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Division of Environmental Remediation, Region 9
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Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

To: Dennis Farrar/JoeWhite, DER - Albany
From: Brian Sadowski, DER - Buffalo B.P. Sadowski
Subject: **Reconnaissance Report - Roblin/Envirotek 2 - Site Number 915056**

Date: July 13, 2001

Please find enclosed a reconnaissance report for the Roblin/Envirotek 2 site. Should you have any questions, contact John Hyden or me at 716 - 851-7220. Thank you.

BS/tml

DKK

cc: Daniel King, P.E., Division of Environmental Remediation, Region 9, w/o encl.
John Hyden, P.E., Division of Environmental Remediation, Region 9, w/o encl.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation, Region 9

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RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

May 22, 2001 rev. July 2, 2001

Site Number: 915056

Site Name: Roblin/Envirotek 2

Site Location: Town of Tonawanda

Project Description: Reconnaissance of Sewer Lines and Utility Pits.

DEC Project Manager: John H. Hyden

Assisted By: Brian P. Sadowski

Consultant Engineer: None

Consultant Contact: None

Job Phone: None

Contractor: None

Spill Contractor: Not Applicable

HEALTH & SAFETY:

PPE: Level D

Is the PPE level in conformance with the site activity: Yes
If no, list the deviation under items of concern:_____
Are atmospheric monitoring results at acceptable levels? Not applicable to job task.

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK PERFORMED:

The purpose of the reconnaissance was to determine the current condition of the sewer lines and utility pits at the former Roblin Steel Co. Site and to make a preliminary determination if hazardous waste is present in them. From 1982 through 1990, Envirotek Inc. operated a commercial treatment, disposal and storage facility (TDSF) on the Roblin Steel Property, immediately to the east of the primary factory complex, for treatment of hazardous wastes generated offsite by other firms. In 1990, the Envirotek Facility was determined to be in violation of the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Federal Marshals immediately closed down all TDSF operations at this location. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) then performed an emergency removal action to halt the imminent threat to human health and the environment.

The contamination sources were addressed by two primary tasks: 1) overpacking and removing drums of chemical wastes that were awaiting processing and 2) excavating an area of soils into which distillate that had drained from a condensate line.

One contamination pathway that remains is the migration of wastes into the former Roblin Plant sewer system. As an initial step in the examination of this possibility, an attempt was made to locate the sewer system manholes and other such appurtenances, and the utility pits of the former plant. The basis for this search was the June 15, 1971 Roblin Steel Co. plant; a modified copy is given in Attachment 1. This work was performed on April 19, 20, and 25, 2001. Observations of the insides of the infrastructure were limited by the heavy steel cover plating over some of them, and rubble and vegetation inside and in the area of others. However, were possible, the manhole covers or steel plating were removed to view the contents of the manhole or pit. For the open pits, surface observations were made of the contents. The results of the reconnaissance are tabulated in Attachment 2.

Evidence of hazardous waste disposal was not observed in the pits and manholes of the sewer lines that were located. One pit north of the former Power Building, designated Manhole 15 and Line B, contains approximately 800 gallons of oil; along with this oil is rock rubble, iron bars, wood and soil. There is no evidence that this oil is migrating from the pit. A few manholes and pits were moist from groundwater or precipitation. In most of the manholes and pits, dry soil and debris were encountered. None of the confined spaces had odors associated with hazardous waste; only musty odors were noted in any of them. The pits that contained groundwater and/or precipitation had no observable sheens on the water surfaces.

As part of this investigation, photographs were taken to compare the present site conditions to those in November 1988, when the photographs for the 1990 Phase 2 Report were taken. These photographs are given in Attachment 3 and consists of thirteen pages. The locations and orientations are mapped in Attachment 4. The photos are identified with the same number used in the November 1988 Phase 2 photo log. For example, 79 In 90.bmp designates the photograph taken at Location No. 79 in 2001. JPG. An "A" after the two digit location number designates a photo that was taken in the general vicinity. The photo descriptions are given on the following page.

Page 1. Pit A1-5; See Attachment 1, Sewer Layout: Most downstream manhole in Line A1 upstream of the sump outfall to the Niagara River. This line is inactive. Various debris of wood and rubble is present. Groundwater flow was observed and is estimated to be less than one-half gallon per minute.

Page 2. Photo 60. Exact location of former sump. Remnant of entrance trench and foundation remain.

Page 3. Photo 37. Exact location. Area now has more gravel and asphalt. Transformer vault no longer present.

Page 4. Photo 64. Exact location. Channeling side walls not present. Entrance mostly filled by earth and rubble.

