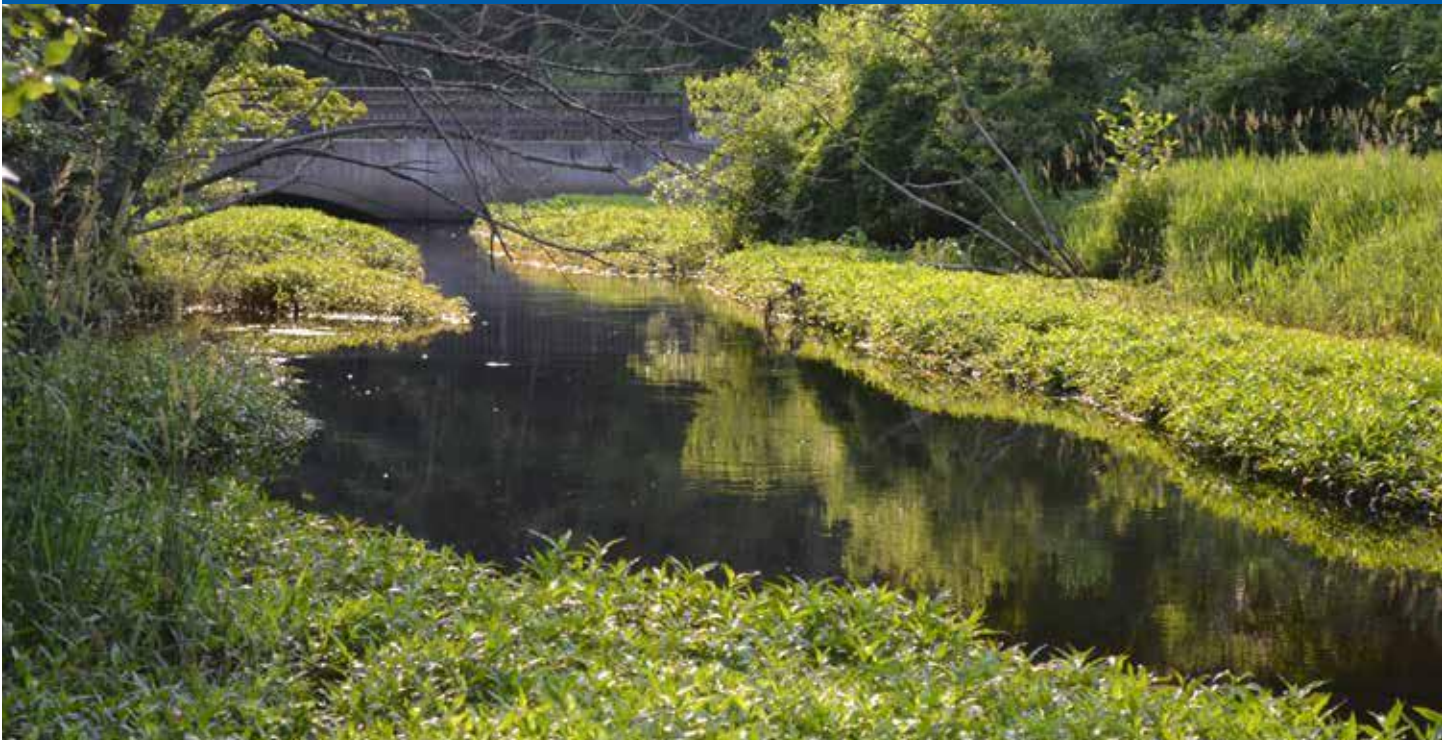




**Newsletter Update**  
Former RCA Facility  
1 Network Drive | Burlington, MA  
(183 Bedford Street)

*April 2016*



## You may recall ...

Prior to 1995, RCA, a Lockheed Martin heritage company, produced and tested electronics equipment on a 158-acre site at what is now 1 Network Drive in Burlington, MA. The site was sold to Sun Microsystems in 1997. Sun developed the site as a corporate office park.

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

Lockheed Martin is now responsible for cleanup of the Network Drive site. Since assuming responsibility, all known sources of contamination have been removed from the site. These include:

- In 1997 and 1998, 7,266 tons of soil, piping, concrete, sediments, debris and scrap metal, storage tanks and 18,000 gallons of sludge were removed.
- In 1999-2000 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.

