

**FINAL  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**SITE 8 PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN AND RECORD OF DECISION  
AND SITE 2 DECISION DOCUMENT  
106<sup>TH</sup> RESCUE WING, FRANCIS S. GABRESKI AIRPORT  
WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NEW YORK**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

A Public Meeting was held at the Westhampton Beach Free Library to inform the public of the status of Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Site 8 at the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Westhampton Beach, New York. The meeting was held during the 45-day Public Comment Period for the ERP document *Draft-Final Proposed Remedial Action Plan for Site 8 (Version 4)*.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the National Guard Bureau, the Base Environmental Manager (EM) and base representatives, representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), a Court Reporter/Transcriptionist, and a local news reporter. The list of attendees is provided in Attachment A.

Richard Stout (PEER Project Manager) began the meeting by giving a presentation describing the ERP and introducing the document that was submitted for public review. During the presentation, he described Site 8, summarized the previous investigations at the site, and discussed the proposed remedial action alternative. A brief question and answer period was conducted at the end of the presentation.

The presentation for the Public Meeting and questions submitted during the question and answer period are described in the following paragraphs. A copy of the briefing slides and figures are provided in Attachment B.

Site 8 – Old Base Septic System

Site 8 is a composite of underground structures including cesspools, septic tanks, distribution boxes, oil/mud traps, and dry wells at numerous locations throughout the base. Most of the structures have been removed, while others have been abandoned in place. None of the septic system structures are still in use. Together, the individual structures (former and abandoned in place) make up the Old Base Septic System. Site 8 includes 21 subsites, designated as Subsites 8A through 8U, based on the individual structures and subsystems that were identified. Subsite 8Q was further subdivided into 8 additional subsites, referred to as 8QA through 8QH, all associated with Building 250. The subsites are grouped together in regions of the base called cells (e.g., Cells 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

## Previous Investigations at Site 8

**1994 – Initial Site Survey.** An initial site survey was conducted for several cesspools and septic tanks at Site 8 in August 1991 in response to a request by the SCDHS. The survey involved sampling sludge and liquid from 29 structures at Site 8, including septic tanks, cesspools, distribution boxes, and an oil/mud trap. Several of the samples contained concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) which are generally associated with fuels.

**1994 – Survey and Source Characterization.** Cells 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were investigated during the November 1994 Survey and Source Characterization of Site 8. Sludge samples were collected and submitted to a field-operated laboratory for analysis of VOCs, SVOCs and metals. The primary contaminants of concern (COCs) found in the sludge and liquids of the septic system were chromium, and VOCs.

**1994 – Site Investigation.** A Site Investigation was conducted in 1994 to determine if the contaminants detected in the septic systems had migrated to soil and/or groundwater in the vicinity of Cells 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Samples were analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs and metals. Two VOCs (benzene and xylenes) one SVOC (naphthalene) and four metals (arsenic, chromium, lead and silver) were detected in subsurface soil samples above the NYSDEC Action Levels in effect at the time of the investigation. The majority of the soil contaminants were detected in a single soil boring (DP-60). In groundwater, four VOCs (benzene, ethylbenzene, tetrachloroethene, and trichloroethene), four SVOCs (1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene and naphthalene) and one metal (arsenic) were detected at concentrations exceeding the NYSDEC Action Levels in effect at the time of the investigation. The groundwater contaminants were detected in wells SDW-005 and SDW-015, but were not confirmed during subsequent investigations.

**1998 – Remedial Investigation.** A Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted at Site 8 in 1998 in the vicinity of Cells 2 and 4. Surface and subsurface soil and groundwater samples were collected using direct-push technology. The samples were analyzed for VOCs and SVOCs. Four SVOCs (benzo(a)anthracene, chrysene, benzo(a)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene) were detected in surface soil at concentrations exceeding the NYSDEC Action Levels in effect at the time of the investigation. In groundwater, two VOCs (ethylbenzene and xylenes), two SVOCs (phenol and naphthalene) were detected at concentrations exceeding the NYSDEC Action Levels in effect at the time of the investigation. No contaminants associated with the septic systems were identified during the 1998 RI, but the report recommended additional investigation.

**2001 – Remedial Investigation.** An additional RI was conducted at the base from 2000 to 2001 and included Site 8. The 2001 RI activities at Site 8 consisted of groundwater sampling, groundwater monitoring well installation and sampling, and basewide groundwater sampling. Samples were analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs and metals. Three metals (cadmium, chromium and lead) were detected in groundwater at concentrations exceeding the NYSDEC Action Levels in effect at the time of the investigation. The 2001 RI recommended removing the remaining sludge from septic system structures and abandon the structures in-place to eliminate them as sources of future contamination.

**2002 – Time Critical Removal Action.** Based on the recommendations of the 2001 RI Report, a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) was conducted to remediate the septic systems at Site 8. The TCRA was performed in the summer of 2002. During the TCRA, 23 septic system subsites were remediated including 20 septic tanks, 49 cesspools, and 10 distribution boxes.