Page 5. Photo 68 and 68A. Area significantly changed. 68A taken as this pit was in the area and had the potential to contain hazardous waste. Further investigation revealed no odor or sheen from or on the water.

Page 6. Photo 75. Generally the same location. Rubble and earth remaining of Ascension Chemical/ General Refractories Warehouse.

Page 7. Photo 79. Exact location. Concrete slab, loading dock, and railroad tracks remain of the Ascension Chemical/General Refractories Warehouse.

Page 8. Photo 89 and 89A. Location given in the Phase II Report appears to be questionable. Further investigation revealed that pit shown in Photo 89A is a former valve chamber. The inside detail of this valve pit is shown on Page 12, and is described below in Page 12 Entry.

Page 9. Photo 108. Exact location; most of the buildings and overhead rod yard conveyor system have been razed.

Page 10. Photo 122 and 122A. Probable location. Appears that the upper two courses of cinder blocks were removed and the opening was covered with a solid concrete lid.

Page 11. 125 and 125A. Exact location. One pit area where the EPA did a removal action of hazardous waste. Note the remains from the column bases. 125A is a close up of the upper portion of 125. It is believed that this area was also remediated before backfilling.

Page 12. This photo is the inside detail of 89A. Both pipes are 24 inches in diameter. One runs east and west, originating from the pipe bridge across River Rd. The other pipe intersects from the south and is believed to have originated from the former building (1971) of Ascension Chemical Co.

Page 13. Photo of the middle pit on the north end of the former Power House, i.e. designated as Manhole 15 on Line B (See Attachment 1, Sewer Layout). From clockwise: North side, center, and south side. The white areas on the upper photos are flash reflections off of the oil. It's showing the underside and space between

the steel plate covers. Note the rock, iron bar, rubble and dead vegetative matter. This pit is believed to contain about 800 gallons of oil.

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION : Not Applicable.

Prime Contractor's Hours Worked: Not Applicable

Name of Prime Contractor: Not Applicable

Name of Sub-Contractor: Not Applicable

EQUIPMENT: Camera, tape measure, crow bar, field books and site plans.

WORK FORCE:
Laborers: None
Operators: None
Field Engineer: None

SITE VISITORS: Not Applicable.

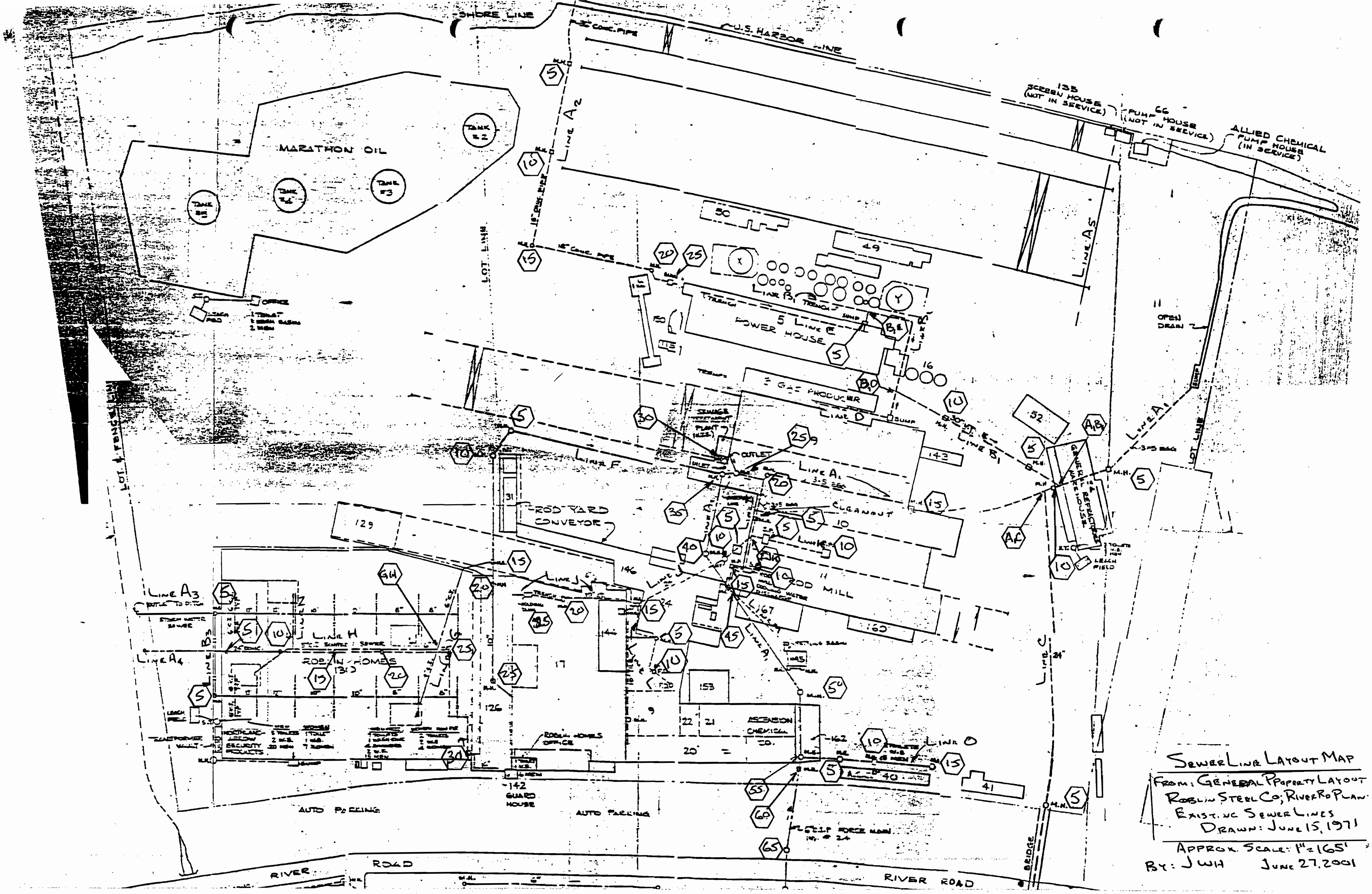
Representing:
Entered Exclusion Zone:

Comments/Items of Concern: None
Changes/Deviations: None

Attachments:
#1, Sewer Line Layout Chart.
#2, Details and Results of Field Observations of Sewer Line Plan/Utility Pits
#3, Site Condition Comparison Photos - 13p.
#4, Photo Location Plan.

Report Summary by:
John H. Hyden/Brian P. Sadowski

Attachment 1



Sewer Line Layout Map

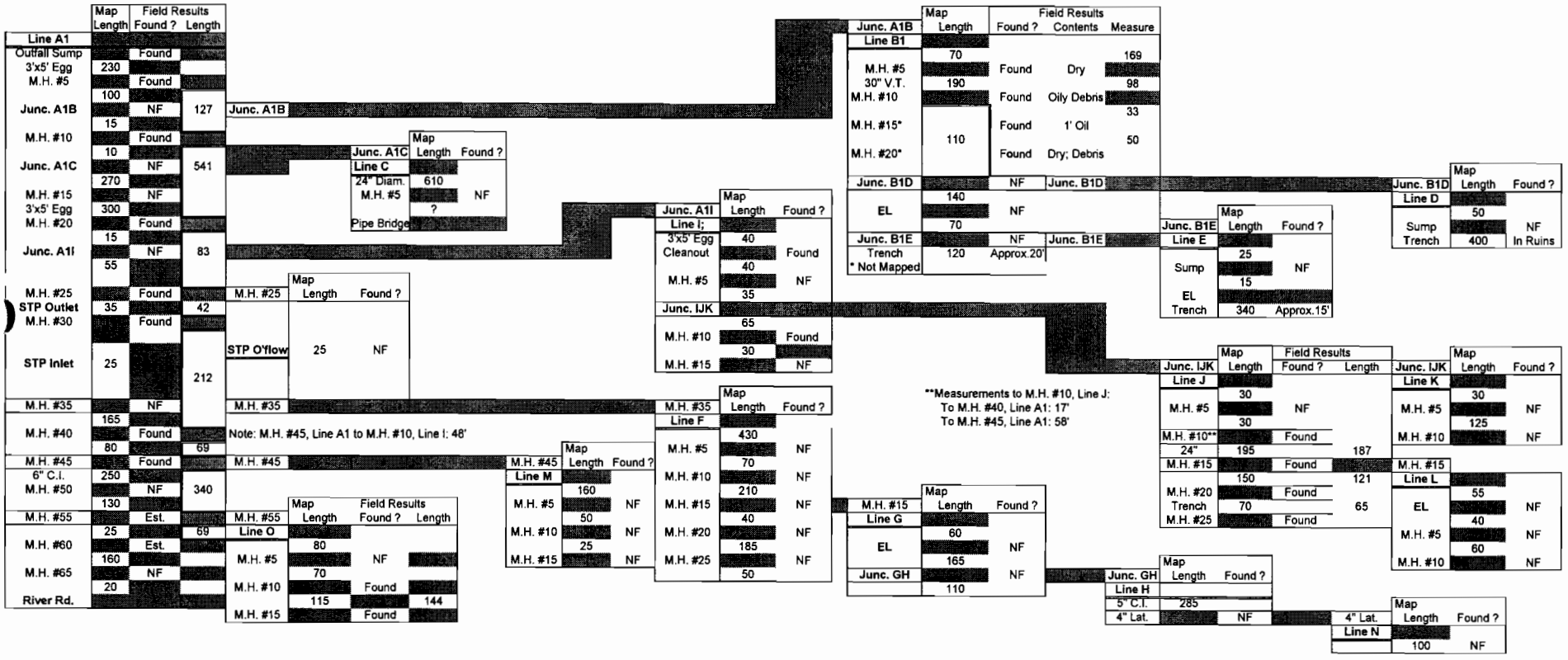
From: General Property Layout
Roblin Steel Co; River Rd Plant
Existing Sewer Lines
Drawn: June 15, 1971

