NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Public Meeting Invitation

Tuesday,
February 13, 2007
7:00 p.m.

City Hall
61 Church Street
Amsterdam, New York

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed remedy for the Ward Products site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will:

- Describe results of the site investigations
- Explain the proposed remedy
- Answer your questions about the remedy
- Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

From: February 2, 2007
To: March 3, 2007

FACT SHEET

February 2007

WARD PRODUCTS SITE
SITE No. 429004
61 Edson Street,
Amsterdam, New York

Remedy Proposed for the Ward Products Site

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Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a remedy designed to address contamination identified at the Ward Products site in Amsterdam, New York *(see location maps on pages 5 and 6).*

The Proposed Action: Highlights of the proposed remedy include treating the contaminated water in the bedrock with chemicals, supplemented by pumping and treating the groundwater. Contaminated sediments would be excavated and disposed off-site. An environmental easement would be placed on the property restricting groundwater use and requiring a site management plan. The existing system which lowers the air pressure beneath the building slab would continue operating whenever the Ward Products building is occupied. This proposal is described in the site's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP was developed following a detailed investigation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different options to clean up the site and presents the alternative preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

See pages 2 and 3 of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed on page 4.

Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy: Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site. Your comment and input about the proposed remedy are important and encouraged.

Your oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until March 3, 2007. Written comments also may be mailed until the end of the comment period to:

Lawrence J. Alden
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7013

What Happens Next: All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the Ward Products site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the Record of Decision which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. NYSDEC will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the Record of Decision.

Site History

The facility was constructed in 1957 and occupied by the Gabriel Corporation, which manufactured antennas. Ward Products purchased Gabriel's operation in 1959. As part of the manufacturing process, small metal parts were cleaned with solvents (vapor degreasing) prior to electroplating.

Between 1957 and 1973, untreated electroplating bath solutions were discharged to the nearby drainage ditch east of the Ward Products building. From 1973 through 1985, Ward pretreated some plating solutions and dried the resulting sludge on an outdoor concrete pad prior to removal for off-site disposal. The spent plating solution was discharged to an outdoor tank for both natural and mechanical evaporation, with off-site disposal of the remaining sludges.

Ward Products connected to Amsterdam's sewer system in 1983 and discontinued the vapor degreasing system. In 1985, all electroplating operations ended at the site.

Site Investigation

Soil samples were collected from extensive areas of the Ward Property from both the surface and subsurface. Surface water samples were collected from the intermittent drainage, and sediment samples were collected from the site down to the Mohawk River, located over 3,000 feet away. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed and sampled, and the quality of the air inside the Ward Products building was tested. The groundwater was found to be contaminated with chromium and solvents. Soil and stream sediments were found to contain high levels of electroplating metals.

Interim Remedial Measures

An interim remedial measure (IRM) is conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before completion of the investigation of the site.

In 1997, Ward Products removed thirty cubic yards of contaminated soil stockpiled during a plant expansion in 1988-89. This soil contained high concentrations of cadmium and other electroplating-related metals.

In 1999, fifteen cubic yards of soil were excavated from next to the Ward Products building in the vicinity of the fenced-in transformers. This soil contained low concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as well as electroplating metals.

Examination of the inside of the main outflow pipe revealed sediment deposits which contained significantly elevated metals and solvent concentrations. This sediment was removed in an IRM performed in 2000.

Seven hundred tons of contaminated soil around the Ward Products building and 350 tons of sediments from the on-site and off-site drainage ditch were removed in 2004. In addition to areas adjacent to the site, two downstream depositional areas were also excavated.

Mitigation measures were taken at the Ward Products building in 2005 to address current human exposures (via inhalation) to volatile organic compounds associated with soil vapor intrusion. A sub-slab depressurization system was installed to create a negative pressure gradient below the slab, thus minimizing infiltration into the building.

Summary of Proposed Remedial Action

The PRAP identifies the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to remediate the contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater. The proposed alternative was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for remediating the contamination.

The elements of the proposed remedy include:

- A remedial design program would be implemented to provide the details necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the remedial program.