Approximately 44,000 gallons of water, 158 cubic yards of sludge and 840 cubic yards of construction debris were removed and transported off-base for disposal. Based on the results of the TCRA, the SCDHS requested additional groundwater sampling at Subsites 8D, 8F and 8QF. Subsites 8M and 8QH had exceedances of action levels in initial samples, and 8N had exceedances of action levels in one end point sample. The SCDHS and the NYSDEC requested that groundwater samples be collected from Subsite 8F due to historically high levels of VOCs.

**2005 – Remedial Investigation.** A third RI was conducted in 2005 in response to the state and county's requests made after the TCRA. Based on their concerns, the RI objectives included further investigation to determine whether or not soil and/or groundwater contamination existed at six of the Site 8 subsites, and assessing risks associated with any identified threats to human health or the environment. The Site 8 subsites that were investigated included 8D, 8F, 8M, 8N, 8QF, and 8QH. Samples were analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs and metals. The Bauman Bus Plume, which is unrelated to Site 8, was also investigated during the 2005 RI. The plume, consisting of petroleum-based contaminants, originates from Suffolk County property, crosses Cook Street, and extends onto the northeast portion of the base.

No contaminants were identified in soil or groundwater at Subsites 8M, 8N, 8QH, or 8F. Therefore, these subsites were determined to pose no risk to human health or the environment, and No Further Action was recommended. Three metals including lead (Subsite 8D) and chromium and silver (Subsite 8QF) were detected in subsurface soils at concentrations exceeding the action levels in effect at the time of the investigation. The contaminants were detected from 20 to 40.5 ft bgs. The report stated that the lead, chromium and silver would tend to be immobilized in the soil by adsorption, and that downward migration of the metals to groundwater was not likely. This was supported by the fact that the metals detected in soils at Subsites 8D and 8QF were not detected in groundwater at concentrations exceeding action levels. Therefore, soils at Subsites 8D and 8QF were determined to pose no risk to human health or the environment, and No Further Action was recommended. At Site 8QF, one metal (copper) was initially identified as a groundwater COC because it was detected above the NYSDEC Action Level in a total metals (unfiltered) sample from one upgradient groundwater monitoring well (MW-009). The results for copper did not exceed the Federal Drinking Water Standard Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The exposure pathway evaluation conducted for copper indicated that the probability for exposure due to migration of copper in groundwater was low. This was supported by data which showed that copper did not exist in downgradient monitoring wells at concentrations exceeding NYSDEC Action Levels. The elevated concentrations of copper in groundwater at Subsite 8QF may have been due to entrained sediments in the well. Metals such as copper tend to adsorb onto sediments in the groundwater and may result in false positives or elevated concentrations during analysis. Subsequently, the NYSDEC requested additional sampling at the affected well (MW-009) to include analysis of both dissolved and total copper. Samples submitted for analysis of dissolved constituents are filtered prior to analysis while samples submitted for analysis of total constituents are not filtered. Filtering of the sample prior to analysis removes any entrained sediments and reduces the possibility for false positives

or elevated concentrations. Together, the results for both dissolved and total copper samples will likely provide evidence that the elevated copper concentrations at the site were due to entrained sediments in the well.

Throughout the presentation, Mr. Stout explained that VOCs and SVOCs tend to degrade over time and that even though they were detected at Site 8 in the initial investigations, the VOCs and SVOCs were not expected to persist.

#### Proposed Remedial Action Plan for Site 8

The ANG has proposed No Further Action with monitoring to confirm that groundwater at monitoring well MW-009 is not adversely impacted. The NYSDEC has concurred with the proposed plan for Site 8. In the near future, PEER will finalize the PRAP, and prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) for Site 8.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Stout explained the process for obtaining more information about the sites and discussed the location of the Administrative Record File at the Westhampton Beach Free Library.

#### Follow-on Discussion and Questions Asked During the Question and Answer Period

Additional topics concerning Site 8 were discussed after the presentation. These topics are briefly discussed below:

1. An attendee asked if Sites 2, 3, 5 and now 8 had Proposed Remedial Action Plans, and if there were other sites approved to be investigated. Mr. Stout confirmed that plans were submitted for Sites 2, 3, 5 and 8. Ms. Murata responded that they [ANG] also have Sites 7 and 9, which are currently undergoing remedial action.
2. A representative from the NYSDEC asked about the schedule/timeline of publication of the Final Site 8 PRAP and ROD. Mr. Stout stated that the target date was the middle of March 2012, for both documents.
3. An attendee asked how the extent of the Bauman Bus Plume was determined. Mr. Stout responded that past documents were reviewed and monitoring wells were installed bordering the site. It was confirmed that the plume crossed the base boundary, but the extent of the plume was not determined. The attendee also asked if there are plans to confirm that. Mr. Stout responded that the ANG is working with the County, and NYSDEC representatives added that the county had recently completed remedial action at the site.
4. In reference to the 2005 RI, one attendee asked if there was a specific reason for the cluster of monitoring wells in the northeastern portion of the base. Mr. Stout explained that there was concern about concentrations of contaminants in the septic systems, and that the quantity of sampling locations was based on the number of septic system components in the area and the presence of a nearby storm sewer line.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**LIST OF ATTENDEES – PUBLIC MEETING**