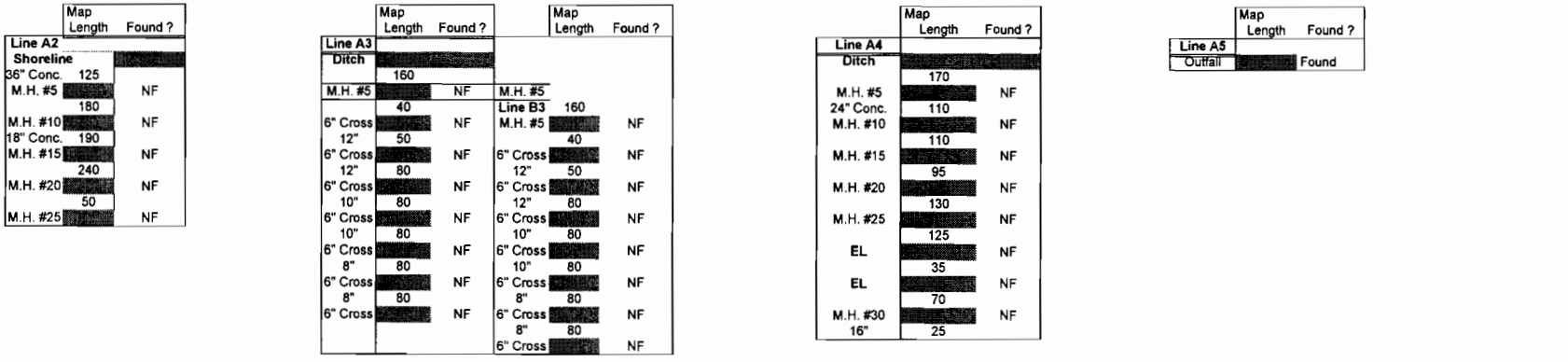
Approx. Scale: 1" = 165'

By: JWH June 27, 2001

Attachment 2

Sewer Line Layout ----- Roblin Steel Plant, Town of Tonawanda ------ DEC Site 915056





