

Fact Sheet:

Former RCA Facility

1 Network Drive | Burlington, MA
(183 Bedford Street)

November 2016



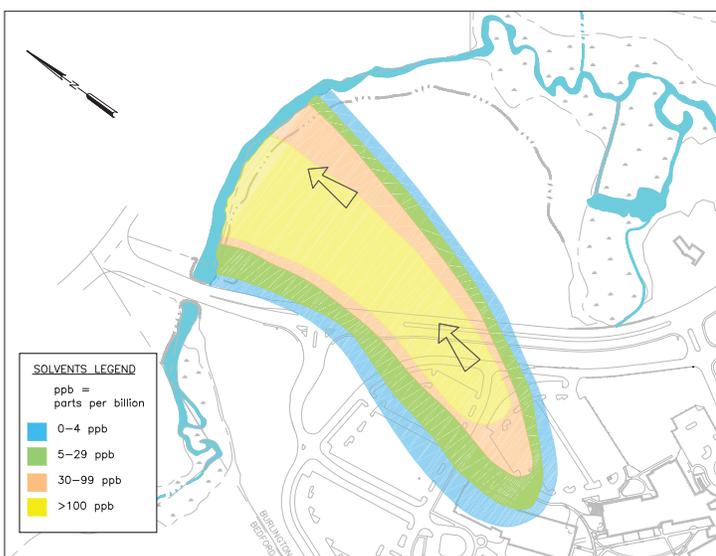
Background

Beginning in 1958, RCA, a Lockheed Martin-heritage company, produced and tested electronics on a 158-acre site at what is now 1 Network Drive in Burlington, MA. Lockheed Martin acquired the site in 1992 and sold it to Sun Microsystems in 1997. Sun subsequently developed the site as a corporate office park. Even after the sale, Lockheed Martin retained responsibility for environmental cleanup.

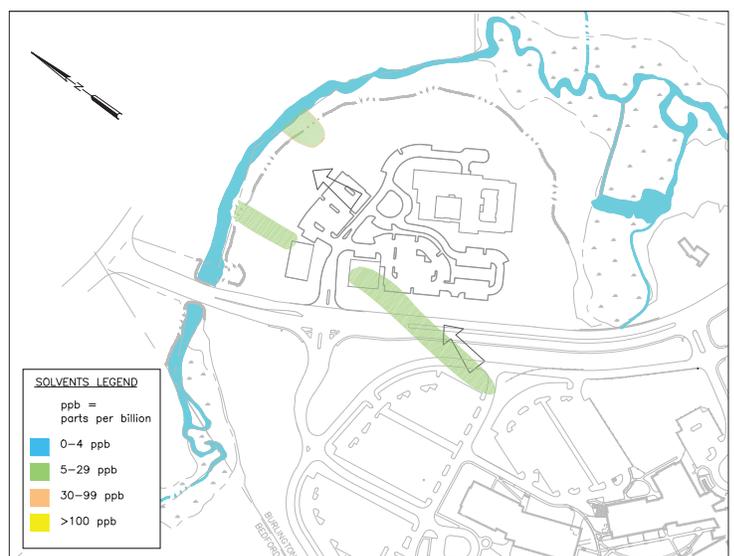
In the late 1970s, low levels of solvents (chlorinated volatile organic compounds) were found in the standby water supply well of a nearby municipality. In response, RCA investigated the 1 Network Drive site and found several sources of environmental impact as well as very low levels of solvents in a groundwater plume located in the northwest portion of the site. As a result, RCA undertook a number of cleanup actions beginning in the early 1980s.

Since Lockheed Martin acquired the site, all known sources of contamination have been removed:

- From 1997 to 1998, over 7,200 tons of soil, piping, concrete, contaminated sediments, debris and scrap metal, storage tanks and 18,000 gallons of sludge were removed.
- From 1999 to 2000, a fuel oil spill in the soil and groundwater below and near the Baxter House, an old farmhouse on the site, was cleaned up using a biological treatment.
- In 2002, sediments contaminated with metals—primarily chromium, nickel, lead and zinc— were removed from the Central Brook area and disposed at a licensed facility. The metals are believed to have come from the heritage company’s photo lab.
- Because the levels of the solvents in the groundwater plume were so low, in 1998 Lockheed Martin proposed, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection agreed, that the groundwater at the site should be allowed to clean itself naturally, through the process of natural attenuation. No further active cleanup was considered necessary.



TOTAL SOLVENTS MAY 1998



TOTAL SOLVENTS NOV 2014

These maps show how natural attenuation has reduced the contaminants in the groundwater plume at the Burlington site from 1998 to 2015. Lockheed Martin is optimistic that onsite groundwater will meet drinking water standards by 2020, and perhaps earlier. The groundwater plume is located from five- to 20-feet underground. (For comparison, one part per billion [ppb] is like a drop of ink in a swimming pool.)

Public Involvement Plan Site

In 1998, responding to community concerns, the state of Massachusetts designated the Network Drive site as a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) site under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). Working with the community and Sun Microsystems, Lockheed Martin developed and presented comprehensive cleanup and community outreach plans. All interested parties had the opportunity to provide input. At a public meeting in 2003, results of the site cleanup, including the Central Brook area, were presented. The report on the groundwater plume noted that the contaminant levels in the plume were declining, and that when they diminished to the point where they met drinking water standards, Lockheed Martin would submit a Permanent Solution, which would document that the site had met all cleanup requirements under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. When that document is submitted, an update will also be provided to the Board of Health and the community describing the results of the groundwater-monitoring program.

Today

Lockheed Martin's initial expectation in 2003 was that it could take 35 years for the groundwater to meet drinking water standards. A monitoring program was established to track the progress of the natural attenuation to reduce contamination. Since then, monitoring has revealed that the natural attenuation is proving more effective than anticipated.

As a result, the site's groundwater could meet drinking water standards faster than originally projected, perhaps as soon as 2020.

Additionally, in 2014 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection expanded its regulations for protecting inhabitants of buildings from the intrusion of contaminated vapors. The new regulations require evaluation of and protection from vapor intrusion, as necessary, for buildings near groundwater plumes. In 2013, while the regulations were being drafted, a new building was constructed on Greenleaf Way in the Network Drive development. As a precaution during construction, Lockheed Martin and the new building owner installed a vapor barrier beneath the building to block potential movement of any chemical vapors into the structure. A new monitoring well was also installed nearby to ensure compliance with the new Massachusetts standards for vapor intrusion.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has also published a new standard for the chlorinated solvent 1,4-dioxane. Due to this new standard and subsequent guidance, 1,4-dioxane is now a contaminant of interest, based on concentrations detected in groundwater sampling at the site in November 2014 and November 2015. Groundwater in the vicinity of the plume and the buildings continues to be sampled to ensure that chemicals of interest are dissipating and that the new standards are being met.



Current conditions in the restored wetlands near Central Brook where contaminated sediment was removed in 2002.