

JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

"Better Service for a Better Environment"
HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

INTERNET: www.deq.state.mi.us
RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

September 30, 1999

REPLY TO

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE DIVISION KNAPPS CENTRE PO BOX 30426 LANSING MI 48909-7926

Mr. William E. Muno, Director Superfund Division United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard (S-6J) Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Muno:

Attached is the five-year review for the Sturgis Municipal Wells Superfund Site located in the city of Sturgis, St. Joseph County, Michigan.

The five-year review for the Sturgis site includes the following recommendations, which we will be pursuing with the potentially liable party, the Kirsch Company.

- Continue operation of the soil vapor extraction system until soil cleanup standards have been met.
- Construction of the groundwater component should proceed on schedule.
- Operation of the groundwater extraction and treatment system should be continuous until cleanup standards have been achieved throughout the affected aquifers.
- Periodic monitoring should continue to ensure that progress continues toward eventual cleanup.
- Hydrogeological characterization of the bedrock should be conducted to the east and southeast of the center of the lower aquifer contaminant plume.
- Once the new groundwater extraction and treatment system is constructed and operational, an analysis should be conducted to determine if the existing long-term groundwater-monitoring plan and monitor well network remain adequate. If necessary, adjust the monitoring plan and/or install additional monitoring wells.

The completion of this five-year review fulfills MDEQ's obligation under Multi-Site Cooperative Agreement V995560-01 for the Sturgis site. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert L. Franks, Project Manager, Superfund Section, Environmental Response Division, at 517-335-3392, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

Claudia Kerbawy, Chief

Superfund Section

Environmental Response Division

517-335-3397

Attachment

cc: Mr. J. P. Singh, EPA

Mr. Steven Padovani, EPA Ms. Gladys Beard, EPA Mr. David Kline, MDEQ

Mr. Robert L. Franks, MDEQ

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

STURGIS MUNICIPAL WELLS SUPERFUND SITE STURGIS, MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 1999

Prepared By:
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Prepared For:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
Chicago, Illinois

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

STURGIS MUNICIPAL WELLS STURGIS, MICHIGAN

I. Introduction

A. Authority and Purpose

This five-year review was conducted pursuant to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Section 121 (c), National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan Section 300.400 (f) (4) (ii), and OSWER Directives 9355.7-02 (May 23, 1991), and 9355.7-02A (July 26, 1994). It is a policy review. The purpose of a five-year review is to ensure that a remedial action remains protective of public health and the environment and is functioning as designed. This document will become a part of the site file. This review (Type 1a) is applicable to a site at which response is ongoing.

B. Site Characteristics and History

The Sturgis Municipal Wells site is located in the city of Sturgis, St. Joseph County, Michigan approximately two miles north of the Indiana state line (please see Figure 1).

Routine sampling by the Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) in 1982 revealed two of the four municipal water supply wells serving the city of Sturgis were contaminated with the industrial solvents trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). In 1983 the city asked approximately 10,000 residents in its service area to limit their water usage. In 1984 the city began utilizing a new well called the Oaklawn well, bringing the total to three usable wells (the Broadus, Lakeview, and Oaklawn) and two contaminated wells (the Layne and Jackson). In 1985 the Broadus well was found to be contaminated. In 1989 the MDPH advised the city not to rely on the Layne, Jackson, and Broadus wells. The city is now relying on the Thurston Woods well installed in 1989, and the Oaklawn and Lakeview wells to serve their needs.

The site was placed on the National Priorities List in October 1984. The state of Michigan served as the lead agency for site investigations. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) undertook a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) from September 1987 through May 1991. Results of the RI documented large plumes of TCE and PCE-contaminated groundwater in at least two aquifers, as well as in soils of two source areas referred to as the Kirsch and Wade source areas (please see Figures 2, 3 and 4). Levels of TCE and PCE exceed state and federal standards in both the groundwater and soil. It is unclear as to how the releases occurred at the two source areas; however, both were former industrial sites where solvent degreasing was known to have been practiced.

A Record of Decision (ROD) outlining the chosen Remedial Action (RA) was issued in September 1991. The selected remedy included extraction and treatment of the contaminated groundwater until the former Michigan Environmental Response Act, 1982 PA 307, as amended, Type B levels were met, soil vapor extraction (SVE) of the contaminated on-site soils, and excavation of the remaining contaminated soils that cannot be treated by SVE.

