

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

May 2017

## Site History

GE Aerospace operated its Aerospace Instruments Control Systems Department from 1970 to 1989 at 50 Fordham Road in Wilmington, Massachusetts. The 13-acre industrial park spans the towns of Wilmington and North Reading. GE sold the property to Wilmington Realty Trust in 1989, but retained responsibility for any environmental cleanup

associated with the site. Lockheed Martin acquired the site in 1993. While the corporation no longer owns the site, it retains responsibility for environmental cleanup associated with the former GE Aerospace business.

In 1986, an environmental investigation by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) identified the Fordham Road site as the source of the contaminants in the Stickney Well public water supply. The well was located 500 feet east of the site in North Reading.

Four areas of concern were identified at the industrial park:

- an underground storage tank farm located close to Building 1, which included a groundwater plume containing chlorinated solvents;
- the Eastern Parking Lot area, which included soil impacted by Stoddard solvent, which is a light oil, and chlorinated solvents;
- Outfalls 1 and 2 in the wetlands at the site, which included elevated levels of metals; and
- an area near underground storage Tank K, which contained high levels of gasoline.

GE began cleaning up the site in 1986 by removing two of the underground storage tanks. Six more were removed the following June, and one more in 1991. The pipeline to the last remaining underground storage tank, Tank E, was also repaired that year. GE began collecting and treating 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. Groundwater in this area continues to be monitored.

Lockheed Martin installed a soil-vapor extraction system in the Tank K area in November 2000 to remove the gasoline. Wetlands near Outfalls 1 and 2 were cleaned up and restored in 2004. In 2002, the Tank Farm pump-and-treat system was shut down and replaced by a pump-and-treat system operating further east, at the edge of the parking lot and the wetland. This operation was augmented by injections of a specialized iron solution to degrade the chlorinated solvents. The second pump-and-treat system was shut down in 2008. 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 also removed and disposed of offsite at a licensed facility.

## Recent Site Activity

In 2013, Lockheed Martin proposed to MassDEP and the community that the corporation use specialized techniques to further investigate the extent, potential movement and possible impact of the contaminants to human health and the environment. The proposal was approved, and Lockheed Martin installed additional monitoring wells in a number of locations on site and in the wetlands east of the site in North Reading in 2014. These wells were installed into shallow and deep soil and underlying bedrock. Additional wells were installed in the Eastern Parking Lot and within Building 1 to further evaluate contaminants beneath the building. Wells were also installed into the bedrock along Concord Street to assess potential plume movement from the wetlands toward the Ipswich River.



*Drill rig drilling in the wetland.*



*Drilling was performed inside Building 1 to further evaluate the source of contaminants beneath the building.*

