

GIS REGISTRY

Cover Sheet

March, 2010
(RR 5367)

Source Property Information

BRRTS #: 03-16-154247

ACTIVITY NAME: OLIVERS 76

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1801 TOWER AVE

MUNICIPALITY: SUPERIOR

PARCEL ID #:

CLOSURE DATE: May 24, 2011

FID #: 316001290

DATCP #: NA

COMM #: 54880253601

*WTM COORDINATES:

X: 359186 Y: 695853

** Coordinates are in
WTM83, NAD83 (1991)*

WTM COORDINATES REPRESENT:

Approximate Center Of Contaminant Source

Approximate Source Parcel Center

Please check as appropriate: (BRRTS Action Code)

Contaminated Media:

Groundwater Contamination > ES (236)

Contamination in ROW

Off-Source Contamination

*(note: for list of off-source properties
see "Impacted Off-Source Property" form)*

Soil Contamination > *RCL or **SSRCL (232)

Contamination in ROW

Off-Source Contamination

*(note: for list of off-source properties
see "Impacted Off-Source Property" form)*

Land Use Controls:

N/A (Not Applicable)

Soil: maintain industrial zoning (220)

*(note: soil contamination concentrations
between non-industrial and industrial levels)*

Structural Impediment (224)

Site Specific Condition (228)

Cover or Barrier (222)

*(note: maintenance plan for
groundwater or direct contact)*

Vapor Mitigation (226)

Maintain Liability Exemption (230)

*(note: local government unit or economic
development corporation was directed to
take a response action)*

Monitoring Wells:

Are all monitoring wells properly abandoned per NR 141? (234)

Yes No N/A

** Residual Contaminant Level*

***Site Specific Residual Contaminant Level*

This Adobe Fillable form is intended to provide a list of information that is required for evaluation for case closure. It is to be used in conjunction with Form 4400-202, Case Closure Request. The closure of a case means that the Department has determined that no further response is required at that time based on the information that has been submitted to the Department.

NOTICE: Completion of this form is mandatory for applications for case closure pursuant to ch. 292, Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 726, Wis. Adm. Code, including cases closed under ch. NR 746 and ch. NR 726. The Department will not consider, or act upon your application, unless all applicable sections are completed on this form and the closure fee and any other applicable fees, required under ch. NR 749, Wis. Adm. Code, Table 1 are included. It is not the Department's intention to use any personally identifiable information from this form for any purpose other than reviewing closure requests and determining the need for additional response action. The Department may provide this information to requesters as required by Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31 - 19.39, Wis. Stats.].

BRRTS #:	03-16-154247	PARCEL ID #:			
ACTIVITY NAME:	OLIVERS 76	WTM COORDINATES: X:	359186	Y:	695853

CLOSURE DOCUMENTS (the Department adds these items to the final GIS packet for posting on the Registry)

- Closure Letter**
- Maintenance Plan** (if activity is closed with a land use limitation or condition (land use control) under s. 292.12, Wis. Stats.)
- Continuing Obligation Cover Letter** (for property owners affected by residual contamination and/or continuing obligations)
- Conditional Closure Letter**
- Certificate of Completion (COC)** (for VPLE sites)

SOURCE LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- Deed:** The most recent deed as well as legal descriptions, for the **Source Property** (where the contamination originated). Deeds for other, off-source (off-site) properties are located in the **Notification** section.
Note: If a property has been purchased with a land contract and the purchaser has not yet received a deed, a copy of the land contract which includes the legal description shall be submitted instead of the most recent deed. If the property has been inherited, written documentation of the property transfer should be submitted along with the most recent deed.
- Certified Survey Map:** A copy of the certified survey map or the relevant section of the recorded plat map for those properties where the legal description in the most recent deed refers to a certified survey map or a recorded plat map. (lots on subdivided or platted property (e.g. lot 2 of xyz subdivision)).
Figure #: **Title:**
- Signed Statement:** A statement signed by the Responsible Party (RP), which states that he or she believes that the attached legal description accurately describes the correct contaminated property.

MAPS (meeting the visual aid requirements of s. NR 716.15(2)(h))

- Maps must be no larger than 11 x 17 inches unless the map is submitted electronically.
- Location Map:** A map outlining all properties within the contaminated site boundaries on a U.S.G.S. topographic map or plat map in sufficient detail to permit easy location of all parcels. If groundwater standards are exceeded, include the location of all potable wells within 1200 feet of the site.
Note: Due to security reasons municipal wells are not identified on GIS Packet maps. However, the locations of these municipal wells must be identified on Case Closure Request maps.
Figure #: **Title:**
 - Detailed Site Map:** A map that shows all relevant features (buildings, roads, individual property boundaries, contaminant sources, utility lines, monitoring wells and potable wells) within the contaminated area. This map is to show the location of all contaminated public streets, and highway and railroad rights-of-way in relation to the source property and in relation to the boundaries of groundwater contamination exceeding a ch. NR 140 Enforcement Standard (ES), and/or in relation to the boundaries of soil contamination exceeding a Residual Contaminant Level (RCL) or a Site Specific Residual Contaminant Levels (SSRCL) as determined under s. NR 720.09, 720.11 and 720.19.
Figure #: **Title:**
 - Soil Contamination Contour Map:** For sites closing with residual soil contamination, this map is to show the location of all contaminated soil and a single contour showing the horizontal extent of each area of contiguous residual soil contamination that exceeds a Residual Contaminant Level (RCL) or a Site Specific Residual Contaminant Level (SSRCL) as determined under s. NR 720.09, 720.11 and 720.19.
Figure #: **Title:**

BRRTS #: 03-16-154247

ACTIVITY NAME: OLIVERS 76

MAPS (continued)

- Geologic Cross-Section Map:** A map showing the source location and vertical extent of residual soil contamination exceeding a Residual Contaminant Level (RCL) or a Site Specific Residual Contaminant Level (SSRCL). If groundwater contamination exceeds a ch. NR 140 Enforcement Standard (ES) when closure is requested, show the source location and vertical extent, water table and piezometric elevations, and locations and elevations of geologic units, bedrock and confining units, if any.

