

# Fact Sheet for the Former GE Site 50 Fordham Road, Wilmington, MA

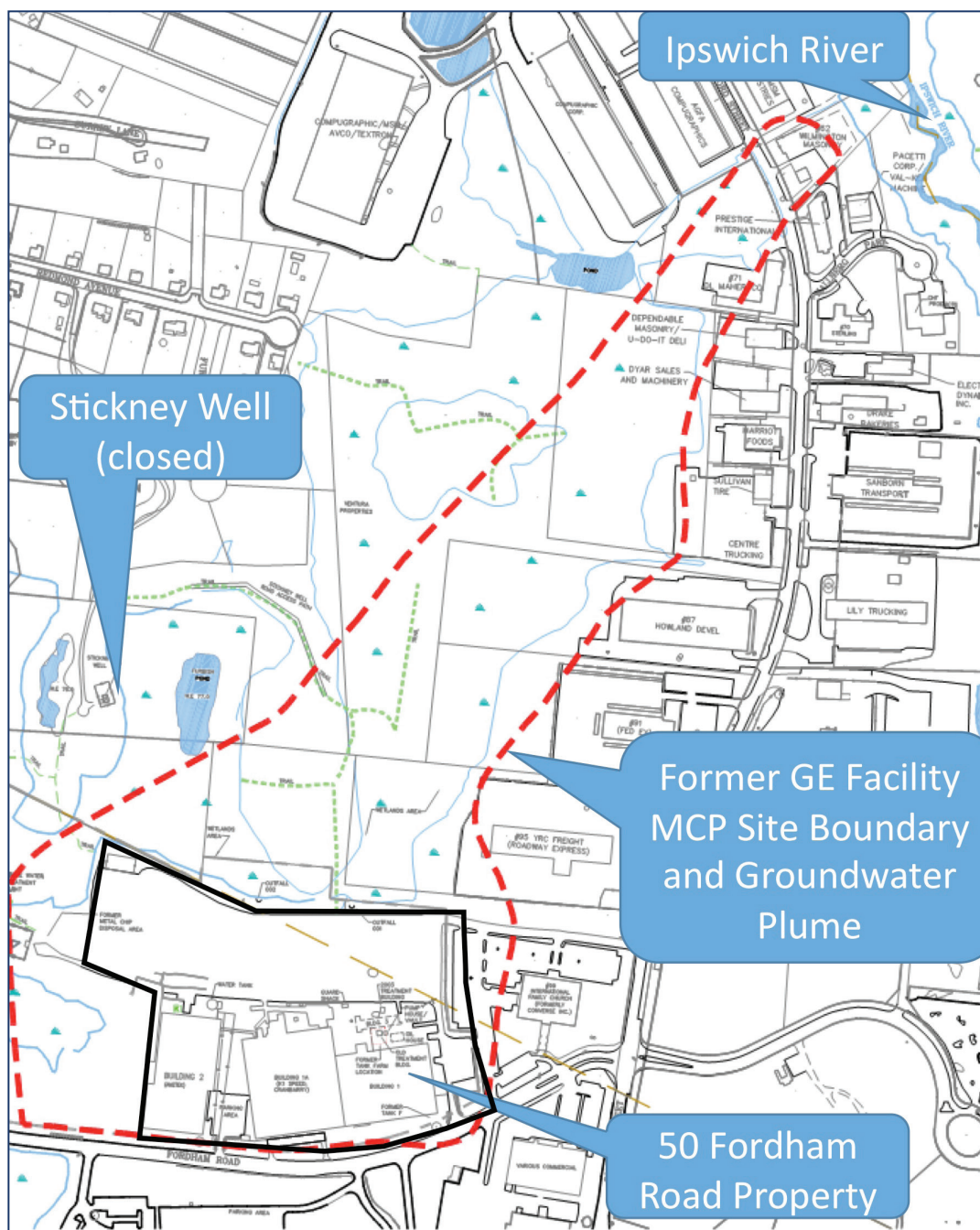
May 2022

## Site History

GE Aerospace's Instruments Control Systems Department operated from 1970 to 1989 at 50 Fordham Rd. in Wilmington, Massachusetts, which property it leased from Wilmington Realty Trust from 1969 to 1989. The 13-acre industrial park, currently owned by Hilco Redevelopment Partners, spans the towns of Wilmington and North Reading, Massachusetts. In 1986, a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) environmental investigation found that the Fordham Road site was the source of contaminants in the Stickney public water supply well. The well is 500 feet east of the site in North Reading. The well currently is inactive with no known plans to be used again.