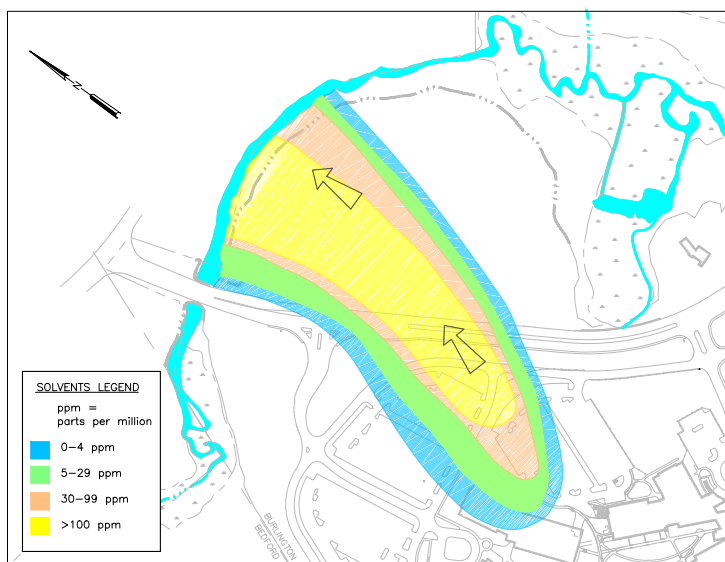


*Network Drive complex as it looks today.*

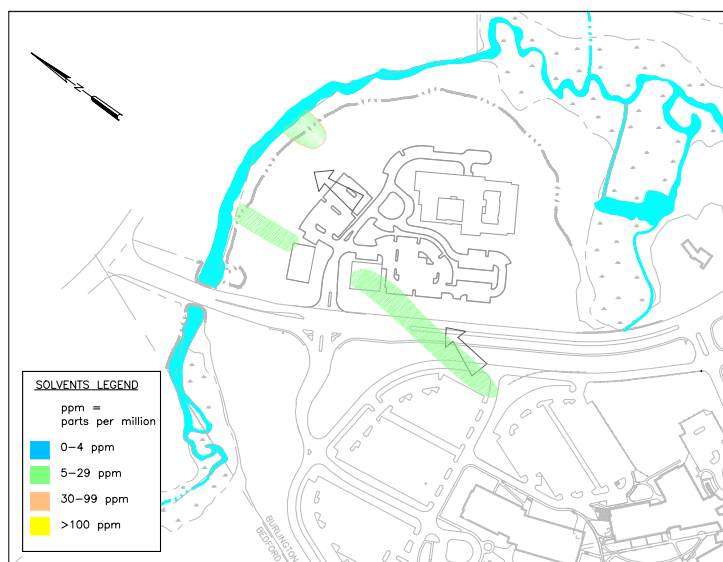
- In 2002 sediments contaminated with metals— primarily chromium, nickel, lead and zinc— were removed from the Central Brook area and disposed at a licensed facility. The metals are believed to have come from RCA's photo lab.

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 remediation was considered necessary.

In 1998, responding to community concerns, the state of Massachusetts designated the 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 remediation and outreach plans. All interested parties had the opportunity to provide input. At a



**TOTAL SOLVENTS MAY 1998**



**TOTAL SOLVENTS NOV 2014**

*These maps show how natural attenuation reduced the contaminants in the groundwater plume at the Burlington site from 1998 to 2014. Water quality has improved since that time, and we are optimistic that on-site groundwater will become acceptable – meeting drinking water standards – by 2020, and perhaps earlier. The groundwater plume is located from five to 20 feet underground. (For comparison, one part per million (ppm) is like a drop of ink in a 14-gallon sink.)*

public meeting in 2003 documents describing the cleanup of the different parts of the site and the Central Brook area were presented. The report for the groundwater plume noted that the contaminant levels in the plume are declining, and that when they diminish to the point where they meet drinking water standards, Lockheed Martin will submit a Response Action Outcome (RAO) statement, which will document that the site has met all cleanup requirements under the Massachusetts state rules. At that time an update will be provided to the Board of Health and the community to describe the results of the groundwater monitoring program.

## What else has happened?

The initial expectation in 2003 was that groundwater might not meet drinking water standards for up to 35 years, and a monitoring program was put in place to track the progress of natural attenuation. Monitoring in later years revealed that the natural processes were proving more effective than anticipated, and that at the observed rate of reduction, the site's groundwater may meet drinking water standards much sooner than originally projected, perhaps as soon as 2020.

In 2014 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection expanded its regulations for protecting inhabitants of buildings from the invasion of contaminated vapors. The new regulations require evaluation of and protection from vapor intrusion (as needed) 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. Even though the new building is greater than 15 feet vertically and 30 feet horizontally from the groundwater plume, as a precaution Lockheed Martin and the new building owner installed a barrier beneath the building to block the movement of any chemical vapors into the building. An additional monitoring well was installed nearby to ensure compliance with the new state standards. Groundwater in and around the vicinity of the plume and all the buildings continues to be sampled every November to ensure progress of attenuation and compliance with the new standards.

The maps on page 2 depict the improvements in water quality in the groundwater plume from 1998 to 2014.



*This photo shows current conditions in the restored wetlands area near Central Brook where contaminated sediment was removed in 2002.*

## Do you have questions?

More information on any of these activities can be obtained at the document repository at the Burlington Public Library.

If you have any questions or issues you would like to share regarding the environmental remediation activities at the former RCA site, please contact Bill Phelps, Communications Director, Lockheed Martin at 800-449-4486 or [william.phelps@lmco.com](mailto:william.phelps@lmco.com)



## Visit our website



Current and historical information on this project is available on the Lockheed Martin website. Visit the Lockheed Martin website at [www.lockheedmartin.com/burlington](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/burlington)