



December 19, 2008

ALDEN STREET TOLUENE INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Dear Maplewood Resident:

Saint-Gobain Abrasives (Saint-Gobain) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have been conducting an investigation to determine whether contaminants remain from an historic spill of toluene. Toluene is an organic solvent that was previously found in ground-water samples collected in the vicinity of Alden Street. A fact sheet about toluene prepared by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the NYSDEC, and Saint-Gobain was sent to you as part of a previous mailing.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the status of the investigation and share the findings of the investigation. Also, a list of contacts is included should you have any questions.

Background:

The source of the toluene detected in the vicinity of Alden Street is believed to be from a spill that occurred in 1969 at a former tape manufacturing plant. The site was previously known as the Norton, Nashua, or Kendall Site and is located just south of Alden Street in Watervliet. From the mid-1930s until 1974, the Norton Company manufactured adhesive tape at the site and used toluene as a solvent in the production process. Norton sold the tape plant to the Nashua Corporation in 1974, and Nashua continued to manufacture tapes at the facility until the mid-1990s. Production was stopped in 1997 and the facility was closed. A warehouse is on the site today. Toluene has not been used at the site since manufacturing operations stopped in 1997.

Saint-Gobain, which acquired the Norton Company in 1990, has a plant in Watervliet at 2600 Tenth Avenue. That facility does not use toluene, and was not the source of the toluene that was detected in the vicinity of Alden Street. In 2002, Saint-Gobain entered into an agreement with the NYSDEC to investigate the past release at the former Norton Site.

In August 2004, toluene was found in a groundwater sample collected along Alden Street. Residents in the immediate area were informed of the results by the NYSDOH and the Albany County Department of Health. Additional sampling was done to determine if the toluene impacted the soil, soil vapor, and ground water in the area.



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Additional Work:

As depicted on Figure 1, over 20 borings and wells were installed north of Alden Street from which soil, soil vapor, and ground-water samples were collected.

Soil Results

Toluene concentrations in soil are presented on Figure 1. The units of concentration are micrograms per kilogram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$). For reference, one $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ is approximately equal to one part of toluene in one billion parts of soil. The NYSDEC soil cleanup objective for toluene is 1,500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. "ND" means no toluene was detected at that location.

Field screening of soil samples did not detect any toluene in soil shallower than 9 to 10 feet. The area of toluene impact (red dots on Figure 1) was primarily along a narrow band extending north from Alden Street towards Craig Street. Laboratory analysis indicated toluene was present in soil samples 7 to 22 feet deep (i.e., samples collected at or below the water table, which is approximately 9 to 10 feet deep). No toluene was detected in the soil samples collected along Craig Street.

Soil Vapor/Indoor Air Results

There was no evidence of toluene vapors migrating from the deep soil and ground water into the homes or into the soil beneath the homes. Indoor and outdoor samples were collected as part of the investigation.

The investigation included the collection of indoor air samples at three residences along Alden Street. The results showed that there were no elevated toluene levels in any of the three homes. Toluene concentrations in basements and first floors ranged from 1.8 to 7.6 micrograms per cubic meter of air (ug/m^3). According to state-wide studies by the NYSDOH, toluene is typically found in indoor air at levels between 4 and 25 ug/m^3 . The toluene concentrations detected in these indoor air samples fall within, or below, the levels routinely found in homes in New York State. Toluene is also present in many common household products, and small amounts can be expected to be found in the air in most homes.

Outdoor air was also tested and found to contain 2.4 ug/m^3 of toluene. This was also below the normal background levels.

Based on these results the NYSDOH will not require further indoor air testing unless conditions change.



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Ground-Water Results

Ground-water samples were collected from several locations and toluene concentrations are presented on Figure 2. The concentrations are shown in units of micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). For reference, one $\mu\text{g/L}$ is approximately equal to one part of toluene in one billion parts of water. The NYSDEC ground-water cleanup objective for toluene is 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$. "ND" means no toluene was detected at that location

Toluene was detected at 16 of the 34 ground-water sampling locations in a band similar to the deep soil results, extending north from Alden Street to a single location on Craig Street. Toluene concentrations have generally decreased with time, and the decreasing trend is expected to continue because toluene naturally degrades in soil and ground water.

Investigation Summary

The results of the soil and ground-water sampling program show that there is a limited area of dissolved toluene extending north from Alden Street to Craig Street in a narrow band. Soil and ground-water samples collected a short distance to the east and west of this area did not contain toluene. With the exception of one ground-water sampling location, soil and ground-water samples collected along Craig Street did not contain toluene. Therefore, the area of soil and ground water impacted by toluene has been defined and the investigation phase of this project is complete. Regularly scheduled ground-water monitoring will continue to ensure that there is no change in conditions.