The investigation noted four areas of concern at the industrial park:

- An underground storage tank farm near Building 1, which had leaked into groundwater chlorinated solvents used for degreasing
- The Eastern Parking Lot area, which had soil impacted by Stoddard solvent – a light oil – and chlorinated solvents



Groundwater plume and site boundary according to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP)





### Former GE Site

- Outfalls 1 and 2 in the site wetlands, which had high levels of metals in wetland soils
- An area near underground storage Tank K, which had high levels of gasoline in soil and groundwater

GE began cleaning up the site in 1986, removing two of the underground storage tanks. The cleanup effort removed six more tanks the following June, and one more in 1991. That year, GE also fixed the pipeline to the last underground storage tank, Tank E. GE began extracting and treating (pump and treat) groundwater in the tank farm area in 1992. At the same time, the corporation began removing oil and solvents

from the soil in the Eastern Parking Lot. Lockheed Martin predecessor Martin Marietta Corporation assumed responsibility for the cleanup in 1993, when it acquired certain businesses from GE. Groundwater in this area continues to be sampled for the presence of contaminants.

Lockheed Martin installed a soil-vapor extraction system in the Tank K area in November 2000 to remove the gasoline. Wetland soils containing high levels of metals near Outfalls 1 and 2 were cleaned up and restored in 2004. In 2002, a pump-and-treat system operating further east, at the edge

of the parking lot and the wetland, replaced the 1992 tank farm pump-and-treat system. The site team also injected an iron-based solution into the area to help break down the chlorinated solvents. Lockheed Martin shut down the second pump-and-treat system in 2008 to monitor the results of the iron-based solution. In 2011, Building 3 and the oil house at the site were demolished. Rubble from the removal was

appropriately recycled, and underlying solvent-impacted soil was removed and disposed of offsite at a licensed facility.

## Recent Site Activity

In 2013, Lockheed Martin proposed to MassDEP and the community that it use specific techniques to further investigate the extent, potential movement, and possible impact of the groundwater contaminants to human health and the environment. Upon MassDEP approval, Lockheed Martin installed additional monitoring wells around the site and in the wetlands east of the site in North Reading in 2014. The wells were installed into shallow and deep soil and the bedrock underneath. Lockheed Martin also installed wells in





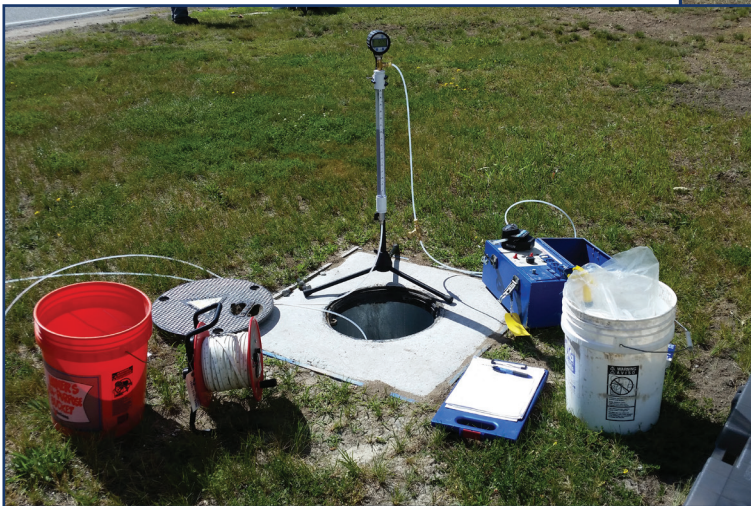
***Bldg1 – Treatment Shed – Former Source Area Onsite behind Building 1***



***Treatment Shed – Former Groundwater Remediation System Shed Onsite***

the Eastern Parking Lot and within Building 1 to learn more about the contaminants under the building. In addition, wells were installed along Concord Street to learn if the contamination was moving from the wetlands towards the Ipswich River.