Figure #: **Title:**

Figure #: **Title:**

- Groundwater Isoconcentration Map:** For sites closing with residual groundwater contamination, this map shows the horizontal extent of all groundwater contamination exceeding a ch. NR140 Preventive Action Limit (PAL) and an Enforcement Standard (ES). Indicate the direction and date of groundwater flow, based on the most recent sampling data.

Note: This is intended to show the total area of contaminated groundwater.

Figure #: **Title:**

- Groundwater Flow Direction Map:** A map that represents groundwater movement at the site. If the flow direction varies by more than 20° over the history of the site, submit 2 groundwater flow maps showing the maximum variation in flow direction.

Figure #: **Title:**

Figure #: **Title:**

TABLES (meeting the requirements of s. NR 716.15(2)(h)(3))

Tables must be no larger than 11 x 17 inches unless the table is submitted electronically. Tables must not contain shading and/or cross-hatching. The use of **BOLD** or *ITALICS* is acceptable.

- Soil Analytical Table:** A table showing remaining soil contamination with analytical results and collection dates.
Note: This is one table of results for the contaminants of concern. Contaminants of concern are those that were found during the site investigation, that remain after remediation. It may be necessary to create a new table to meet this requirement.

Table #: **Title:**

- Groundwater Analytical Table:** Table(s) that show the most recent analytical results and collection dates, for all monitoring wells and any potable wells for which samples have been collected.

Table #: **Title:**

- Water Level Elevations:** Table(s) that show the previous four (at minimum) water level elevation measurements/dates from all monitoring wells. If present, free product is to be noted on the table.

Table #: **Title:**

IMPROPERLY ABANDONED MONITORING WELLS

For each monitoring well not properly abandoned according to requirements of s. NR 141.25 include the following documents.

Note: If the site is being listed on the GIS Registry for only an improperly abandoned monitoring well you will only need to submit the documents in this section for the GIS Registry Packet.

- Not Applicable**

- Site Location Map:** A map showing all surveyed monitoring wells with specific identification of the monitoring wells which have not been properly abandoned.

Note: If the applicable monitoring wells are distinctly identified on the Detailed Site Map this Site Location Map is not needed.

Figure #: **Title:**

- Well Construction Report:** Form 4440-113A for the applicable monitoring wells.

- Deed:** The most recent deed as well as legal descriptions for each property where a monitoring well was not properly abandoned.

- Notification Letter:** Copy of the notification letter to the affected property owner(s).

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NOTIFICATIONS

Source Property

Not Applicable

Letter To Current Source Property Owner: If the source property is owned by someone other than the person who is applying for case closure, include a copy of the letter notifying the current owner of the source property that case closure has been requested.

Return Receipt/Signature Confirmation: Written proof of date on which confirmation was received for notifying current source property owner.

Off-Source Property

Group the following information per individual property and label each group according to alphabetic listing on the "Impacted Off-Source Property" attachment.

Not Applicable

Letter To "Off-Source" Property Owners: Copies of all letters sent by the Responsible Party (RP) to owners of properties with groundwater exceeding an Enforcement Standard (ES), and to owners of properties that will be affected by a land use control under s. 292.12, Wis. Stats.

Note: Letters sent to off-source properties regarding residual contamination must contain standard provisions in Appendix A of ch. NR 726.

Number of "Off-Source" Letters:

Return Receipt/Signature Confirmation: Written proof of date on which confirmation was received for notifying any off-source property owner.

Deed of "Off-Source" Property: The most recent deed(s) as well as legal descriptions, for all affected deeded **off-source property(ies)**. This does not apply to right-of-ways.

Note: If a property has been purchased with a land contract and the purchaser has not yet received a deed, a copy of the land contract which includes the legal description shall be submitted instead of the most recent deed. If the property has been inherited, written documentation of the property transfer should be submitted along with the most recent deed.

Letter To "Governmental Unit/Right-Of-Way" Owners: Copies of all letters sent by the Responsible Party (RP) to a city, village, municipality, state agency or any other entity responsible for maintenance of a public street, highway, or railroad right-of-way, within or partially within the contaminated area, for contamination exceeding a groundwater Enforcement Standard (ES) and/or soil exceeding a Residual Contaminant Level (RCL) or a Site Specific Residual Contaminant Level (SSRCL).

Number of "Governmental Unit/Right-Of-Way Owner" Letters:



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
John Gozdziwski, Regional Director

Northern Region Headquarters
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501
Telephone 715-365-8900
FAX 715-365-8932
TTY Access via relay - 711

May 25, 2011

MR JOE OLIVER
OLIVER'S UNION 76
1801 TOWER AVE
SUPERIOR WI 54880

Subject: Final Case Closure with Continuing Obligations
Oliver's Union 76, 1801 Tower Avenue, Superior, Wisconsin
WDNR BRRTS Activity #03-16-154247

Dear Mr. Oliver:

On March 7, 2011, the Northern Region Closure Committee reviewed the above referenced case for closure. This committee reviews environmental remediation cases for compliance with state laws and standards to maintain consistency in the closure of these cases. On March 8, 2011, you were notified that the Closure Committee had granted conditional closure to this case. The closure was conditioned upon proper abandonment of the site's monitoring wells and free product recovery sump, as well as disposal of any remaining investigative wastes at the site.

On April 14, 2011, the Department received information or documentation indicating that you have complied with the requirements for final closure. METCO submitted monitoring well abandonment forms along with a statement that no investigative waste remains on site.

The Department reviewed the case closure request regarding the petroleum contamination in soil and groundwater at this site. Based on the correspondence and data provided, it appears that your case meets the closure requirements in ch. NR 726, Wisconsin Administrative Code. The Department considers this case closed and no further investigation or remediation is required at this time. However, you and future property owners must comply with certain continuing obligations as explained in this letter.

GIS Registry

This site will be listed on the Remediation and Redevelopment Program's internet accessible GIS Registry, to provide notice of residual contamination, and of any continuing obligations. The continuing obligations for this site are summarized below:

- Residual soil contamination exists that must be properly managed should it be excavated or removed.
- If a structural impediment that obstructed a complete site investigation or cleanup is removed or modified, additional environmental work must be completed
- Groundwater contamination is present above enforcement standards contained in chapter NR 140, Wisconsin Administrative Code
- One or more monitoring wells were not located and must be properly abandoned if found

All site information is also on file at the Northern Region DNR office at 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, Wisconsin. This letter and information that was submitted with your closure request application will be included on the GIS Registry, in a PDF attachment. To review the sites on the GIS Registry web page, visit the RR Sites Map page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/gis/index.htm>. If the property is listed on the GIS Registry because of remaining contamination and you intend to construct or reconstruct a well, you will need prior Department approval in accordance with s. NR 812.09(4)(w), Wis. Adm. Code. To obtain approval, Form 3300-254 needs to be completed and submitted to the DNR Drinking and Groundwater program's regional water supply specialist. This form can be obtained at the web address listed above for the GIS Registry or on-line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/3300254.pdf>.

Closure Conditions

Please be aware that pursuant to Section 292.12, Wisconsin Statutes, compliance with the requirements of this letter is a responsibility to which you and any subsequent property owners must adhere. You must pass on both the information about these continuing obligations to the next property owner or owners. If these requirements are not followed or if additional information regarding site conditions indicates that contamination on or from the site poses a threat to public health, safety, welfare, or the environment, the Department may take enforcement action under s. 292.11, Wis. Stats., to ensure compliance with the specified requirements, limitations or other conditions related to the property or this case may be reopened pursuant to s. NR 726.09, Wis. Adm. Code. The Department intends to conduct inspections in the future to ensure that the conditions included in this letter are met.

Residual Soil Contamination

Residual soil contamination remains outside of the July 2000 and October 2008 excavation boundaries at the depth of the soil-groundwater interface (approximately 12 to 15 feet below ground surface), as indicated on the attached Soil Contamination Map, created by Advent Environmental Services and modified by METCO, and in the information submitted to the Department of Natural Resources. If soil in the specific locations described above is excavated in the future, then pursuant to ch. NR 718 or, if applicable, ch. 289, Stats., and chs. 500 to 536, the property owner at the time of excavation must sample and analyze the excavated soil to determine if residual contamination remains. If sampling confirms that contamination is present the property owner at the time of excavation will need to determine whether the material is considered solid or hazardous waste and ensure that any storage, treatment or disposal is in compliance with applicable standards and rules. In addition, all current and future owners and occupants of the property need to be aware that excavation of the contaminated soil may pose an inhalation or other direct contact hazard and as a result special precautions may need to be taken to prevent a direct contact health threat to humans.

Structural Impediment

The concrete slab beneath the garage building, as shown on the attached Soil Contamination Map, created by Advent Environmental Services and modified by METCO, acted as a structural impediment at the time of cleanup. This structural impediment made complete investigation and remediation of the soil contamination on this property impracticable. Pursuant to s. 292.12(2)(b), Wis. Stats., if the structural impediment on this property that is described above is to be removed, the property owner shall notify the Department of Natural Resources before removal and conduct an investigation of the degree and extent of petroleum contamination. If contamination is found at that time, the contamination shall be properly remediated in accordance with applicable statutes and rules. If soil in the specific locations described above is excavated, the property owner at the time of excavation must sample and analyze the excavated soil to determine if residual contamination remains. If sampling confirms that contamination is present the property owner at the time of excavation will need to determine whether the material is considered

solid or hazardous waste and ensure that any storage, treatment or disposal is in compliance with applicable statutes and rules. In addition, all current and future owners and occupants of the property need to be aware that excavation of the contaminated soil may pose an inhalation or other direct contact hazard and as a result special precautions may need to be taken during excavation activities to prevent a health threat to humans.

Residual Groundwater Contamination

Groundwater impacted by petroleum contamination greater than enforcement standards set forth in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code, is present both on this contaminated property and under Tower Avenue and 18th Street, as shown on the attached Groundwater Contamination July 6, 2010 figure, created by Advent Environmental Services and modified by METCO. Off-source property owners have also been notified of the presence of groundwater contamination.

Monitoring Wells that could not be Properly Abandoned

On February 3, 2011, METCO notified the Department that monitoring well MW-8, located in the 18th Street right-of-way as shown on the attached Missing Monitoring Well map created by Advent Environmental Services and modified by METCO, could not be properly abandoned because it was missing due to being paved over, covered or removed during site development activities. Your consultant has made a reasonable effort to locate the well shown on the attached map and to determine whether it was properly abandoned, but they have been unsuccessful in those efforts. You need to understand that in the future you may be held liable for any problems associated with monitoring well MW-8 if it creates a conduit for contaminants to enter groundwater. If in the future MW-8 is found, the then current owner of the property on which the well is located will be required to notify the Department, to properly abandon the well in compliance with the requirements of ch. NR 141, Wis. Adm. Code, and to submit the required documentation of that abandonment to the Department.

Post-Closure Notification Requirements

In accordance with ss. 292.12 and 292.13, Wis. Stats., you must notify the Department before making changes that affect or relate to the conditions of closure in this letter. For this case, examples of changed conditions requiring prior notification include, but are not limited to:

- Any activity or construction that results in the removal or modification of a structural impediment that obstructed a complete site investigation or cleanup
- One or more monitoring wells that were not located are found and properly abandoned.

Please send written notifications in accordance with the above requirements to the attention of the RR Environmental Program Associate at the Department's Northern Region office at 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

PECFA Reimbursement

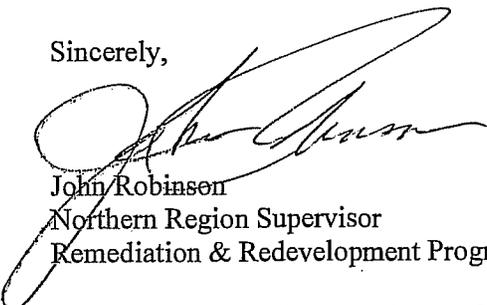
Section 101.143, Wis. Stats., requires that PECFA claimants seeking reimbursement of interest costs, for sites with petroleum contamination, submit a final reimbursement claim within 120 days after they receive a closure letter on their site. For claims not received by the PECFA Program within 120 days of the date of this letter, interest costs after 60 days of the date of this letter will not be eligible for PECFA reimbursement. If there is equipment purchased with PECFA funds remaining at the site, contact the Commerce PECFA Program to determine the method for salvaging the equipment.

The following DNR fact sheet, RR-819, "Continuing Obligations for Environmental Protection" has been included with this letter, to help explain a property owner's responsibility for continuing obligations on their property. You may obtain additional copies at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR819.pdf>.

Please be aware that the case may be reopened pursuant to s. NR 726.09, Wis. Adm. Code, if additional information regarding site conditions indicates that contamination on or from the site poses a threat to public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment.

The Department appreciates your efforts to restore the environment at this site. If you have any questions regarding this closure decision or anything outlined in this letter, please contact Chris Saari at 715-685-2920, or by e-mail at Christopher.Saari@Wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



John Robinson
Northern Region Supervisor
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

Attachments Soil Contamination Map
 Groundwater Contamination July 6, 2010 figure
 Missing Monitoring Well map
 RR-819 "Continuing Obligations for Environmental Protection"

cc: Jason Powell
 METCO
 1421 State Rd 16
 La Crosse, WI 54601

David Blair
PECFA Site Review Section
Department of Commerce
PO Box 8044
Madison, WI 53708-8044

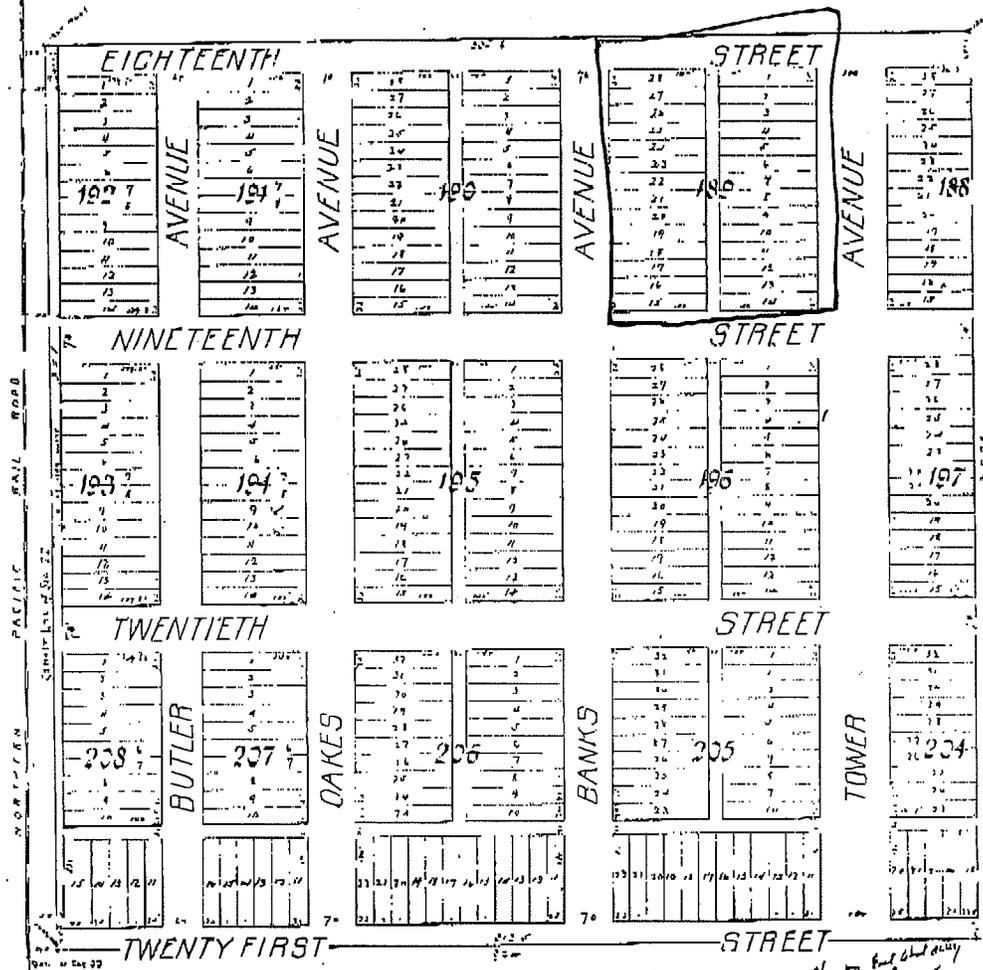
Jason Serck
Planning and Port Director
City of Superior
1316 N 13TH St
Superior, WI 54880

WEST SUPERIOR

Seventh Division

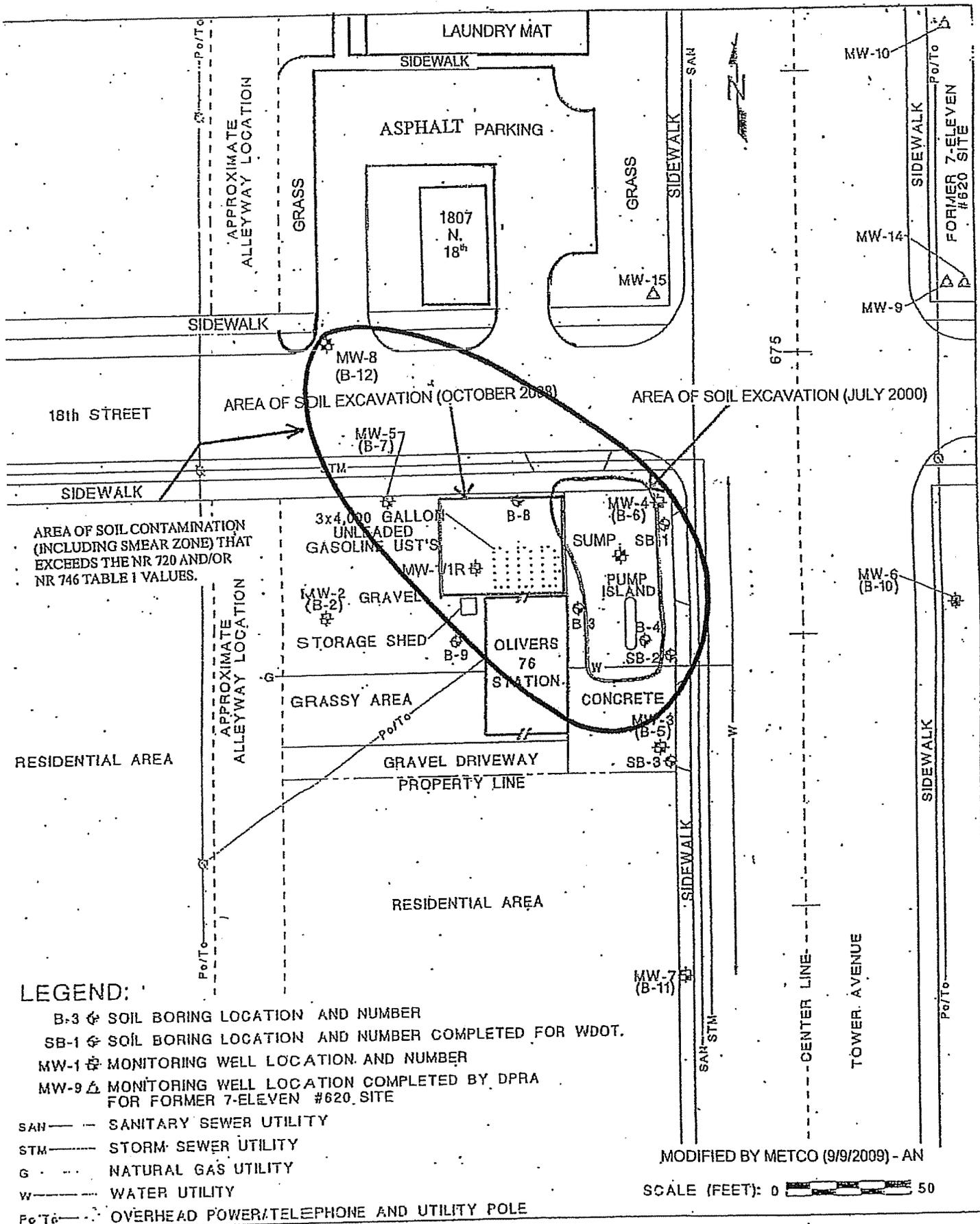
SECTION 22 TOWN 49 N RANGE 14 W

DOUGLAS COUNTY WISCONSIN



For the purpose of locating E-14 only on Block 244 do not refer to the section page 10
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AREA OF SOIL CONTAMINATION (INCLUDING SMEAR ZONE) THAT EXCEEDS THE NR 720 AND/OR NR 746 TABLE 1 VALUES.

AREA OF SOIL EXCAVATION (OCTOBER 2008)

AREA OF SOIL EXCAVATION (JULY 2000)

LEGEND:

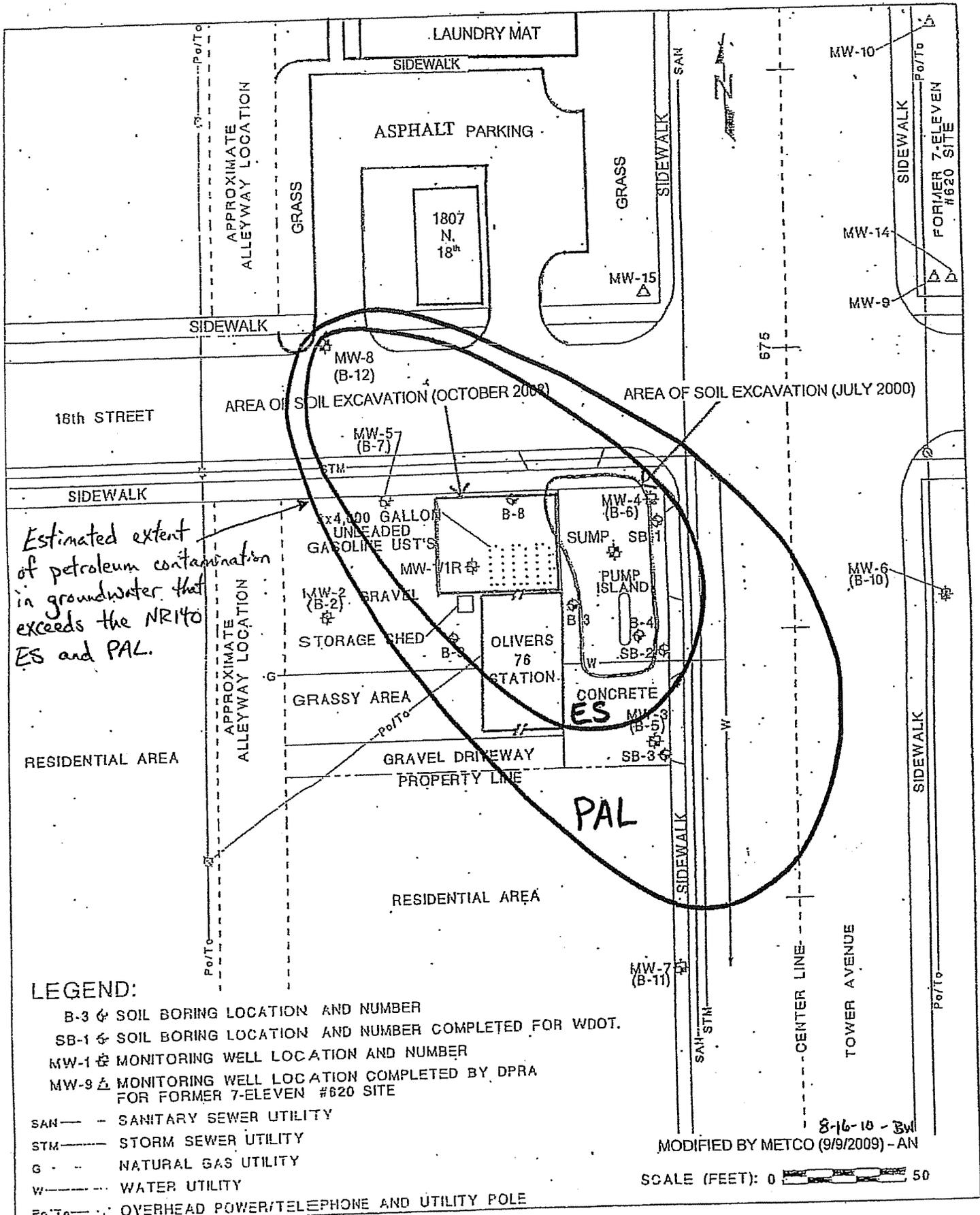
- B-3 ⊕ SOIL BORING LOCATION AND NUMBER
- SB-1 ⊕ SOIL BORING LOCATION AND NUMBER COMPLETED FOR WDOT.
- MW-1 ⊕ MONITORING WELL LOCATION AND NUMBER
- MW-9 ⊕ MONITORING WELL LOCATION COMPLETED BY DPRA FOR FORMER 7-ELEVEN #620 SITE
- SAN ——— SANITARY SEWER UTILITY
- STM ——— STORM SEWER UTILITY
- G ····· NATURAL GAS UTILITY
- W ——— WATER UTILITY
- Po/To ——— OVERHEAD POWER/TELEPHONE AND UTILITY POLE

MODIFIED BY METCO (9/9/2009) - AN

SCALE (FEET): 0 50

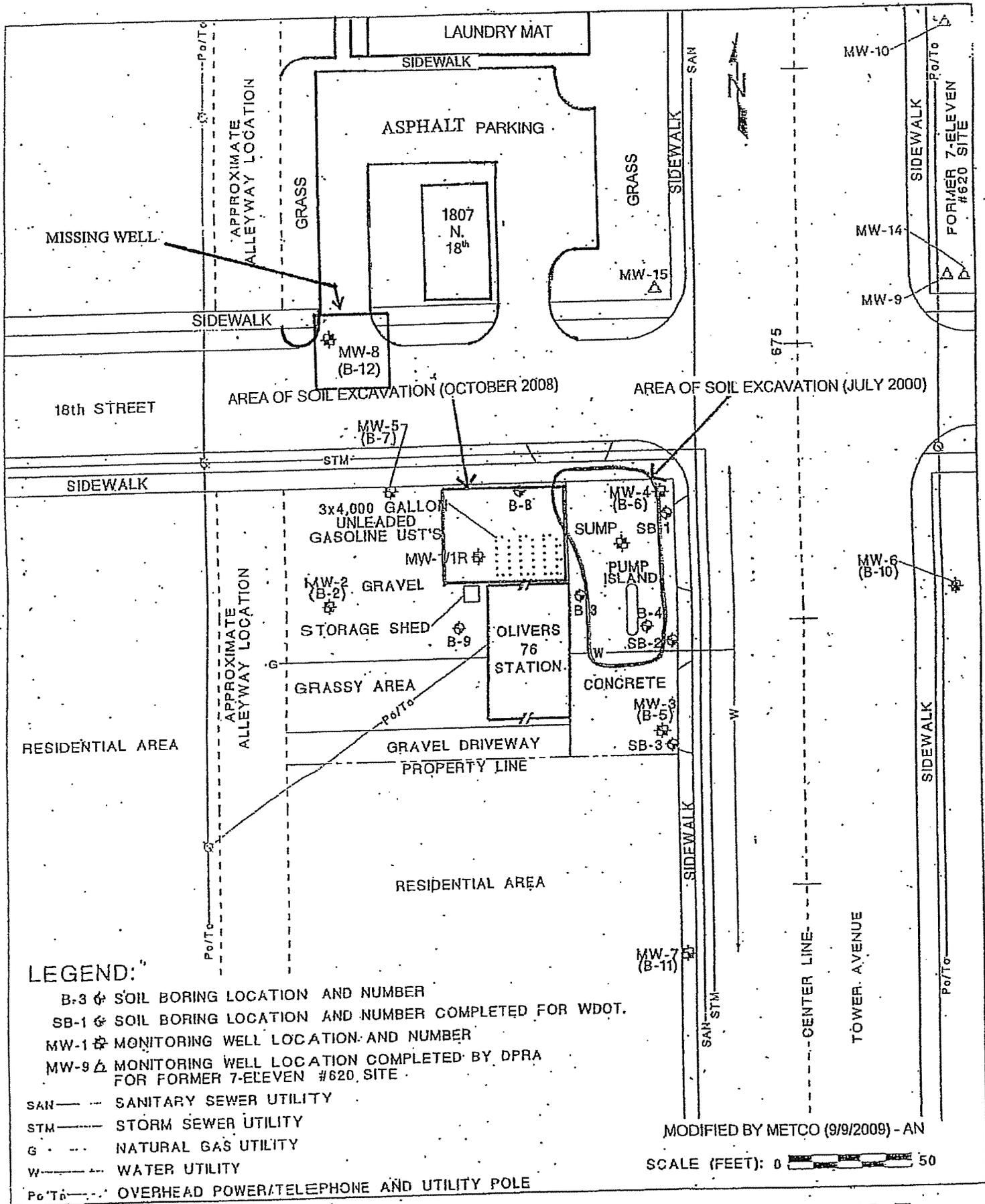
SOIL CONTAMINATION MAP
OLIVERS UNION 76 SERVICE
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN.

A D V E N T
 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
 DATE: 2/3/99



Groundwater Contamination July 6, 2010
 OLIVERS UNION 76 SERVICE
 SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

A D V E N T
 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
 DATE: 2/3/99



LEGEND:

- B-3 ⊕ SOIL BORING LOCATION AND NUMBER
- SB-1 ⊕ SOIL BORING LOCATION AND NUMBER COMPLETED FOR WDOT.
- MW-1 ⊕ MONITORING WELL LOCATION AND NUMBER
- MW-9 △ MONITORING WELL LOCATION COMPLETED BY DPRA FOR FORMER 7-ELEVEN #620 SITE
- SAN ——— SANITARY SEWER UTILITY
- STM ——— STORM SEWER UTILITY
- G ····· NATURAL GAS UTILITY
- W ——— WATER UTILITY
- Po/To ——— OVERHEAD POWER/TELEPHONE AND UTILITY POLE

MODIFIED BY METCO (9/9/2009) - AN
 SCALE (FEET): 0 50

MISSING MONITORING WELL
 OLIVERS UNION 76 SERVICE
 SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

A D V E N T
 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
 DATE: 2/3/99



Continuing Obligations for Environmental Protection

Responsibilities of Wisconsin Property Owners

PUB-RR-819

June 2009

This fact sheet is intended to help property owners understand their legal requirements under s. 292.12, Wis. Stats., regarding continuing obligations that arise due to the environmental condition of their property.

The term “continuing obligations” refers to certain actions for which property owners are responsible following a completed environmental cleanup. They are sometimes called environmental land use controls or institutional controls. These legal obligations, such as a requirement to maintain pavement over contaminated soil, are most often found in a cleanup approval letter from the state.

Less commonly, a continuing obligation may apply where a cleanup is not yet completed but a cleanup plan has been approved, or at a property owned by a local government that is exempt from certain cleanup requirements.

What Are Continuing Obligations?

Continuing obligations are legal requirements designed to protect public health and the environment in regard to contamination that remains on a property.

Continuing obligations still apply after a property is sold. Each new owner is responsible for complying with the continuing obligations.

Background

Wisconsin, like most states, allows some residual contamination to remain after cleanup of soil or groundwater contamination. This minimizes the transportation of contamination and reduces cleanup costs while still ensuring that public health and the environment are protected.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), through its Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program, places sites or properties with residual contamination on a public database in order to provide notice to interested parties about the residual contamination and any associated continuing obligations. Please see the “Public Information” section on page 3 to learn more about the database. (Prior to June 3, 2006, the state used deed restrictions recorded at county courthouses to establish continuing obligations, and those deed restrictions have also been added into the database.)



Types of Continuing Obligations

1. Manage Contaminated Soil that is Excavated

If the property owner intends to dig up an area with contaminated soil, the owner must ensure that proper soil sampling, followed by appropriate treatment or disposal, takes place.

Managing contaminated soil must be done in compliance with state law and is usually done under the guidance of a private environmental professional.

2. Manage Construction of Water Supply Wells

If there is soil or groundwater contamination and the property owner plans to construct or reconstruct a water supply well, the owner must obtain prior DNR approval to ensure that well construction is designed to protect the water supply from contamination.

Other Types of Continuing Obligations

Some continuing obligations are designed specifically for conditions on individual properties. Examples include:

- keeping clean soil and vegetation over contaminated soil;
- keeping an asphalt “cap” over contaminated soil or groundwater;
- maintaining a vapor venting system; and
- notifying the state if a structural impediment (e.g. building) that restricted the cleanup is removed. The owner may then need to conduct additional state-approved environmental work.

It is common for properties with approved cleanups to have continuing obligations because the DNR generally does not require removal of all contamination.

Property owners with the types of continuing obligations described above will find these requirements described in the state’s cleanup approval letter or cleanup plan approval, and must:

1. comply with these property-specific requirements; and
2. obtain the state’s permission before changing portions of the property where these requirements apply.

The requirements apply whether or not the person owned the property at the time that the continuing obligations were placed on the property.

Changing a Continuing Obligation

A property owner has the option to modify a continuing obligation if environmental conditions change. For example, petroleum contamination can degrade over time and property owners may collect new samples showing that residual contamination is gone. They may then request that DNR modify or remove a continuing obligation. A fee is required for DNR’s review of this request (\$500 or \$750, depending on the nature of the request). Fees are subject to change; current fees are found in Chapter NR 749, Wis. Admin. Code, on the web at www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr749.pdf.

Public Information

The DNR provides public information about continuing obligations on the Internet. This information helps property owners, purchasers, lessees and lenders understand legal requirements that apply to a property.

Properties with continuing obligations can generally be located in DNR's *GIS Registry*, part of the *RR Sites Map*. The information includes maps, deeds, contaminant data and the state's closure letter. The closure letter states that no additional environmental cleanup is needed for past contamination and includes information on property-specific continuing obligations. If a cleanup has not been completed, the state's approval of the remedial action plan will contain the information about continuing obligations.

However, some older cleanups may not be listed in the *GIS Registry*, so please consult DNR's comprehensive database of contaminated and cleaned up sites, *BRRTS on the Web*. This database shows all contamination activities known to DNR.

If a completed cleanup is shown in *BRRTS on the Web* but the site documents can not be found in the *GIS Registry*, DNR's closure letter can still be obtained from a regional office. For assistance, please contact a DNR Environmental Program Associate (see the RR Program's Staff Contact web page at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/technical/lists/contact_rr.htm).

BRRTS on the Web and
RR Sites Map are part of
CLEAN
(the **Contaminated Lands**
Environmental Action Network) at
dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/clean.htm.

Off-Site Contamination: When Continuing Obligations Cross the Property Line

An off-site property owner is someone who owns property that has been affected by contamination that moved through soil, sediment or groundwater from another property. Wisconsin law, s. 292.13, Wis. Stats., provides an exemption from environmental cleanup requirements for owners of "off-site" properties. The DNR will generally not ask off-site property owners to investigate or clean up contamination that came from a different property, as long as the off-site owner allows access to his or her property so that others who are responsible for the contamination may complete the cleanup.

However, off-site property owners are legally obligated to comply with continuing obligations on their property, even though they did not cause the contamination. For example, if the state approved a cleanup where the person responsible for the contamination placed clean soil over contamination on an off-site property, the owner of the off-site property must either keep that soil in place or obtain state approval before disturbing it.

Property owners and others should check the *Public Information* section above if they need to:

- determine whether and where continuing obligations exist on a property;
- review the inspection, maintenance and reporting requirements, and
- contact the DNR regarding changing that portion of the property. The person to contact is the person that approved the closure or remedial action plan.

Option for an Off-Site Liability Exemption Letter

In general, owners of off-site properties have a legal exemption from environmental cleanup requirements. This exemption does not require a state approval letter. Nonetheless, they may request a property-specific liability exemption letter from DNR if they have enough information to show that the source of the contamination is not on their property. This letter may be helpful in real estate transactions. The fee for this letter is \$500 under Chapter NR 749, Wis. Adm. Code. For more information about this option, please see the RR Program's Liability web page at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/liability/index.htm.

Legal Obligations of Off-Site Property Owners

- Allow access so the person cleaning up the contamination may work on the off-site property (unless the off-site owner completes the cleanup independently).
- Comply with any required continuing obligations on the off-site property.

Required Notifications to Off-Site Property Owners

1. The person responsible for cleaning up contamination must notify affected off-site property owners of any proposed continuing obligations on their off-site property **before** asking the DNR to approve the cleanup. This is required by law and allows the off-site owners to provide the DNR with any technical information that may be relevant to the cleanup approval.

When circumstances are appropriate, an off-site neighbor and the person responsible for the cleanup may enter into a “legally enforceable agreement” (i.e. a contract). Under this type of private agreement, the person responsible for the contamination may also take responsibility for maintaining a continuing obligation on an off-site property. This agreement would not automatically transfer to future owners of the off-site property. The state is not a party to the agreement and can not enforce it.

2. If a cleanup proposal that includes off-site continuing obligations is approved, DNR will send a letter to the off-site owners detailing the continuing obligations that are required for their property. Property owners should inform anyone interested in buying their property about maintaining these continuing obligations. For residential property, this would be part of the real estate disclosure obligation.

More Information

For more information, please visit the RR Program's Continuing Obligations web site at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/cleanup/obligations.htm.

Additional Information

For more information about DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program, see our web site at dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/. This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions.

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