

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England
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March 15, 2005

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S. Messur, BBL
D. Young, MA EOE
K. Munney, US Fish and Wildlife
D. Mauro, META Environmental, Inc.
R. Nasman, The Berkshire Gas Company
Mayor Ruberto, City of Pittsfield
Commissioner of Public Works and Utilities, City of Pittsfield
Public Information Repositories

RE: February 2005 Monthly Report
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Enclosed please find the February 2005 Monthly Report for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. In accordance with the Consent Decree for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is performing the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action, with General Electric funding a portion of the project through a cost sharing formula.

The EPA has entered into an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist in the design and construction of the Removal Action. The USACE subsequently awarded a design-construct contract to Weston Solutions, Inc. (Weston). Weston, with several subcontractors, will be performing the design and construction activities for the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,

Dean Tagliaferro
1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action Project Manager

1. Overview

During February 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE's contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc., and Weston's subcontractors continued remediation activities on the 1.5 Mile Reach Removal Action. The primary work included decontamination and dismantling of the water treatment system (WTS). The construction of the WTS pad at the Fred Garner Park was completed and the relocation of the WTS and support area to Fred Garner Park was initiated. Also, the removal of the 54-inch HDPE pipe from the riverbed was completed. The repair of the energy dissipater from the City outfall downstream of the Elm Street Bridge was completed. In addition, the installation of the river enhancement structures in the Transition Phase was completed.

2. Chronological description of tasks performed

Refer to Figure 1 (2 maps) for an orientation of the excavation cells and their respective locations.

By the end of January 2005, activities associated with demobilization of the water treatment system (WTS) were underway. During the first week of February the demobilization of the WTS continued. The removal of the spent carbon from the carbon filter vessels was completed. Approximately 10cy the spent carbon material was removed and transported to Building 65 stockpile management area. The removal of the WTS piping continued and dismantling of the sand and spent carbon filter vessel building was initiated.

The repair activities of the energy dissipater from the City outfall downstream of the Elm Street Bridge continued. Approximately 6cy of concrete was poured for the 12 rough element chute blocks and the required concrete testing was completed.

Also during the first week in February, activities associated with the removal of the 54-inch HDPE river diversion pipes resumed in Phase 2. Stop logs were added to the temporary diversion dam in order to stop the flow in the river so the 54-inch pipe could be accessed. The pipe was then cut into either 150-foot or 300-foot sections by using a hydraulic cut-off saw. The pipe restraint system collars were removed from the pipe and the pipe sections were dragged upstream to the staging area on Parcel I8-24-1. The pipe was then cut into 50-foot sections, loaded onto a flat bed truck and transported to GE staging area. Stop logs were removed from the temporary dam at the end of each working day to allow flow through the river channel.

Tree clearing and grubbing activities were initiated at Fred Garner Park, the future location of the WTS and staging/support areas.

In addition the Survey contractor initiated the stake out of the lease areas and remediation limits in Phase 3B. Topographical survey of Parcels I7-3-5, I7-3-6, I7-3-7, I7-2-20, I7-3-1 and I7-99-0000, the future location of temporary access roads and support areas, was also initiated.

During the second week of February, activities associated with the removal of the 54-inch HDPE river diversion pipes continued in the same manner as described above. All remaining 54-inch pipe was removed from the river channel.

Activities associated with demobilization of the WTS continued. The removal of the WTS piping and the dismantling of the sand and spent carbon filter vessel building continued.

Tree clearing and grubbing activities at Fred Garner Park continued. Once the tree clearing and grubbing were completed, activities associated with building the WTS pad were initiated. First the area designated for the WTS pad was covered with a layer of geotextile, next a layer of common fill was installed and compacted. The installation of the spill containment system (concrete blocks and jersey barriers) around the WTS pad was initiated. Also, the installation of fencing around the perimeter of construction area at Fred Garner Park was initiated.

In addition, the Survey contractor completed the topographical survey of Parcels I7-3-5, I7-3-6, I7-3-7, I7-2-20, I7-3-1 and I7-99-0000. Also, the stake out of the remediation limits in Phase 3B was completed. The Survey contractor also initiated the layout of the pre-excavation cross sections in Phase 3B.

During the third week of February, activities associated with building the WTS pad at Fred Garner Park were completed. The installation of the spill containment system (concrete blocks and jersey barriers) around the WTS pad was completed. The compaction of the common fill layer over the WTS pad was completed, and then a layer of geotextile fabric and a layer of reinforced poly liner were placed over the common fill and over the concrete blocks and jersey barriers. Next, the installation of a layer of dense grade/airport mix material over the entire WTS pad was completed. Installation of the dense grade material concluded the WTS pad construction.

Also, the installation of fencing around the perimeter of construction area at Fred Garner Park was completed.

Activities associated with demobilization of the WTS were completed and relocating of the WTS components to the Fred Garner Park location was initiated. Once the sand and spent carbon filter vessel building was dismantled, the sand and carbon filter vessels were transported and set up at the WTS pad at Fred Garner Park. The oil/water separator tanks, the mixing tank and the WTS piping were also moved and set up at the WTS pad at Fred Garner Park.

Activities associated with demobilization of the 54-inch HDPE river diversion pipes continued. The cutting of the pipe into 50-foot sections, removing of the rigging and restraint bands from the pipe and transportation of the pipe to GE staging area continued. Also, the removal of the H-piles that were used for the pipe restraint system in Phase 2 and Phase 3A was initiated.

The surveying activities in Phase 3B continued. The Survey contractor continued to stake out the pre-excavation cross sections and lease areas in Phase 3B.

During the fourth week of February, the WTS set up at the Fred Garner Park location continued. The construction of the WTS modutanks was initiated. Installation and connecting of the sand and carbon filter vessel piping was initiated.

The removal of the WTS force main pipe along the Transition Phase and Phase 2 was initiated. The pipe was cut into 20-foot sections and transported to the staging area on Parcel I8-24-1.

The repair activities of the energy dissipater from the City outfall downstream of the Elm Street Bridge continued. The concrete forms were removed from the 12 rough element chute blocks. The chute blocks were inspected and found to be in excellent condition. Minor concrete spills were found at the bases of the elements that will require clean up. The clean up will be done in the late spring/summer when river flows are expected to be low. The construction of the chute blocks concluded the repair activities of the energy dissipater.

Also, during the fourth week of February, installation of the 18-inch riprap over the Cell 13W riverbank sheetpile retaining wall and the installation of the 12-inch riprap and re-grading of the Cell 13W river bottom were completed. The Survey contractor monitored the backfill installation to ensure proper restoration grades were achieved. The west side of Cell 13 riverbank and riverbed was used as an access way to the river channel from the Parcel I8-24-1 staging area during the construction activities in Phase 2 and Phase 3A, therefore, Cell 13 was never completely restored until remediation now when the remediation activities have ended in Phase 2 and Phase 3A.

Activities associated with demobilization of the 54-inch HDPE river diversion pipes continued. The removal of the rigging and restraint bands from the pipe was completed. The removal of the 54-inch pipe restraint system H-piles in Phase 2 was completed, with the exception of one H-pile near the temporary dam. This H-pile will be removed when the temporary dam is removed.

Activities associated with the placement of the river enhancement structures in the Transition Phase were initiated.

During the last week of February, the WTS set at the Fred Garner Park location continued. The construction of the WTS modutanks and set up of the WTS piping continued.

Activities associated with the placement of the river enhancement structures in the Transition Phase were completed.

The removal of the WTS force main pipe along Phase 2 continued. The pipe was cut into 20-foot sections and transported to the staging area on Parcel I8-24-1.

Other miscellaneous activities during the last week of February included decontamination of the 54-inch pipe restraint bands for proper disposal.

Since there were no sediment excavation activities during the month of February, the water treatment system did not treat any water. Therefore the monthly sampling of the water treatment system for the month of February was not necessary.

Also, due to the minimal remediation activities scheduled for the upcoming winter months, all air and water monitoring and sampling activities were suspended on December 08, 2004 until excavation activities resume in the spring. On February 11, 2005, one off-site disposal characterization sample was collected from the water treatment system spent carbon material (stockpiled in Building 65).

Conditions and settlement monitoring activities on selected structures and properties in Phase 3B continued during the month of February.

Stockpile management area activities continued throughout the month of February. Daily inspections, operation, and maintenance activities were performed within Buildings 63, 65, Area 64 (the outside stockpile area) and Building 68.

Traffic control was conducted on Lyman Street, Elm Street and Deming Street during the month of February.

3. Sampling/test results received

Table 3 contains data associated with sampling of the water treatment system spent carbon filter material (stockpiled in Building 65).

4. Diagrams associated with the tasks performed

Figure 1 (2 maps) includes the layout of all excavation cells, the temporary dam, water monitoring locations, air sampling locations, access road locations, excavation load-out locations, staging area locations, fence line location, and the new and the old water treatment system pad locations.

5. Reports received and prepared

Not Available.

6. Photo documentation of activities performed

See attached photos.

7. Brief description of work to be performed in March 2005

- Complete the water treatment system set up and support area set up at Fred Garner Park.
- Complete the installation of access roads along Cell 25 and support area on Parcels I7-3-5, I7-3-6 and I7-3-7.
- Install security fencing in Phase 3B.
- Initiate the installation of the sheet pile walls for Cell 25.
- Potentially initiate excavation activities in Cell 25.
- Arrange for transport of WTS waste materials (modutank sediment, spent carbon and sand filters) to an approved off-site disposal facility.
- Initiate stockpile management activities at Buildings 63, 65, 68 and Area 64 once the excavation activities resume.
- Initiate daily air and turbidity monitoring once the in-river remediation activities resume.
- Initiate PCB air sampling (once a month), water column sampling (twice a month), water treatment system sampling (once a month) and backfill material sampling (as needed) once the in-river remediation activities resume.
- Continue conditions and settlement monitoring activities in Phase 3B.
- Initiate vibration monitoring activities in Phase 3B once the remediation activities resume.

8. ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT

Table 1. Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated to Date

Table 2. Quantity of Material Transferred to OPCAs to Date

Table 3. Water Treatment System Spent Carbon Filter Material Characterization Analytical Results

Figure 1- 1.5 Mile Removal Action Site Map (2 maps)

Photo documentation

**Table 1 - Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated to Date
February 2005 Monthly Report**

**GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Project 1.5 Mile Removal Action
Pittsfield, MA**

(Results are reported in cubic yards)

		Approximate Quantity of Bank and Sediment Material Excavated to Date			
Date	Location	non-TSCA	TSCA	NAPL impacted	Total
09/26/02 to 10/02/02	Cell 1A	101	0	53	154
10/02/02 to 10/04/02	Cell 1B	60	0	110	170
10/18/02 to 10/29/02	Cell 2	874	175	0	1,049
11/11/02 to 11/15/02	Cell 3	183	0	200	383
11/18/02 to 11/25/02	Cell 4	2,283	198	0	2,481
12/03/02 to 12/10/02	Cell 5	1,629	369	0	1,998
01/07/03 to 01/15/03	Cell 6	832	658	0	1,490
01/10/03 to 01/29/03	Cell 6A	2,611	68	0	2,679
02/03/03 to 02/10/03	Cell 7&7A	1,114	636	0	1,750
02/20/03 to 02/24/03	Cell 5A	899	0	0	899
02/25/03 to 03/07/03	Cell 8&8A	1,245	90	0	1,335
03/14/03 to 03/18/03	Cell 9	603	307	0	910
03/27/03 to 04/07/03	Cell 10&10A	1,730	133	0	1,863
04/14/03 to 04/16/03	Cell 12	668	1,354	0	2,022
04/30/03 to 05/09/03	Cell 11	1,713	341	10	2,064
05/27/03 to 06/12/03	Cell 11A	957	166	462	1,585
06/25/03 to 07/29/03	Cell 12A	1,656	805	656	3,117
09/04/03 to 10/22/03	Cell 13	3,580	298	1,129	5,007
01/08/04 to 03/24/04	Cell 14&15	4,462	288	257	5,007
05/25/04 to 07/28/04	Cell 16&17	4,409	822	3,191	8,422
07/30/04 to 09/17/04	Cell 18&19	3,741	65	685	4,491
09/28/04 to 10/25/04	Cell 20	948	591	196	1,735
09/28/04 to 10/25/04	Cell 21	525	569	0	1,094
09/28/04 to 10/25/04	Cell 22	1,170	686	0	1,856
11/04/04 to 12/01/04	Cell 23	1,725	189	0	1,914
11/04/04 to 12/02/05	Cell 24	1,610	247	0	1,857
	Total	41,328	9,055	6,949	57,332

Note:

All quantities determined by pre- and post- excavation surveying.



Photograph 1 – Placing Concrete for the Dissipater Chute Blocks



Photograph 2 – 54-inch HDPE Pipe Restraint H-pile Removal



Photograph 3– Aquatic Enhancement Structures Downstream of Elm Street Bridge



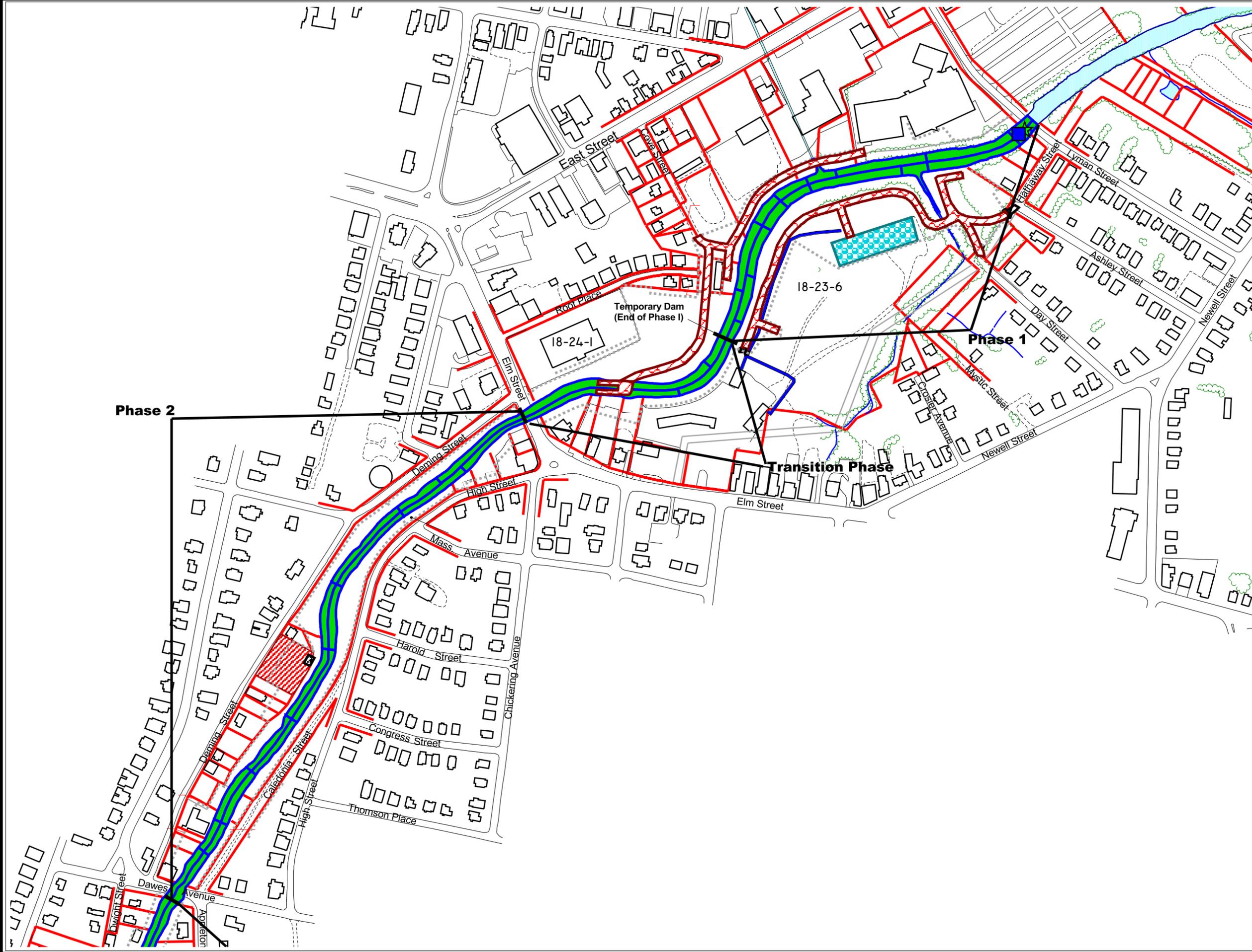
Photograph 4 – Tree Clearing Activities at Fred Garner Park



Photograph 5 – Construction of the WTS Pad at Fred Garner Park



Photograph 6 – Sand and Carbon Filter Vessels Relocated to Fred Garner Park



LEGEND

- Roads
- Surface Water
- Water Treatment Plant*
- Access Roads
- Asphalt Access Road
- Property Lines
- Loadout Area
- Deming Street Staging/Loadout Area
- Fence Line
- Work Completed
- Turbidity Monitoring Locations
- Water Monitoring Locations
- Buried Electric/Telephone Line*

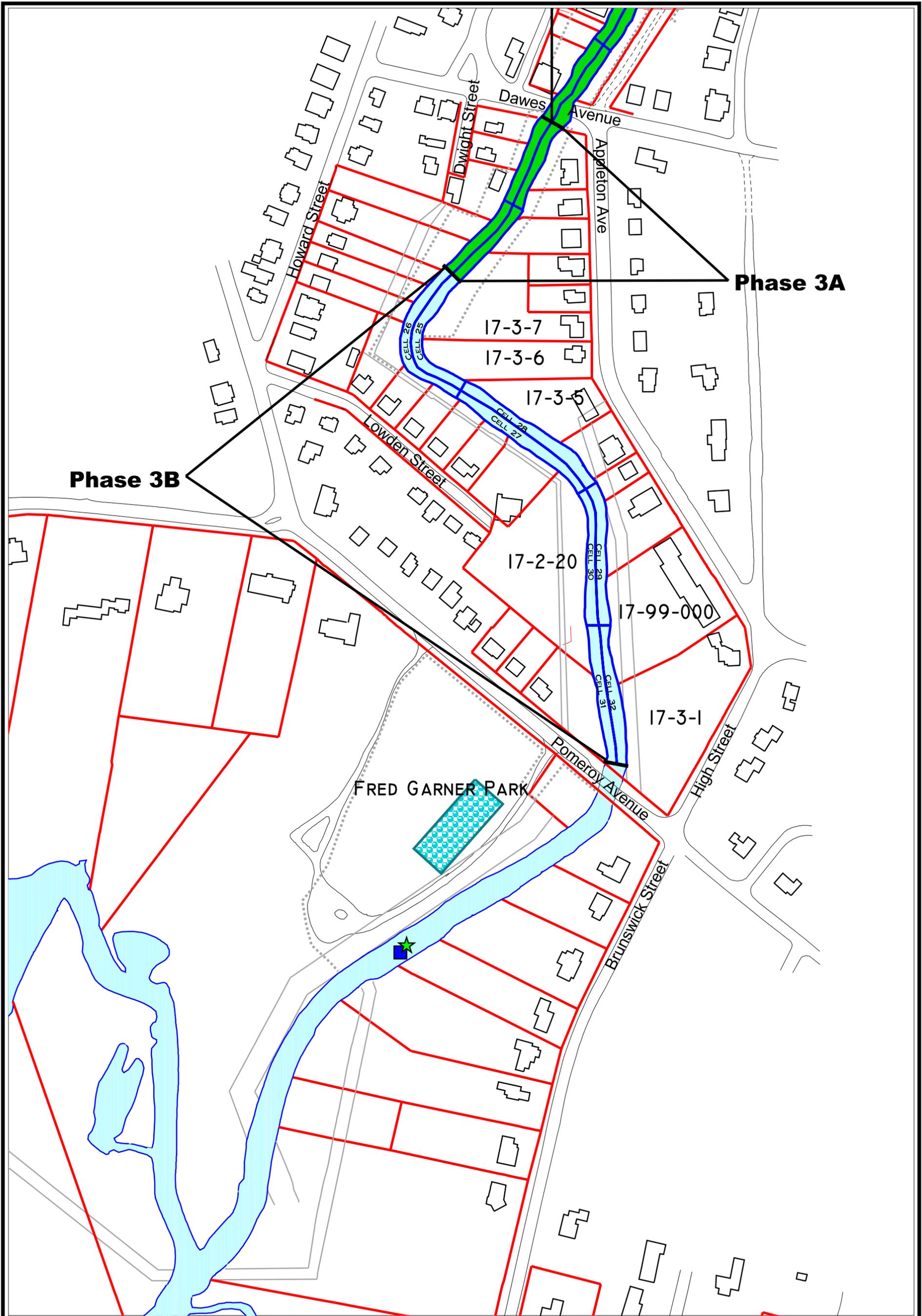
*Note: As-built features were located using a real time GPS unit



Scale in Feet



Figure 1
1.5 Mile Removal Action
Site Map (Map 1 of 2)
February 2005 Monthly Report



Phase 3B

Phase 3A

LEGEND

- Surface Water
- Property Lines
- Work Completed
- Work Pending
- Fence line
- Roads
- Turbidity Monitoring Locations
- Water Monitoring Locations

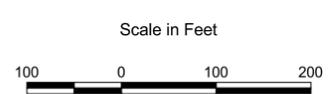


Figure 1
1.5 Mile Removal Action
Site Map (Map 2 of 2)
February 2005 Monthly Report