Questions & Answers

Is the toluene that was detected in the soil and ground-water samples as part of the Alden Street investigation a concern?

There are three possible pathways for potential exposure to toluene from impacted soil and groundwater:

- 1) via toluene vapors migrating into a residence;
- 2) by drinking ground-water containing dissolved toluene; and
- 3) by coming into direct contact with toluene present in the soil.

Each of the potential pathways listed above is discussed in detail below.

Can toluene get into my house? Is toluene in indoor air a concern?

If toluene is present in the soil and/or ground water beneath a residence, it is possible that vapors could enter the home through cracks in the slab or basement floor and through openings where pipes and wires penetrate the foundation. It should be noted that low levels of toluene are often present in indoor air at residences due to the storage of household products and chemicals, such as paints, glues, and/or fuels.



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As part of the current investigation, indoor air samples were collected from the three homes on Alden Street (see Figure 1) that are closest to the locations where toluene was detected in the deep soil and/or ground water. At each of the three residences, air/vapor samples were collected from the first floor, basement, and below the basement floor (or from an outside location at a similar depth). The toluene concentrations present in all of the samples were within the background range based on other indoor air studies conducted in New York State. There was no evidence of migration of toluene vapors from the deep soil and ground water into the homes or into the soil beneath the residences. Therefore, the NYSDEC and NYSDOH have determined that no further investigation of indoor air is required at this time, unless conditions change.

Is my drinking water affected by toluene?

Drinking water is supplied to the Maplewood Area via the public water system and not local ground water. Therefore, the toluene detected near Alden Street has no effect on your drinking water. Additionally, a local ordinance prohibits the use of potable (drinking) water wells at any residence in the Town of Colonie served by municipal water. There are no known private drinking water wells in the Maplewood Area.

As part of the current investigation, water samples were collected from a shallow "garden" well located south of Craig Street. Toluene was not detected in the ground-water sample collected from this well. If you have a "garden" well (or know of a neighbor who does), please contact Saint-Gobain or the NYSDEC. As a precautionary measure only, arrangements will be made to test the well for toluene at no cost to you.

Is the toluene detected in some deep soil samples a concern?

Toluene was not detected in the majority of the soil samples analyzed during the current investigation. Only one soil sample had toluene concentrations that exceeded the NYSDEC soil clean-up objective. It is important to emphasize that toluene was only detected in soil samples collected at or below the water table (approximately nine to ten feet below the ground surface). There is no evidence that toluene impacted the shallow soil depths, i.e., above nine to ten feet. Nonetheless, if you plan to dig in the investigation area to a depth of six feet or more, please contact Saint-Gobain or the NYSDEC. As a precautionary measure only, arrangements will be made to test the soil for toluene at no cost to you.



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What happens next?

The investigation phase of the project is now complete. The next step will be to complete a Corrective Measures Selection (CMS) Study to determine what type(s) of cleanup measures will be used to address the areas where toluene is present. Additional testing may be necessary to determine the effectiveness of selected cleanup measures.

The CMS work plan is currently under review by NYSDEC. After it is approved by the NYSDEC, and any testing is completed, a summary of the results will be presented in the CMS Report. You will receive another update when the CMS Report is available for public review and comment.

After the CMS Report is approved by the NYSDEC, the cleanup measures will be completed. In the meantime, groundwater will be sampled on a regular basis to ensure that there is no change in conditions.

Whom can I contact if I have comments or other questions? Where can I get more information?

We want to continue to share information on this project with you, and will do that in several ways.

- 1) Reports presenting the results of sampling studies completed to date are available at:

Watervliet Public Library

1501 Broadway

Hours are: Noon – 8 PM Monday – Thursday and Noon – 4 PM Friday

Ask to see the Maplewood ground-water project reports.