In 1992 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designed an interim groundwater pump and treat system. The primary goal of the interim response was to halt the migration of contaminants toward uncontaminated city municipal wells. The EPA issued a unilateral administrative order to the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for completion of the interim response. The PRP completed the design and began construction of the groundwater pump and treat system in late summer/early fall 1993. Construction of the interim pump and treat system was completed in May 1994, and has been operating since that time.

In early 1993 the EPA and MDNR entered into settlement negotiations with the PRPs for the Remedial Design (RD)/RA of the ROD remedies. Because these negotiations were not successful, the EPA decided to fund the RD/RA. The MDNR was chosen as the lead agency and began the design in 1994.

During fall 1994 the MDNR's consultants conducted a pre-design investigation at the site to determine the exact nature and extent of soil contamination at the Kirsch and Wade source areas for the purpose of designing soil remediation systems. A deep aquifer hydrogeological investigation was also conducted to determine whether contamination exists further downgradient than the agencies had believed. Results of the deep aquifer investigation revealed that there was groundwater contamination further downgradient than previously thought. After the pre-design investigation was complete, the state's consultant began the engineering design for the SVE systems. In 1995 the MDNR's environmental programs were placed in the new Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Part 201, Environmental Remediation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended was passed.

During much of 1996 the state negotiated a settlement with the PRP for their takeover of all activities at the site under the direction of the MDEQ. In late summer an agreement was reached and a Consent Decree (CD) and statement of work were lodged in federal court under the authority of Part 201. The court entered the CD on October 25, 1996.

Also during 1996 the EPA issued a ROD amendment, which altered the 1991 remedy for the site. The ROD amendment changed groundwater and soil cleanup standards to comply with current state law, eliminated the Wade Electric source area from requiring SVE remediation and eliminated the requirement of excavation of soils contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons due to changes in state cleanup criteria.

Construction of the SVE system at the Kirsch source area began in December 1996, was completed in March 1997, and has been operational since that time (please see Figure 5). The PRP, Kirsch, Inc., is currently operating the interim pump and treat system and Kirsch SVE system in accordance with the CD.

In 1999 the MDEQ determined that the interim groundwater pump and treat system would need to be augmented in order to meet the RODs objectives. To this end, on January 29, 1999, the MDEQ requested that the PRP design, install and operate additional groundwater extraction and treatment as necessary to stop the plume from migrating to industrial wells and to complete

capture of the plume along the west side of the site. The design for the new pump and treat system is currently at the 60 percent design stage. Construction will begin in spring 2000.

II. Discussion of Remedial Objectives; Areas of Noncompliance.

The objective of this remedial action is to eliminate the source of groundwater contamination and restore the aquifers to their beneficial use. Specifically, the remedy calls for the following:

- Soil vapor extraction (SVE) of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the Kirsch property source area soils until the Part 201 generic residential cleanup levels are achieved.
- Extraction and treatment of groundwater using air stripping with vapor phase granular
 activated carbon to be used to treat the off-gases and/or treatment of groundwater with
 liquid phase carbon. Extraction and treatment will be conducted until federal drinking
 water standards maximum contaminant levels are reached for VOCs. In addition to
 achieving federal cleanup levels, a risk evaluation shall be performed to verify that there
 is no unacceptable risk associated with the groundwater.
- Discharge of treated water to surface waters via storm sewer or to the municipal system.
- A minimum of a 30-year groundwater monitoring program to assure the effectiveness of the RA and the quality of the municipal water supply.

Progress toward full implementation of the ROD remedy is ongoing. The SVE portion of the ROD remedy has been operational since early 1997. Operation of the SVE system has been conducted in compliance with the CD, toward meeting the remedial goals of the ROD. Monitoring data from individual vapor extraction wells indicate a steady decline in TCE levels over time (please see Figure 6). It has been estimated that the soils may reach cleanup levels within another one to two years of operation. Once samples from individual vapor extraction wells indicate TCE levels below cleanup standards, extensive soil sampling will be conducted to verify that cleanup standards have been met.

Progress toward full implementation of the groundwater restoration portion of the ROD remedy is ongoing. The interim groundwater extraction and treatment system has been operational since 1994 and consists of one high capacity extraction well pumping at 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and treatment via an 80 feet tall, 12 feet diameter air stripper with two 20,000-pound granular activated carbon units to treat the off-gasses. While it was not intended to be the final remedy for groundwater at the site, the interim system has performed very well. An analysis of the system's performance in late 1998 yielded the following results:

 VOC concentrations in the upper aquifer at the Kirsch source area have decreased approximately 80 percent since implementation of the interim system.

- The VOC plume in the lower aquifer has been significantly reduced in areal extent since implementation of the interim system with the size and mass of the plume being reduced by approximately 50 percent.
- The contaminant mass removed by the interim system since startup totals more than 47,000 pounds (23.5 tons) which is the equivalent of approximately 3,900 gallons of TCE.

While the interim groundwater extraction and treatment system has accomplished the goals set for it, it cannot be designated the final groundwater remedy. This is due to a large portion of the lower aquifer plume that continues to migrate and impact a series of industrial pumping wells on the northwest side of Sturgis, as well as the fact that capture of the downgradient western edge of the plume has been marginal to date (please see Figure 7 for groundwater monitoring data). Due to these reasons, the MDEQ requested that the PRP design another groundwater extraction and treatment system to intercept the plume such that it will not continue to migrate to the industrial pumping wells, and pump at a rate sufficient to capture the western portion of the plume.

Design of the final groundwater remedy is currently at the 60 percent stage. The design calls for a new high capacity extraction well pumping at a rate of 2,000 gpm, a 70 feet tall, 10 feet diameter air stripper and two 13,000-pound granular activated carbon units. The design is scheduled to be completed in early 2000 with construction completed during the 2000 construction season.

Review of the hydrogeological aspects of the Sturgis site has revealed one area of concern. The hydrogeological characterization of the site has documented that the majority of the groundwater contaminant plume exists within a bedrock valley at the base of the lower aquifer. The bedrock valley has been adequately characterized from the center of the lower aquifer plume and to the west, which is the direction of the regional groundwater flow. However, there is little to no characterization of the bedrock to the east and southeast of the center of the lower aquifer plume (please see Figure 8). The potential exists for contaminant migration to the east or southeast, against the regional groundwater flow, depending on the topography of the bedrock. This lack of bedrock characterization to the east and southeast is a significant data gap.

The final remedy for the Sturgis Municipal Wells Superfund site will meet all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs). For a thorough discussion of ARARs for the Sturgis site, the reader should refer to section V.A.2 of the September 1996 ROD amendment.

III. Recommendations

Additional hydrogeological characterization of the bedrock should be conducted to the east and southeast of the center of the lower aquifer contaminant plume.

Once the new groundwater extraction and treatment system is constructed and operational, an analysis should be conducted to determine if the existing long-term groundwater-monitoring

plan and monitor well network remain adequate. If the analysis concludes that the existing monitoring plan and monitor well network are not adequate, the MDEQ and the PRP should take steps to develop an acceptable monitoring plan and if necessary, install additional monitoring wells.

Other than the bedrock issue discussed above, this five-year review has revealed no new evidence that would require corrective action. The only additional recommendations evident are reaffirmations of the ROD. That is, operation of the SVE system should continue until soil cleanup standards have been achieved, construction of the groundwater component should proceed on schedule, operation of the groundwater extraction and treatment system should be continuous until cleanup standards have been achieved throughout the affected aquifers and periodic monitoring should continue to ensure that progress continues toward eventual cleanup.

IV. Statement on Protectiveness

The remedy selected for this site remains protective of human health and the environment.

10 /15/97 Date

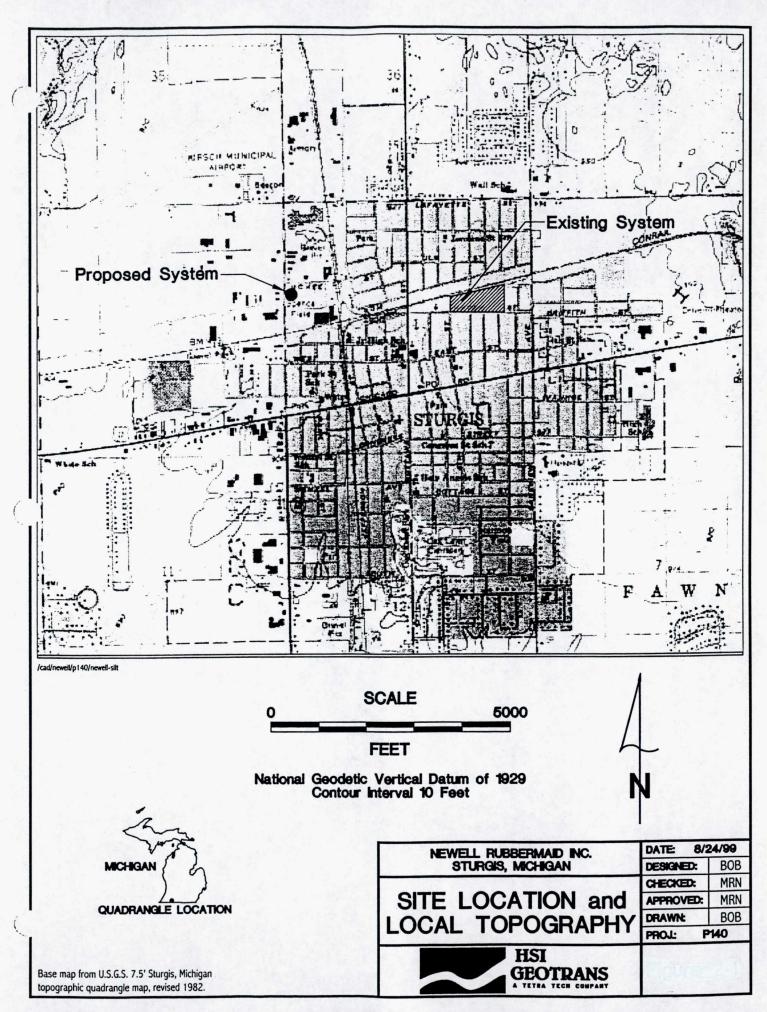
V. Next Five-Year Review

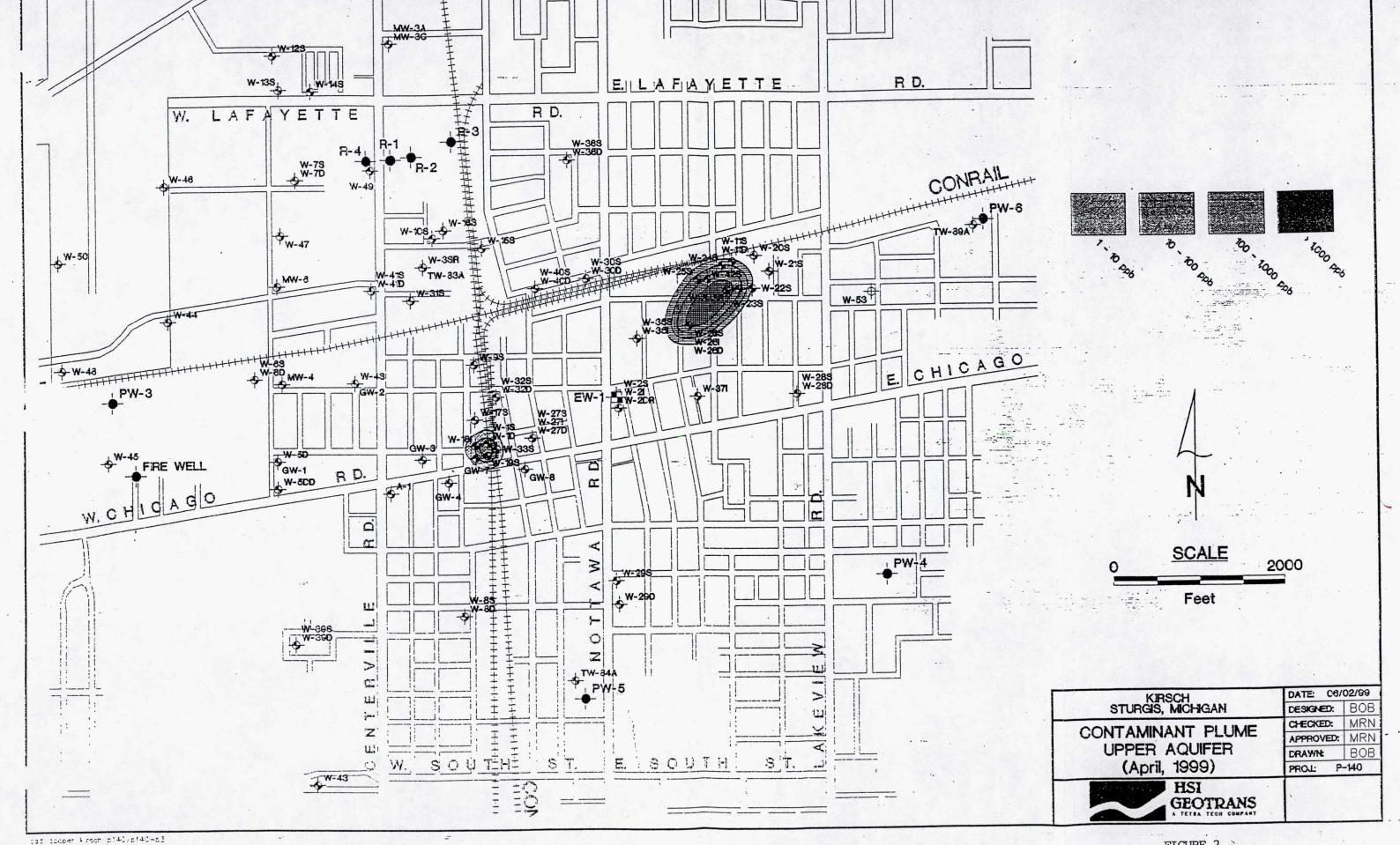
The next five-year review will be conducted by September 30, 2004.