During well installation, soil and rock samples were analyzed for contaminants. Lockheed Martin also studied boreholes to understand how contaminants might move through fractures in the bedrock. Using



***Gauging FLUTe Wells – Measuring depth to groundwater in FLUTe™ well***

this information, Lockheed Martin installed liners in each borehole to obtain groundwater samples at multiple levels.

These investigations helped Lockheed Martin develop a full understanding of the site and the potential risks for humans and the environments exposed to the contaminants. The investigations showed that while some contaminants remain in site groundwater, the contaminant plume is not moving and is shrinking. The risks to human health are limited because no one drinks the groundwater: most area residents use municipal water, and there are no private wells within the underground contamination plume. The investigations also

found no indoor air issues at the site. While some light oil contaminants remain under the Eastern Parking Lot, there is no direct way for humans to contact the contaminants under the pavement. Any excavation requires a soil management plan to mitigate potential exposures to contaminated soils.

Lockheed Martin's Phase II Report of May 2017 presents the foregoing findings. Based on the investigations' results, the corporation developed a Phase III Remedial Action Plan (RAP), which evaluated cleanup options for the contaminated groundwater beneath the Eastern Parking Lot. Lockheed



***Hydrogen sampling – Collecting samples for dissolved hydrogen analysis***



Martin chose to use monitored natural attenuation, which relies on natural processes to help clean up contaminants over time. The corporation also prepared a Temporary Solution Statement outlining a monitoring program until a Permanent Solution can be achieved.

Under the temporary solution, from 2017-2022, Lockheed Martin sampled groundwater from site monitoring wells every year to learn if the contamination was naturally decreasing. Contaminant concentrations and the total amount of contamination in groundwater have decreased. The overall contaminant area is stable and not increasing. In addition, Lockheed Martin monitored the light oil under the Eastern Parking Lot every quarter. This oil is not moving, and petroleum concentrations in shallow groundwater are decreasing.

As part of the required 5-Year Periodic Review, Lockheed Martin reviewed the Temporary Solution in May 2022 to learn if it could take any steps toward a permanent solution. The review did not find any new technologies that could feasibly achieve a permanent solution at this time. The contaminant concentration reductions and observed stability means the ongoing Temporary Solution (monitored natural attenuation) is an appropriate remedy for the site. The periodic review also showed that over the last five years, risks to humans or the environment are acceptable under current conditions, constituting a No Substantial Hazard condition.

Over the next five years, from 2022 to 2027, Lockheed Martin will document monitoring well results in publicly available status reports every six months.

## Public Involvement

In November 1999, private citizens petitioned the MassDEP to designate the 50 Fordham Rd. site as a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) site under state law. Lockheed Martin partnered with the agency to hold public meetings in April 2000 to explain cleanup plans and work-to-date at the Fordham Road site. The site team provided an update on cleanup activities in May 2006. In December 2013, the site team held a public meeting about cleanup progress. On Sept. 3, 2015, Lockheed Martin held another public meeting to present the next phase of planned site activities.

Lockheed Martin held a public meeting on May 11, 2017, to inform the community about the most current work at the Fordham Road site through May 2017. No further public meetings have occurred or are planned, unless conditions change. The public is periodically updated through mailings and fact sheets such as this one.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Lockheed Martin Communications at 800-449-4486 or [Adriane.Tish@lmco.com](mailto:Adriane.Tish@lmco.com).

More information about this site is on the Lockheed Martin site-specific website: [www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington).

You can view the site files in the following ways:

- Visit the Lockheed Martin site-specific website: [www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington)
- Visit the MassDEP website: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>
  - In the RTN box, type “3-0000518” and click Search
  - Click on 3-0000518
  - Click on Supporting Documents to access and view historical site reports

Call MassDEP at 978-694-3320 to review the files in person at the MassDEP Northwest Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887; calling first is recommended.

Visit the designated public file viewing location in the Flint Memorial (N. Reading) Library, 147 Park Street, North Reading, MA (Main Phone: 781-664-4942)