- 2) You will receive a notification letter when the CMS Report discussed above is available at the Maplewood Library for your review and comment.
- 3) You may contact the following people directly to provide comments or get answers your questions:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Alicia Barraza

518-402-8594



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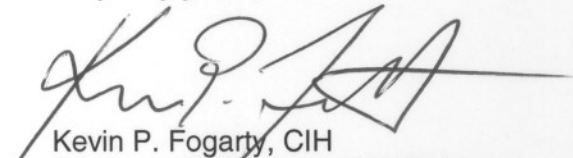
NYS Department of Health
Charlotte Bethoney
518-402-7860

Albany County Department of Health
Ronald L. Groves, P.E.
518-447-4580

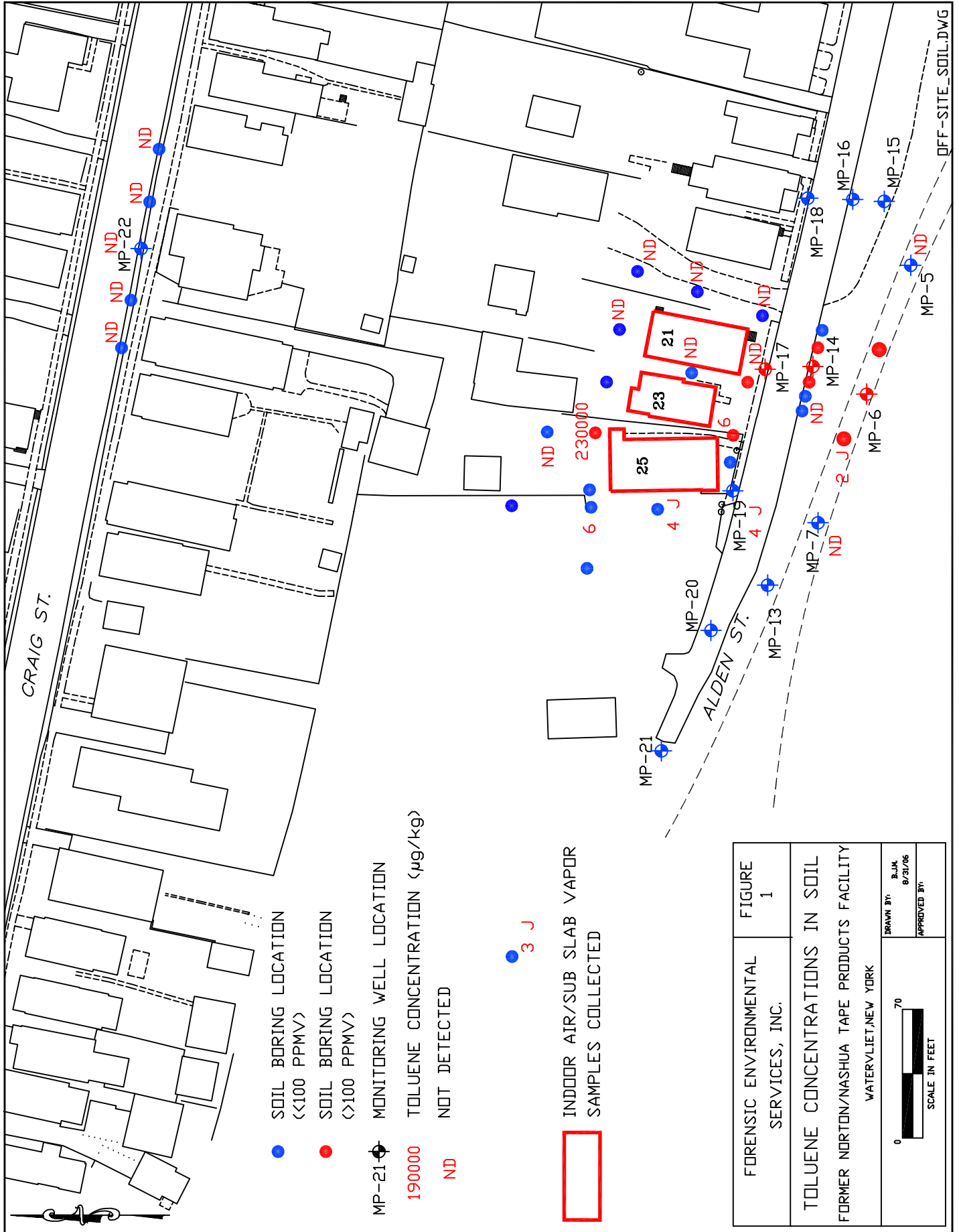
Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc.
Kevin Fogarty, CIH
508-795-5860

Saint-Gobain will continue to keep you informed of any important developments as work on this project progresses.