Attachment 3

Attachment 4

Pit A1-5a.jpg

Pit A1-5b.jpg

915056

60 In 1990.bmp

60 In 2001.JPG

915056

64 In 1990.bmp

64 In 2001.JPG

915056

68 A In 2001.JPG

68 In 1990.bmp

915056

75 In 1990.bmp

75 In 2001.JPG

915056

79 A In 2001.JPG

79 In 1990.bmp

79 In 2001.JPG

915056

89 A In 2001.JPG

89 In 1990.bmp

915056

108 In 1990.bmp

108 In 2001.JPG

915056

122 A In 2001.JPG

122 In 1990.bmp

915056

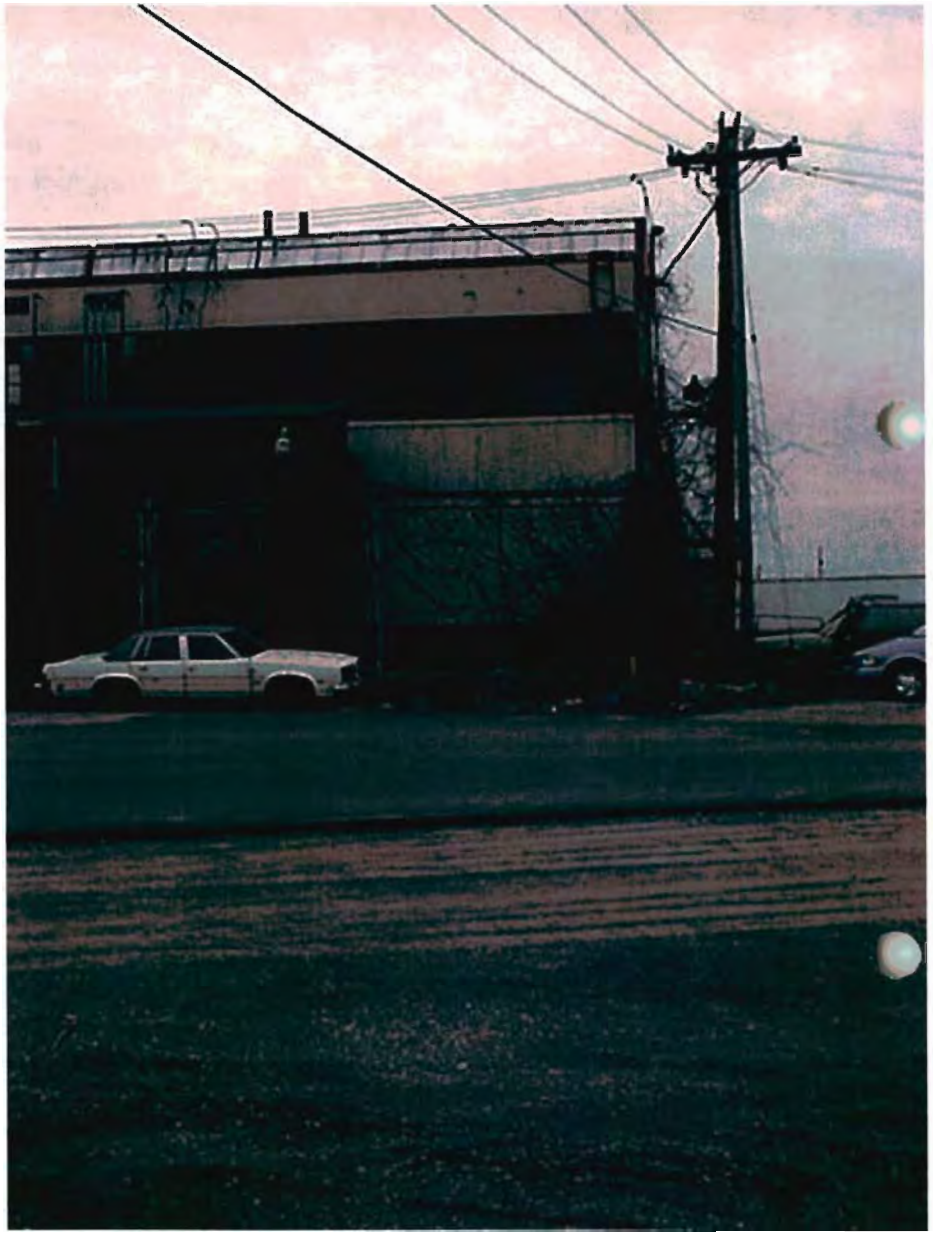
125 A In 2001.JPG

125 In 1990.bmp

125 In 2001.JPG

915056

37 In 1990.bmp



37 In 2001.JPG

Valve Chamber

Mvc-362f.jpg
915056

Middle Pit north of Power House, Located at B 1-5

Mvc-363f.jpg

Mvc-364f.jpg

Mvc-365f.jpg

ORE LINE

U.S. HARBOR LINE

GW-6

GW-5

DOCK

MARATHON OIL
(leased property)

TANK #2

TANK #3

TANK #4

TANK #5

ORE STORAGE YARD

GW-4

FENCE

COKE PONDS

TOMAHAWK RETENTION

FENCE

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

BLAST FURNACE #2

BLAST FURNACE #1

SW-1

GW-7

PIG MACHINE

SW-SD-2

POWER HOUSE

GW-3

FENCE

3 GAS PRODUCER

OPEN HEARTH
9

STOREROOM
52

CONC. ABUT.

54 ASCENSION CHEMICAL

SS-1

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

LOT & FENCE LINE

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK AREA

FENCE

ROD YARD CONVEYOR

BUNDLE CARRIER

BLOOM MILL
10

STEEL MILL

11
ROD MILL

CONC. ABUT.

WAREHOUSE

ENVIROTECH

FENCE

R&R CAR

BARROW

TRANSFORMER VAULT

GUARD HOUSE

GW-2

GW-1

FENCE

CHANNEL OF
OLD ERIE CANAL

RIVER ROAD

Locations and Orientations of Photographs April 2001