**SITE 8 PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN AND RECORD OF DECISION  
AND SITE 2 DECISION DOCUMENT  
106<sup>TH</sup> RESCUE WING, FRANCIS S. GABRESKI AIRPORT  
WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NEW YORK**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

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**ATTACHMENT B**  
**PRESENTATION SLIDES**



# Air National Guard



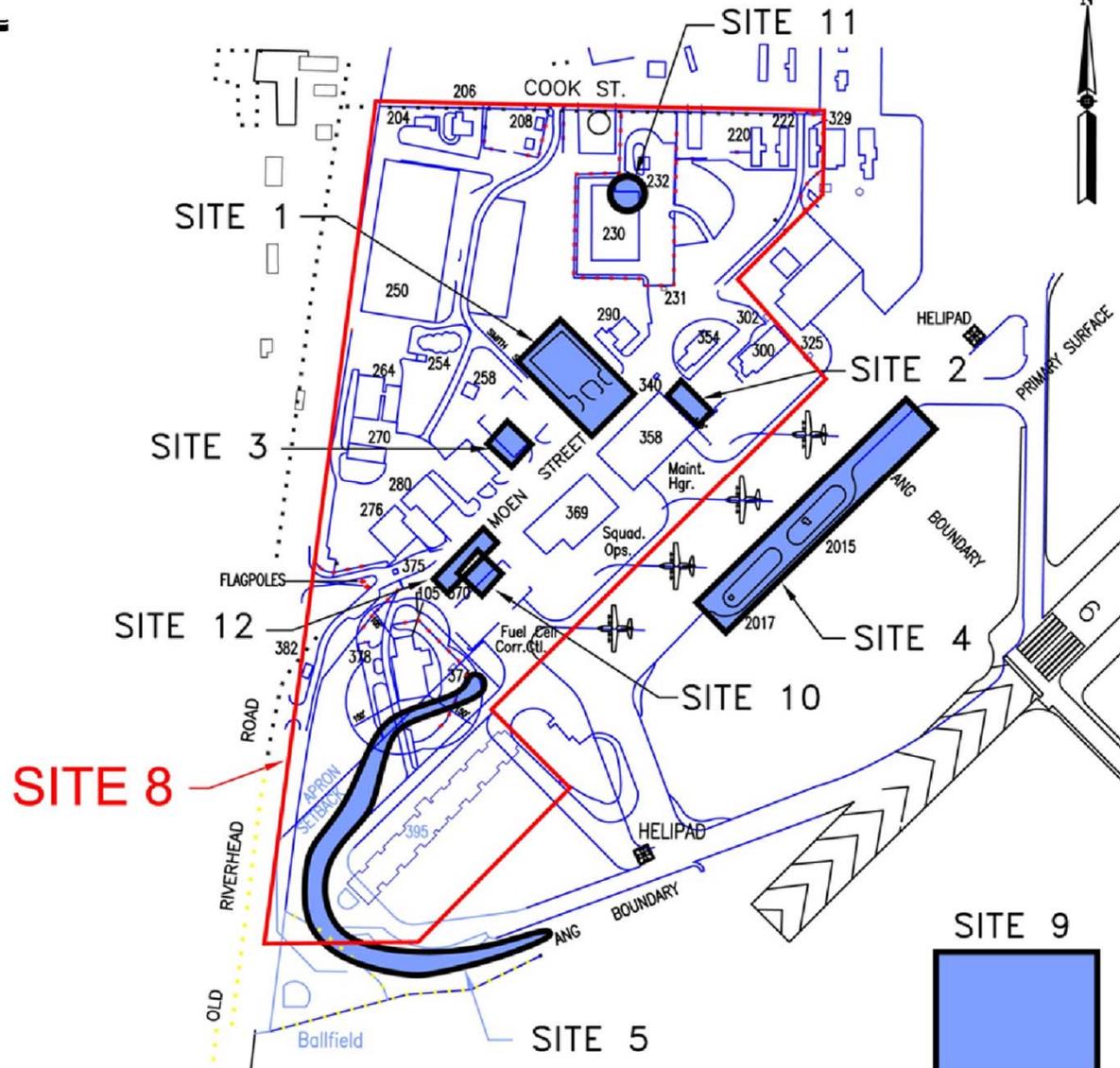
## *Public Meeting Presentation for Site 8*

*Gabreski Air National Guard Base  
106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing  
Westhampton Beach, New York*