Very truly yours,



Kevin P. Fogarty, CIH
Manager, Environmental & Safety




- SOIL BORING LOCATION
<<100 PPMV
- SOIL BORING LOCATION
>100 PPMV

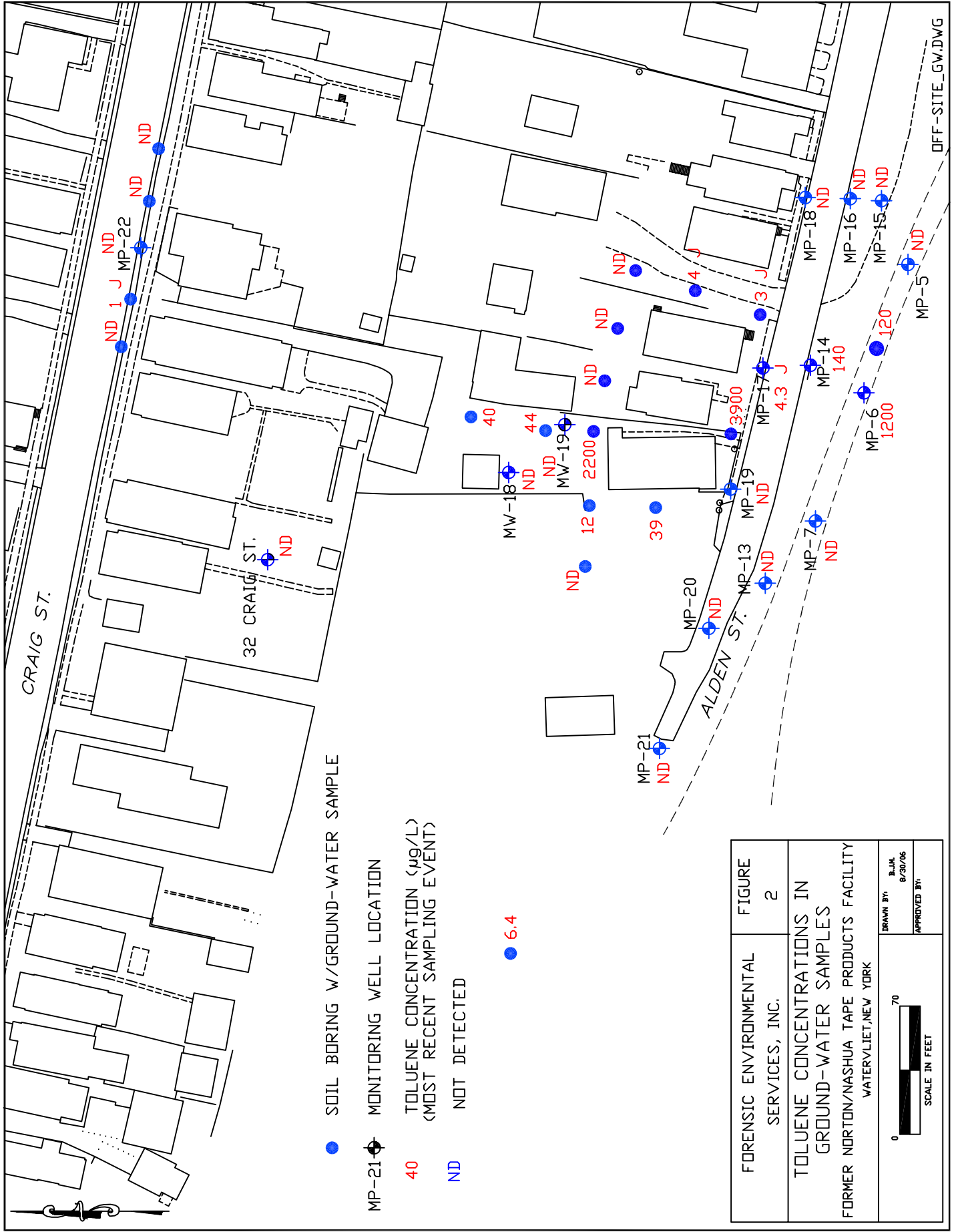
- MP-21 ● MONITORING WELL LOCATION
- 190000 TOLUENE CONCENTRATION (µg/kg)
- ND NOT DETECTED


● 3 J

INDOOR AIR/SUB SLAB VAPOR
SAMPLES COLLECTED



FORENSIC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.	FIGURE 1
TOLUENE CONCENTRATIONS IN SOIL	
FORMER NORTON/NASHUA TAPE PRODUCTS FACILITY	
WATERVLIET, NEW YORK	
0  70	DRAWN BY: B. JIM 9/31/06
	APPROVED BY:



FORENSIC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.	FIGURE 2
TOLUENE CONCENTRATIONS IN GROUND-WATER SAMPLES	
FORMER NORTON/NASHUA TAPE PRODUCTS FACILITY WATERVLIET, NEW YORK	
0  70 SCALE IN FEET	DRAWN BY: B. J.H. 9/30/06
	APPROVED BY: