.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

DTSC expects to make a final decision on the Corrective Action Complete Determination for the Chloroform Release Area in February 2009, after the public workshop/hearing and after public comments have been received and considered. Everyone who submitted comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. In addition to the Notice of Final Decision, a copy of the Response to Comments document will be placed in the project information repositories listed below and will also be placed on DTSC's website.

For questions regarding the Chloroform Release Area, the Redevelopment Property, or the Hitachi GST facility, please contact Paul Ruffin, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-6677 or e-mail pruffin@dtsc.ca.gov.

Starting on January 14, 2009, you can review the Final Remedy Completion Report for the Chloroform Release Area, the Groundwater and Soil Gas Sampling Results - December 2008 Report, the updated Final Statement of Basis, the Addendum to the Negative Declaration, and other project documents at the following information repositories:

Edenvale Branch Library
101 Branham Lane East
San Jose, California 95111
(408) 808-3036 (Call for library schedule.)

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800 (Call for appointment.)

You may also find information on this project at the DTSC website www.dtsc.ca.gov at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/Hitachi.cfm>.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals
TDD users can obtain information about this project by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. To reach Jesus Cruz call (916) 255-3315.

For Media questions, please call Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Officer (916) 255-6578 or e-mail cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov.

Site Map - Hitachi GST San Jose, California

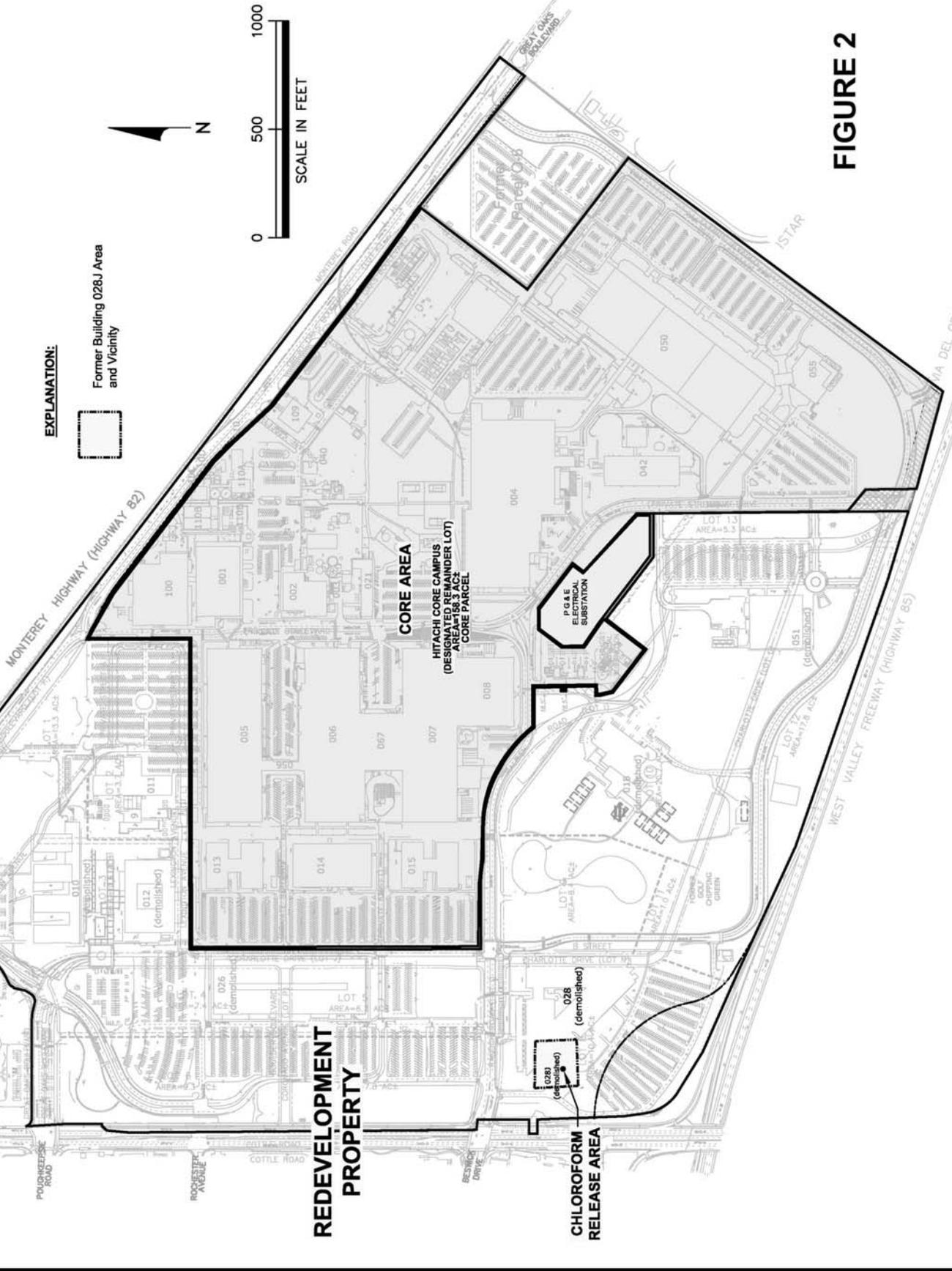


FIGURE 2

Remediation Layout Area - Approximate Extent of Chloroform Before Remediation

Hitachi GST
San Jose, California

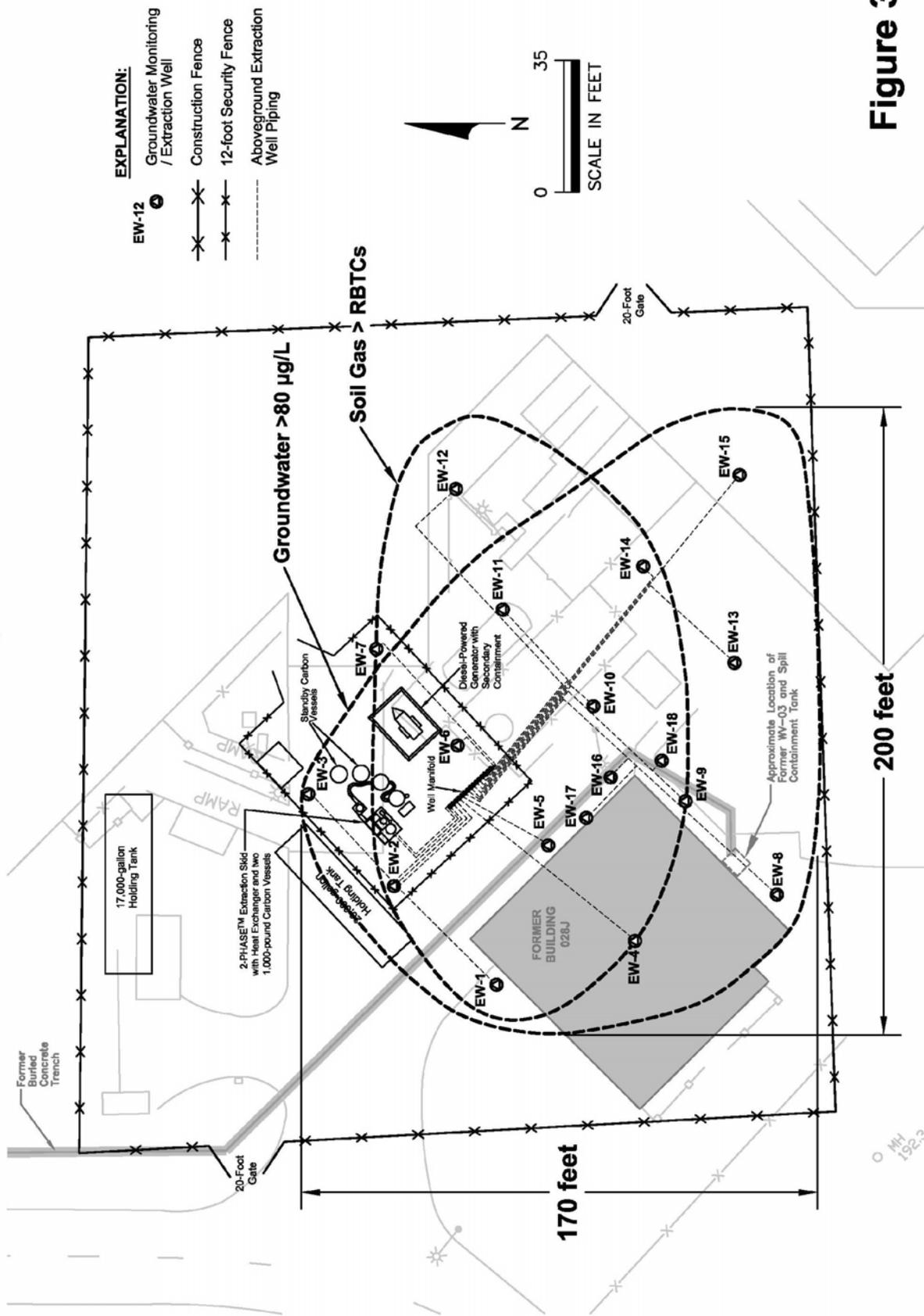


Figure 3