*February 23, 2012*



# Site 8 Location

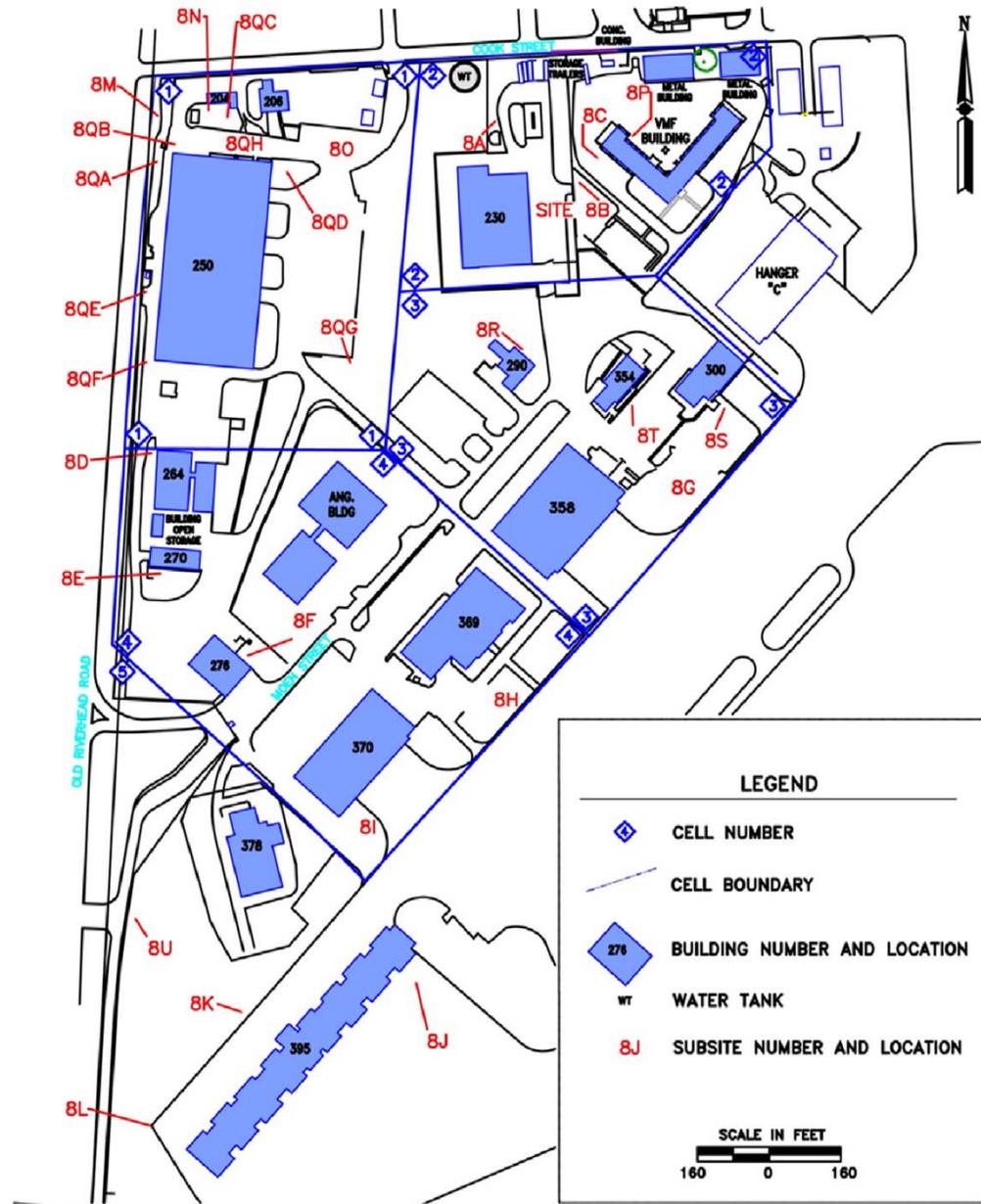


## Site 8 Description

Former Base Septic System divided into cells and subsites.

Included cesspools, septic tanks, distribution boxes, and oil/mud traps.

Most structures removed or abandoned in place.





## *Investigation History for Site 8 :*

- 1994 Source Characterization. Consisted of sampling septic system contents (sludge and liquid). Primary Contaminants of Concern (COCs) detected consisted of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and the metal chromium.



## *Investigation History for Site 8 (continued):*

- 1994 Site Investigation. Consisted of soil and groundwater sampling. Detected two VOCs (benzene and xylenes), one SVOC (naphthalene), and one metal (silver) that exceed current action levels in soil mostly from DP-60. In groundwater, detected four VOCs (benzene, ethylbenzene, tetrachloroethene, and trichloroethene), four SVOCs (1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,4-dichlorobenzene and naphthalene) and one metal (arsenic) that exceed current action levels mostly from well SDW-005. These COCs were not confirmed during subsequent investigations.