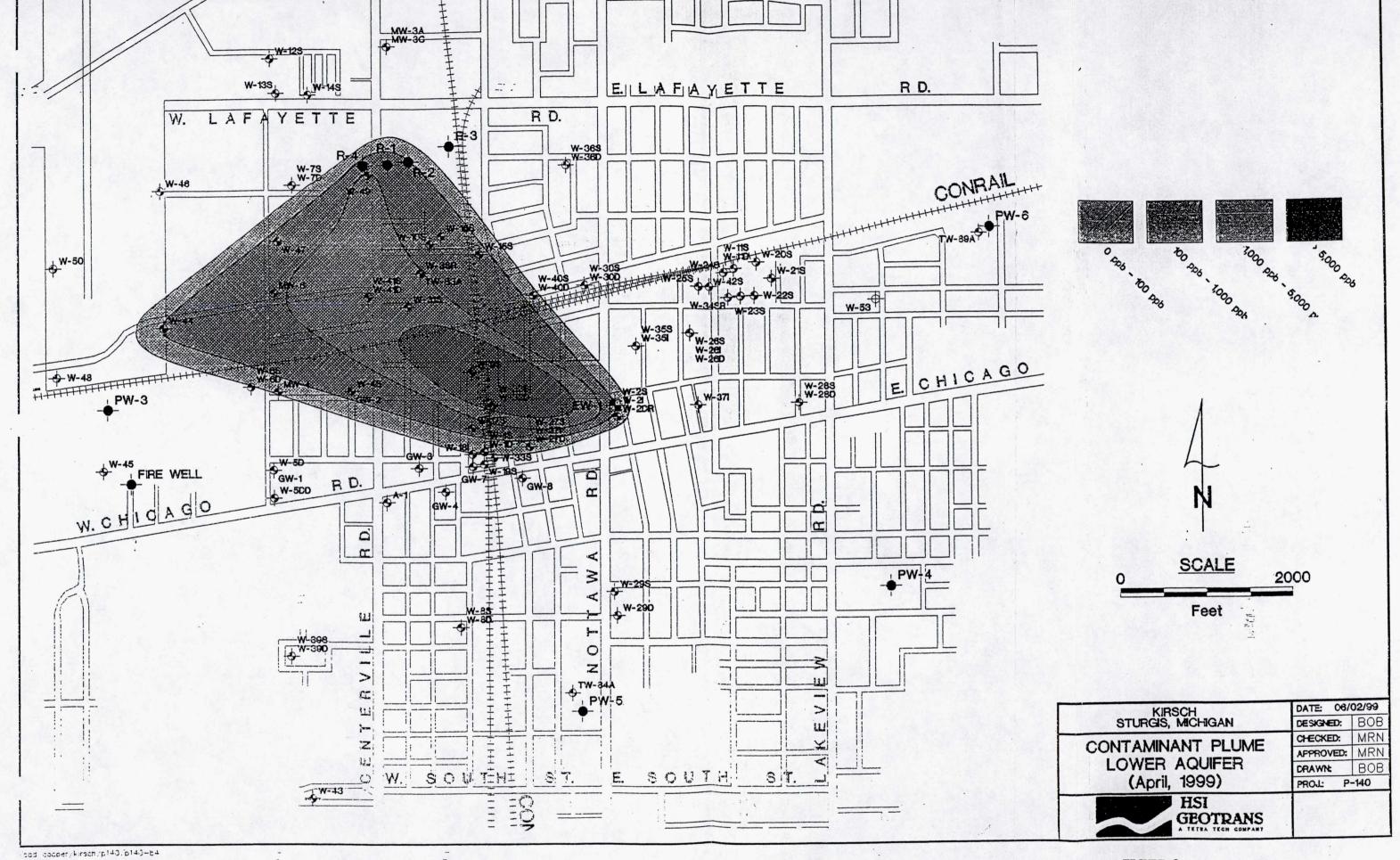
William E. Muno, Director

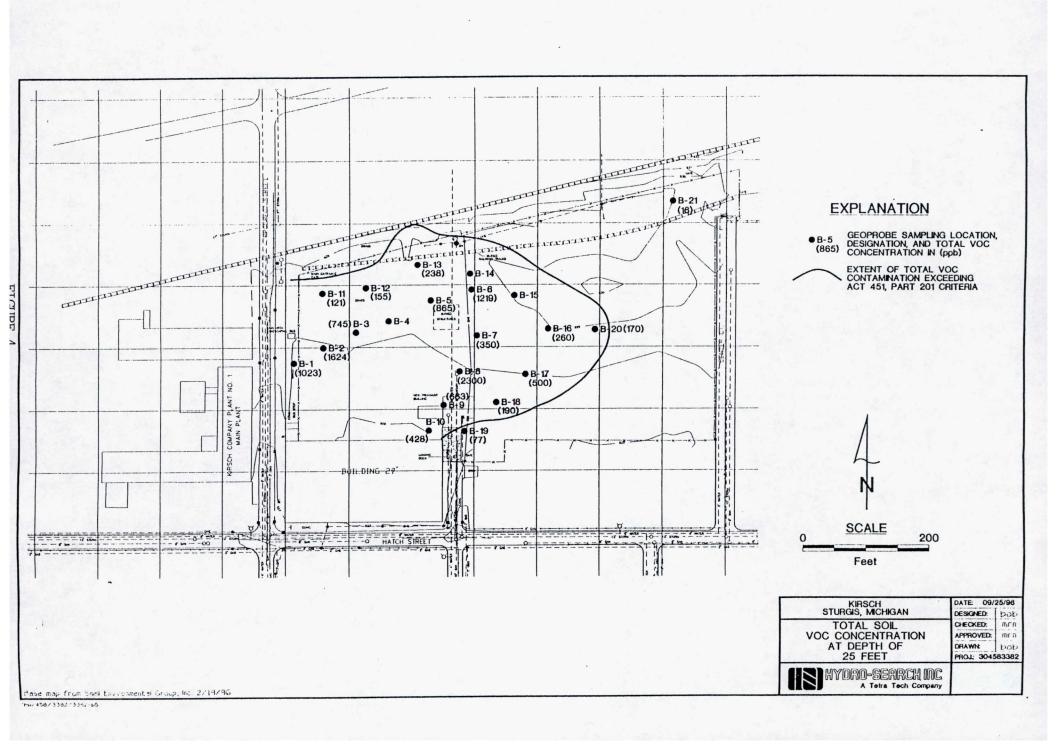
Superfund Division

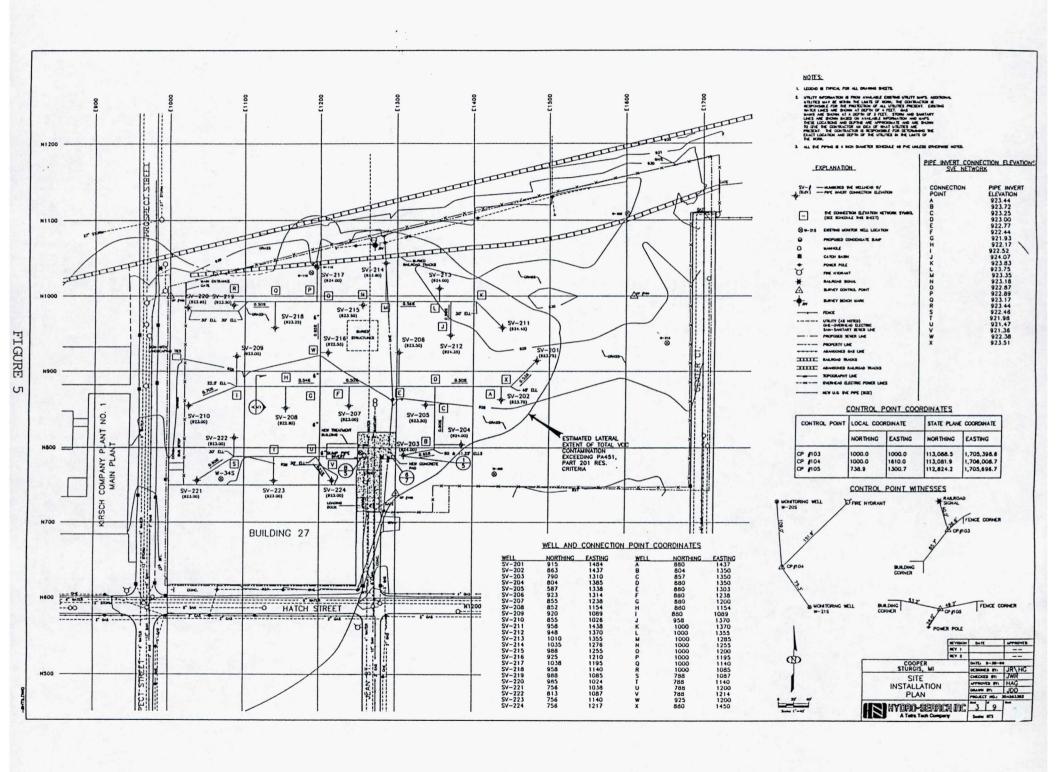
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency











SVE Well Sampling

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06-Jun-97	С	С	С	С	10	10	40	45	10	45	С	С	С	С	2	С				C	30	35	30	2	
08-Jul-97	С	С	С	С	8	5	30	25	5	30	С	С	С	С	2	С	С	С	С		20	20	20	<2	5
10-Oct-97	С	С	C	С	<2	<2	10	10	<2	10	С	С	С	С	<2	C	С	C	С	С			-	-	5
17-Feb-98	С	С	С	С	С	С	5	5	С	5	С	1.8*	С	С	С	5	С	0.94*	С	С	10	10	5	С	
23-Apr-98	C	С	С	С	С	С	7.5*	12.9*	С	<2	С	1.0*	С	С	С	3.0*	С	0.42*	С	С	5	5	5.9*	C	8.7*
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25-Feb-99	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.3	1.2	0.2	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4		0.1	0.0	0.1	4	2.8	0.9	0.1	1
25-Feb-99			Vent	Vent							1922	1-70		Vent					Vent			1	1000		F-5-2
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First 1999 Semiannual Monitoring Event Analytical Results

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W-2DR		2, 8 - 41 - 4					8	8	
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W-50								0	1.00
TW-84A			Ser Jerte		1.2	17	12.	0	

All values in ug/l

Blank indicates concentration below reporting limit

Samples collected between April 27 - May 1, 1999

B qualifier indicates compound was also detected in field and/or trip blank

NS qualifier indicates well not sampled