- Approximately 400 cubic yards of contaminated sediments would be excavated from a section of the eastern branch of the tributary draining the site. Additionally, 700 cubic yards of contaminated sediment would be excavated from the Mohawk River at the mouth of the eastern branch of the tributary. Two sediment collection basins would be constructed. A sediment collection basin already exists on the east branch just south of Sam Stratton Road. The three sediment basins would be periodically sampled to determine if the sediment collecting in them would need to be removed for off-site disposal.

- A treatability study and/or pilot study would be undertaken to study the effectiveness of injection of an oxidant such as potassium permanganate into the

bedrock. The results of the treatability study and/or pilot test will determine the feasibility of this option.

- A recovery well would be drilled at a central location on the site. The concentrations of volatile organic chemicals in the extracted groundwater would be reduced through use of an air stripper.

- Following a successful pilot test, *in situ* chemical oxidation would be implemented full scale in conjunction with the extraction and treatment system.

- Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement that would require: (a) limiting the use and development of the property to industrial use; (b) compliance with the approved site management plan; (c) restricting the use of groundwater as a source of potable or process water; and (d) the property owner to complete and submit a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls.

- Development of a site management plan which would require:(a) management of the final soil cover system to restrict excavation below the cover or buildings. Excavated soil would be tested, properly handled to protect the health and safety of workers and the nearby community, and would be properly managed in a manner acceptable to the NYSDEC; (b) if contaminated soil beneath the building slab ever becomes accessible, it would be removed and properly managed; (c) continued operation of the sub-slab depressurization system at the Ward Products building whenever it is occupied; (d) soil vapor intrusion evaluations at any buildings located above the contaminated groundwater plume if there is a change in the current use of that building; (e) monitoring of groundwater, sediment, and indoor air; (f) identification of any use restrictions on the site; and (g) provisions for the continued proper operation and maintenance of the components of the remedy.

- The property owner would provide a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls, until the NYSDEC notifies the property owner in writing that this certification is no longer needed. This submittal would: (a) contain certification that the institutional controls and engineering controls put in place are still in place and are either unchanged from the previous certification or are compliant with NYSDEC-approved modifications; (b) allow the NYSDEC access to the site; and (c) state that nothing has occurred that would impair the ability of the control to protect public health or the environment, or constitute a violation or failure to comply with the site management plan unless otherwise approved by the NYSDEC.

- The operation of the components of the remedy would continue until the remedial objectives have been achieved, or until the NYSDEC determines that continued operation is technically impracticable or not feasible.

- Since the remedy would result in untreated hazardous waste remaining at the site, a long-term monitoring program would be instituted. Sediment in the three sediment basins would also be periodically monitored.

- Although the two production wells on an adjacent property are no longer being used, a formal agreement to permanently abandon these wells would be sought.

Costs and Funding for the Site Remedy

The total present worth to construct and implement the proposed remedy is estimated to be $1,870,000. The present worth represents the amount of money invested now that would be sufficient to cover all present and future costs associated with the remedy. After the remedy is selected, the NYSDEC will approach the responsible party to implement the selected remedy under an Order on Consent.

Health Issues

Residual contamination remains in on-site soil, however it is generally inaccessible due to the depth of the contamination or its location beneath the building. The installation and continued operation of a sub-slab depressurization system in the on-site building (implemented in a 2005 IRM) has eliminated the potential for building occupant inhalation exposures to contaminated indoor air via soil vapor intrusion. The area around this facility and the site is supplied by the City of Amsterdam's municipal water system. Therefore, ingestion of contaminated groundwater is unlikely.

Document Repositories: *To review the complete PRAP and other site information*:

Amsterdam Free Library
Reference Desk
28 Church Street
Amsterdam NY 12010
Hours: M, Th - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
Tu, W, F - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.;
Sa - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Phone: (518) 842-1080

NYSDEC Region 4 Office
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
Hours: M - F 8:30 - 4:00
Appointment requested;
contact Allan Geisendorfer at
(518) 357-2390

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7013
Hours: M - F 8:30 - 4:30
Appointment requested;
contact Larry Alden, Project Manager, at (518) 402-9818