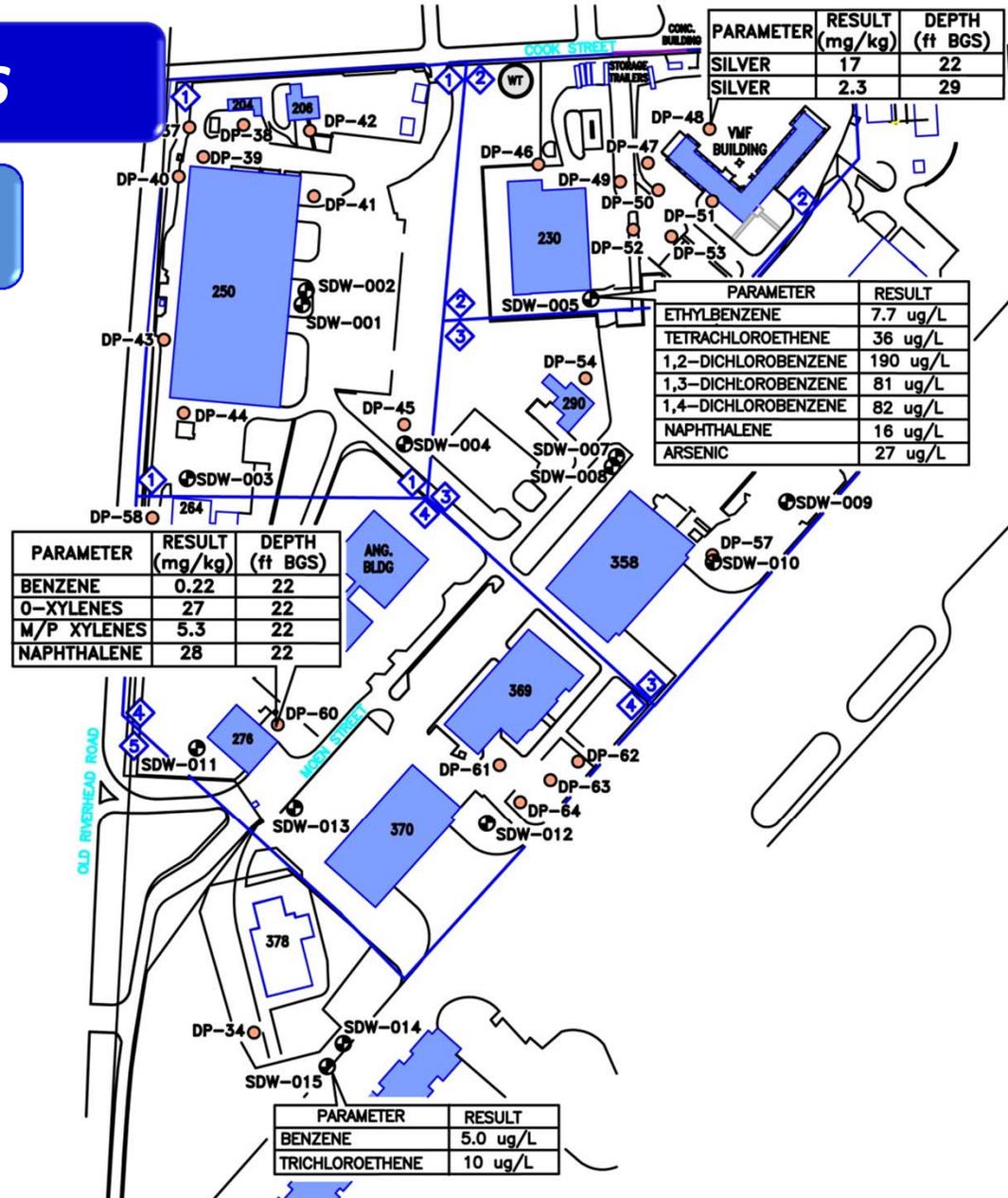
# 1994 SI Results

## Groundwater COCs

- Benzene at 5.0 µg/L (> 0.7 µg/L\*)
- Ethylbenzene 7.7 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- TCE at 10 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- PCE at 36 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- Naphthalene 16 µg/L (> 10 µg/L\*)
- 1,2-DCB at 190 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- 1,4-DCB at 82 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- 1,3-DCB at 81 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- Arsenic at 27 µg/L (> 25 µg/L\*)

## Soil COCs

- Benzene at 0.22 mg/kg (> 0.06 mg/kg\*)
- Xylenes at 27 mg/kg (> 0.26 mg/kg\*)
- Naphthalene at 28 mg/kg (> 12 mg/kg\*)
- Silver at 17 mg/kg (> 2 mg/kg\*)



\* **Action Levels** - Part 375 Soil Cleanup Objectives and New York State Class GA Groundwater Standards.



## *Investigation History for Site 8 (continued):*

- 1998 Remedial Investigation. Consisted of soil and groundwater sampling. One soil COC, benzo(a)anthracene (equal to current action level). Groundwater COCs detected at concentrations exceeding current action levels included ethylbenzene, xylenes, phenol and naphthalene and 4-methylphenol.

# 1998 RI Results

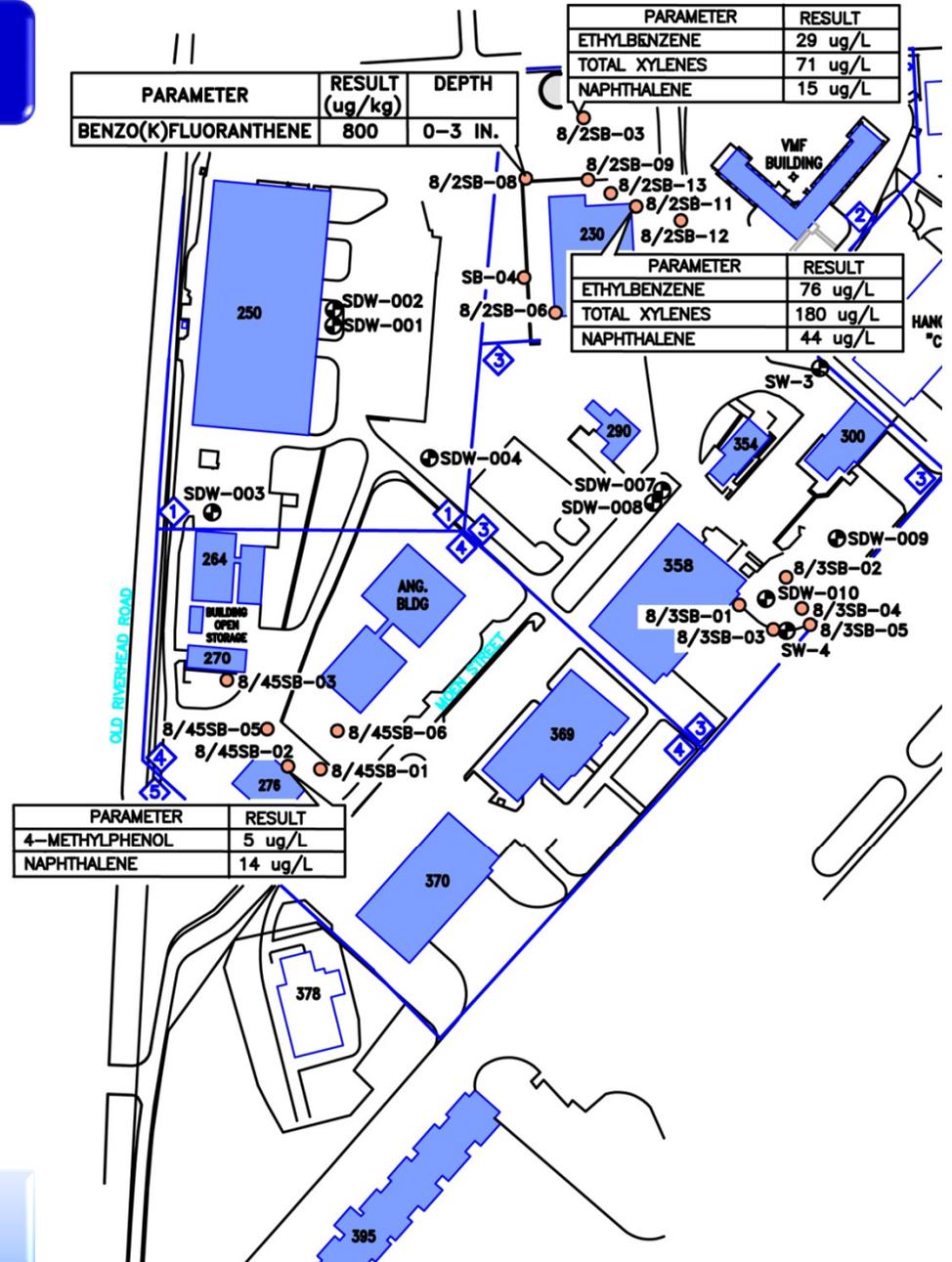
## Groundwater COCs

- Ethylbenzene at 76 µg/L (> 5.0 µg/L\*)
- Xylenes at 180 µg/L (> 5 µg/L\*)
- 4-Methylphenol at 5 µg/L (> 1 µg/L\*)
- Naphthalene 44 µg/L (> 10 µg/L\*)

## Soil COCs

- Benzo(k)fluroanthene at 800 mg/kg (= 800 mg/kg\*)

\***Action Levels** - Part 375 Soil Cleanup Objectives and New York State Class GA Groundwater Standards.