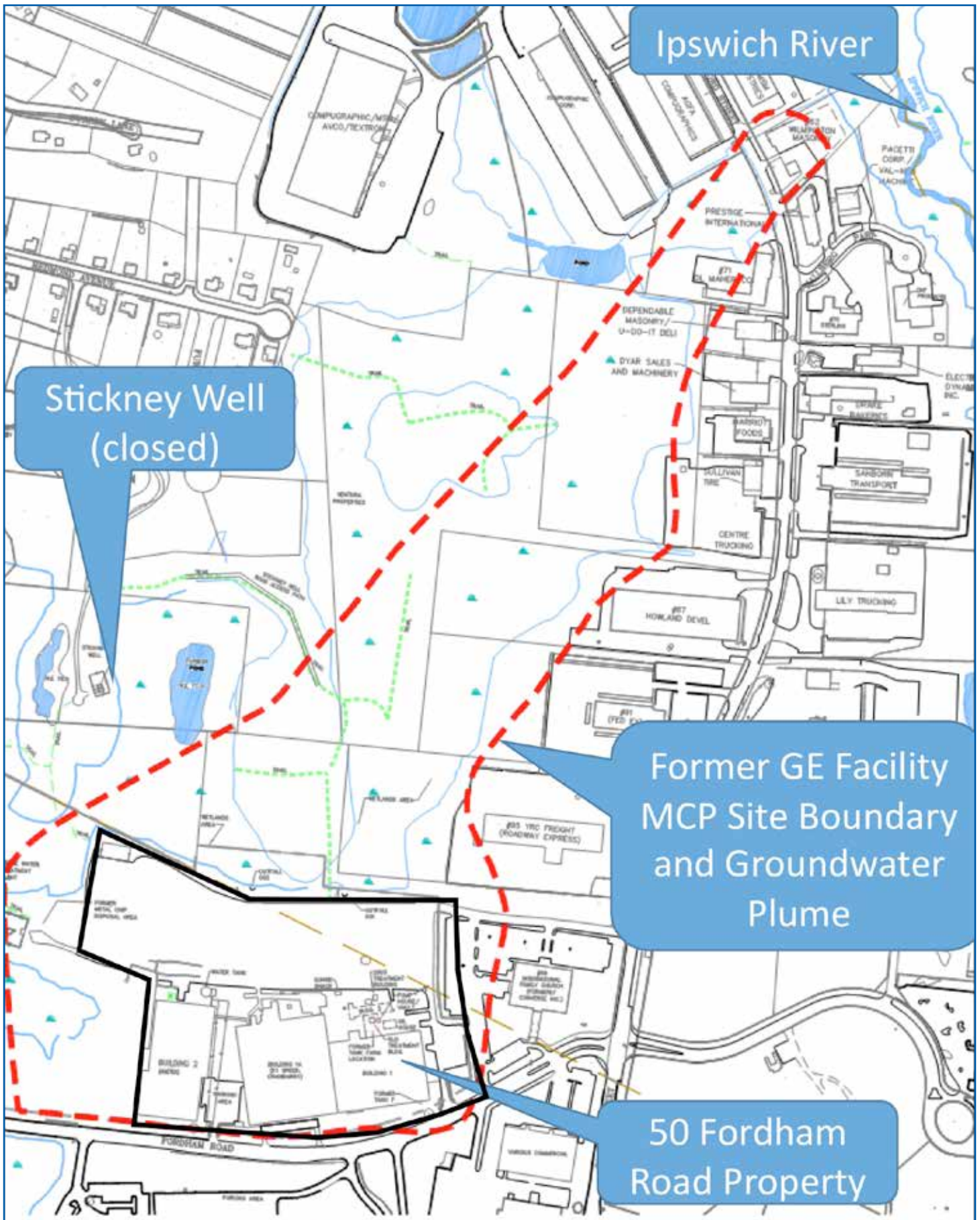


*Liners were installed in bore holes to obtain groundwater samples at multiple levels.*

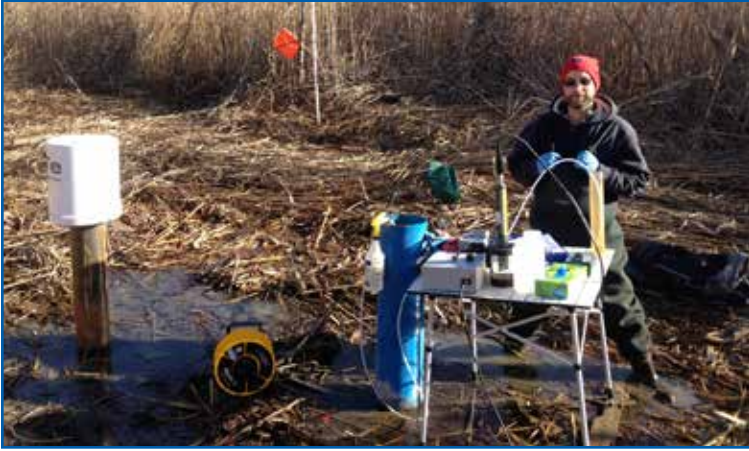
During installation of some of these wells, soil and rock samples were analyzed for contaminants. Boreholes were also studied to understand how contaminants might move through the complex fractures in the bedrock. Using this information, Lockheed Martin installed specially designed flexible liners within each borehole to obtain groundwater samples at multiple levels.

These investigations helped Lockheed Martin develop a comprehensive understanding of the site and the potential risks for human and environmental exposure to existing contaminants. The investigations revealed that while some contaminants remain in the groundwater at the site, the contaminant plume is stable and shrinking. Risks are limited because no one drinks the groundwater: most residents in the area use municipal water, and private wells are not in areas where the plume is located. The investigations also

*continued on page 4*



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



*Groundwater sampling performed in the wetland.*

determined that there are no indoor air issues at the site. While some light oil contaminants remain under the Eastern Parking Lot, there is no current pathway for human contact and excavations would require a soil management plan.

These findings are presented in Lockheed Martin's Phase II Report of May 2017. Based on these results, the corporation developed a Phase III Remedial Action Plan (RAP) which evaluated cleanup options for the groundwater plume and contaminants beneath the Eastern Parking Lot. The chosen strategy includes monitored natural attenuation, a method that relies on natural processes to help clean up contaminants over time. Finally, Lockheed Martin prepared a Temporary Solution Statement outlining the corporation's monitoring program until a permanent solution can be achieved. Under the Temporary Solution, Lockheed Martin will collect groundwater from its monitoring wells annually to assess the natural attenuation of the contaminant plume. The light oil contaminant under the Eastern Parking Lot will also be monitored quarterly to ensure that it does not travel.



*A network of wells exists, both upland and, as shown, in the wetlands*

The Temporary Solution will be re-evaluated in five years to examine definitive and enterprising steps that could allow for a permanent solution. Over the next five years, monitoring results will be documented in status reports every six months and will be made available for public review.

## Public Involvement

In November 1999, private citizens petitioned the MassDEP to have the 50 Fordham Road site designated as a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) site in accordance with state law. Lockheed Martin partnered with the agency to hold public meetings in April 2000 to explain cleanup plans and work that had been accomplished to date at the Fordham Road site. An update on cleanup activities was distributed in May 2006, and a public meeting was held in December 2013 to discuss those activities. On September 3, 2015, an additional public meeting was held to present the next phase of planned investigations at the site.

A public meeting is planned for May 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the North Reading Town Hall, Room 14, to inform the community about the most current work at the Fordham Road site. A 20-day public comment period will begin at that time, continuing until May 31, 2017.

Comments may be provided to the address below:  
Daniel W. Folan, PhD, Licensed Site Professional  
AECOM, 250 Apollo Drive, Chelmsford, MA 01824  
(978) 905-2100, dan.folan@aecom.com

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mékell Mikell, Lockheed Martin Communications Representative, at 800-449-4486 or Mekell.T.Mikell@lmco.com.

Additional information about this site can be found on the Lockheed Martin site-specific website located at [www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington).

The site files can be viewed at:

- The Lockheed Martin website [www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/wilmington)
- The MassDEP website using RTN3-0518 at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites2/Search.aspx>
- At MassDEP, Northwest Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887; Main Phone: 978-694-3200; the direct phone number to conduct a file review is: 978-694-3320.
- At the designated public repository established in the Flint Memorial (N. Reading) Library, 147 Park Street, North Reading, MA Main Phone: 781-664-4942