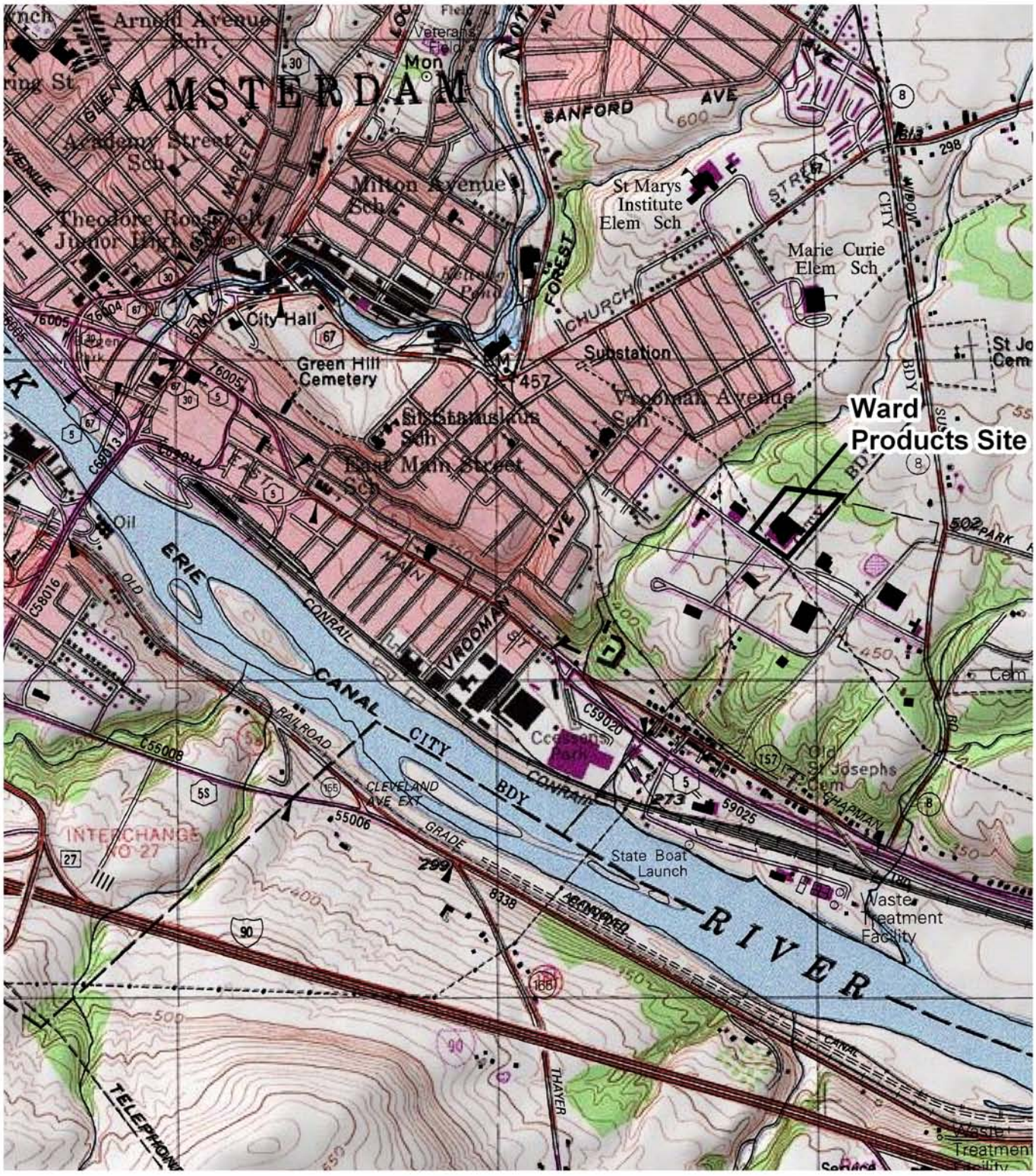
For More Information: *Call or write the following staff for more information about:*

Meeting/Comment Period/ Technical Information:
Larry Alden, Project Manager
NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7013
Phone: (518) 402-9818
E-mail: ljalden@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Health-Related Information:
Charlotte M. Bethoney
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, New York 12180-2216
Phone: (800) 458-1158 ext. 27860

Citizen Participation:
Rick Georgeson
NYSDEC Region 4
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
Phone: (518) 357-2075

PLEASE NOTE: In the event of severe weather conditions on February 13, 2007, the meeting will be rescheduled to February 15, 2007, at the same venue.