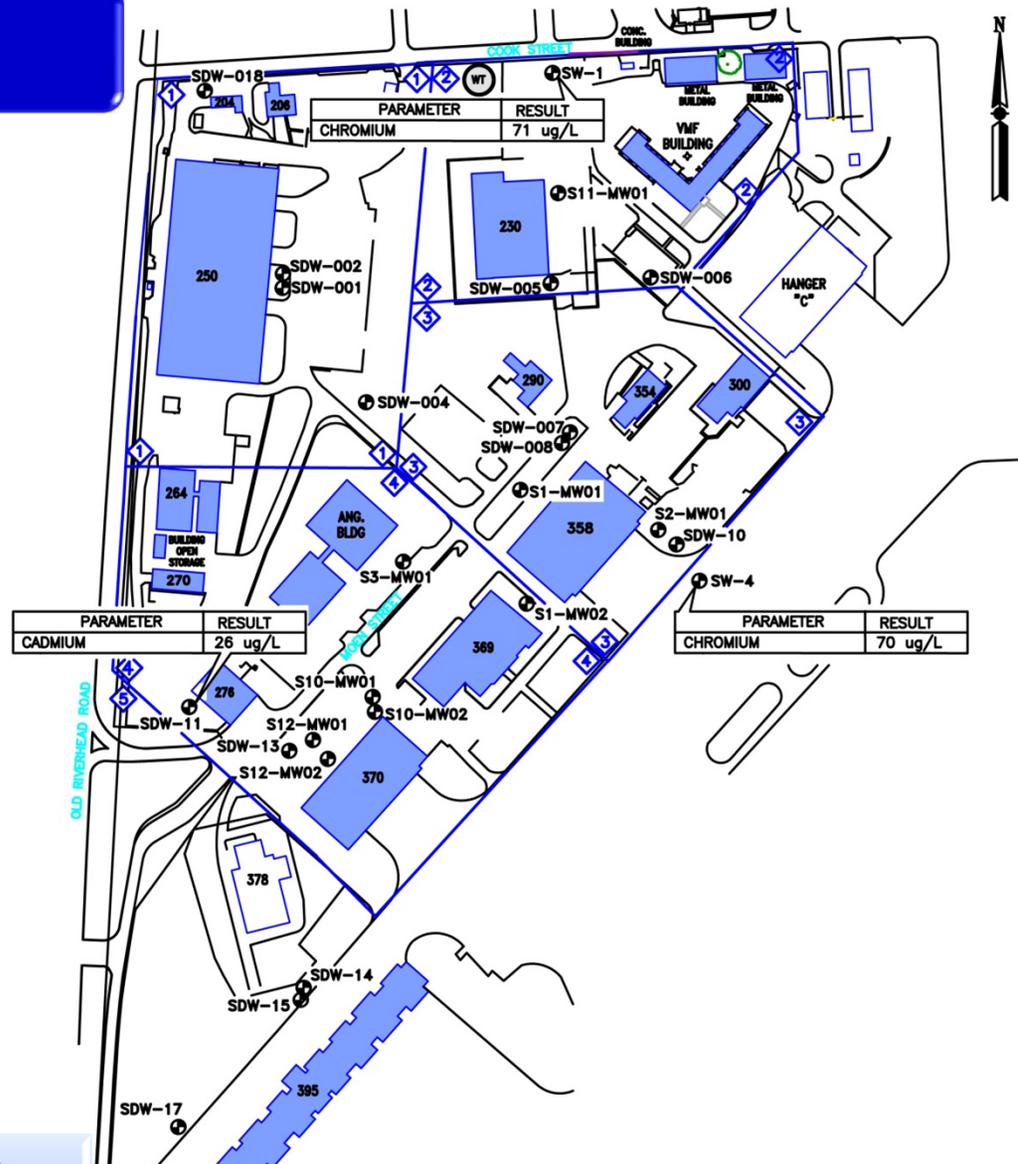
## *Investigation History for Site 8 (continued):*

- 2001 Remedial Investigation. Consisted of groundwater sampling. Two metals (cadmium and chromium) exceed the current action levels. Neither metal detected in downgradient wells. Report recommended removal of contents in septic system structures.

# 2001 RI Results

## Groundwater COCs

- Cadmium at 26  $\mu\text{g/L}$  ( $> 5.0 \mu\text{g/L}^*$ )
- Chromium at 71  $\mu\text{g/L}$  ( $> 50 \mu\text{g/L}^*$ )



\***Action Levels** – New York State Class GA Groundwater Standards. No soil samples were collected during the 2001 RI.



## *Investigation History for Site 8 (continued):*

- 2002 Septic System Remediation. Septic systems structures were remediated. Approximately 44,000-gallons of water, 158 yd<sup>3</sup> of sludge and 840 yd<sup>3</sup> of construction debris were removed and disposed of.
- 2005 Remedial Investigation. Conducted in response to state and county's requests to determine if soil or groundwater contamination existed at six of the subsites. Acetone and silver exceeded current action level in soil. Copper exceed action level in well (MW-009).

# 2005 RI Results

## Groundwater COCs

- Copper at 252 µg/L (> 200 µg/L\*)

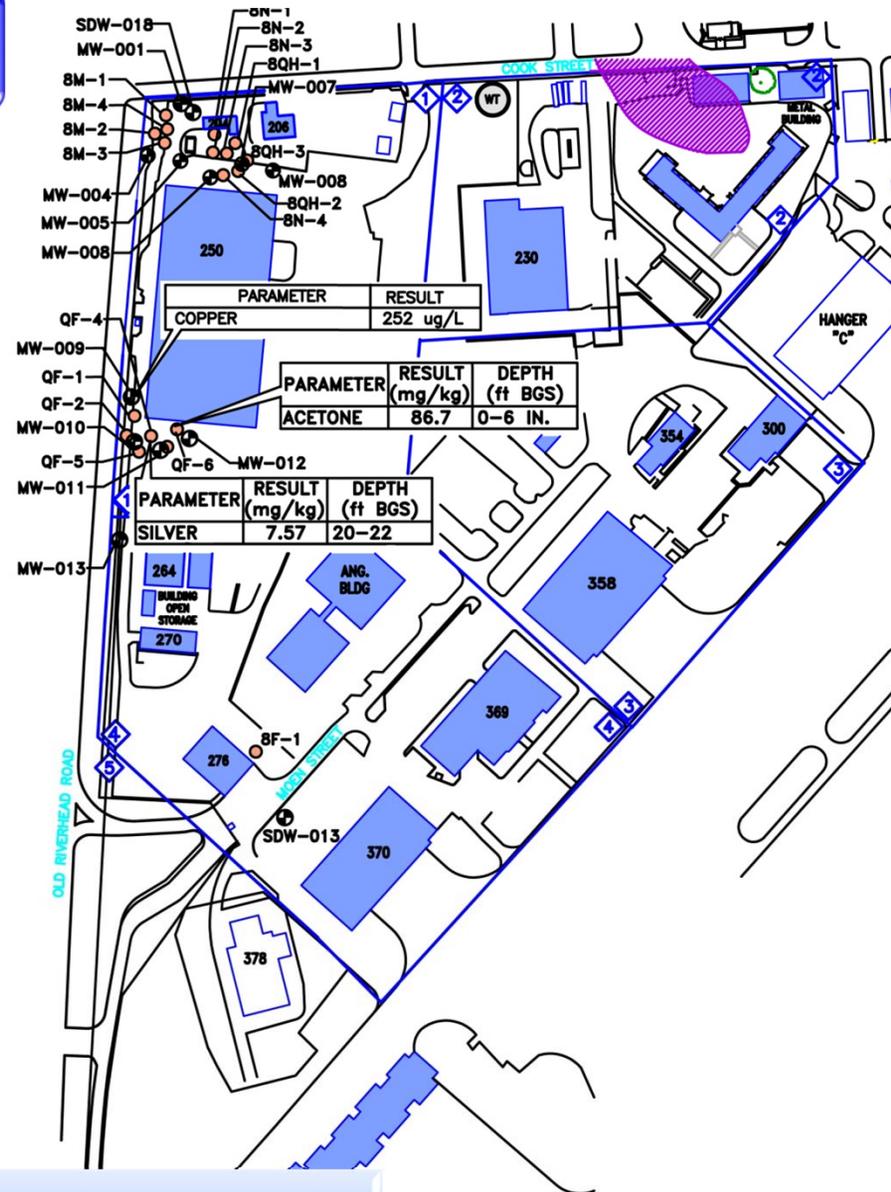
## Soil COCs

- Acetone at 86.7 mg/kg (> 50 mg/kg\*)
- Silver at 7.57 mg/kg (> 2 mg/kg\*)

## Additional Info

- Presence of Bauman Bus Plume confirmed within base boundary.
- Plume originates on County-Owned property.

\***Action Levels** - Part 375 Soil Cleanup Objectives and NYS Class GA Groundwater Standards.



## Site 8 Contaminant of Concern

Detected in Groundwater during the 2005 RI:

- Copper at 252 mg/kg (> 200 mg/kg\*)

Risks to Human Health and the Environment due to COC deemed negligible. The result did not exceed Federal Maximum Contaminant Level.



\***Action Level** - New York State Class GA Groundwater Standard.



## *Proposed Remedial Action for Site 8:*

- No Further Action with monitoring to confirm that groundwater at monitoring well MW-009 is not adversely impacted.
- The NYSDEC has concurred with the proposed alternative of No Further Action at Site 8.



## Upcoming Activities:

- Prepare Public Meeting Minutes.
- Prepare a Responsiveness Summary.
- Finalize the Site 8 Proposed Remedial Action Plan.



## For Information and Updates:

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## Administrative Record File Located At:

Westhampton Beach Free Library  
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(631) 288-3335