NORMANDEAU ASSOCIATES INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Figure 1 : Location Map for
Ward Products Site
61 Edson St. Amsterdam, NY

Prepared by: DRS	Date: July 12, 2004

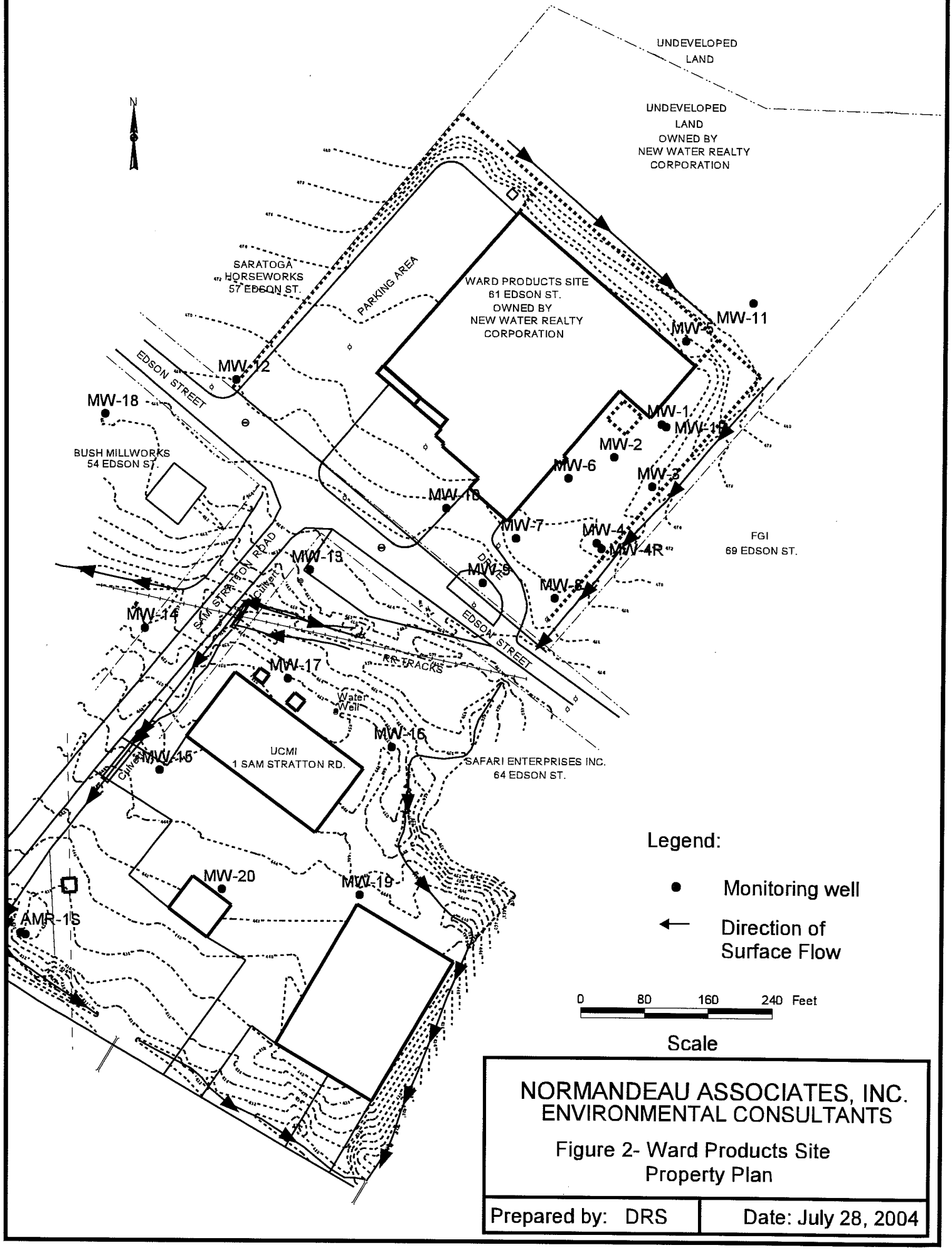


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Figure 2- Ward Products Site
Property Plan

Prepared by: DRS	Date: July 28, 2004