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Weiss Associates

Environmental Science, Engineering and Management

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Alameda County

SEP 02 2005

Environmental Health

TRANSMITTAL

TO: Mr. Barney Chan **DATE:** August 26, 2005

COMPANY: Hazardous Materials Specialist
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 250
Alameda, California 94502 **PROJECT #:** 184-1761-1

FROM: L. Maile Smith, 650.968.7000 **PHONE:**
FAX:

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND: SITE CHARACTERIZATION WORKPLAN FOR MCGRATH STEEL COMPANY

VIA:	FAX:	AS:	FOR:
<input type="checkbox"/> Fax	# of pages: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Per our phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Your information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 st Class Mail	(including this cover)	<input type="checkbox"/> You requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Return to you
<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Copy to follow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is required	<input type="checkbox"/> Your action
<input type="checkbox"/> UPS (Surface)		<input type="checkbox"/> We believe you may be interested	<input type="checkbox"/> Your review & comments
<input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail			

COMMENTS:

Dear Mr. Chan –

This transmittal accompanies the Site Characterization Workplan for McGrath Steel Company.

Please feel welcome to contact me at (650) 968-7000 should you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed document.

Thanks!

Maile

Please call (650) 968-7000 if there are any problems with transmission.

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August 26, 2005

Mr. Barney Chan
Hazardous Materials Specialist
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 250
Alameda, California 94502

**RE: Site Characterization Workplan
McGrath Steel Company
6655 Hollis Street
Emeryville, California
Fuel Leak Case RO0000063
Weiss Project No. 184-1761-1**

Dear Mr. Chan:

On behalf of McGrath Steel, owner of the property at 6655 Hollis Street in Emeryville, California (the Site; Figure 1), Weiss Associates (Weiss) is submitting this site characterization workplan as requested in the Alameda County Health Care Services (ACHCS) letters to McGrath Steel Company dated June 30, 2005 and August 4, 2004¹. The project objective is to determine if petroleum hydrocarbons have impacted soil or ground water near the former underground storage tanks (USTs) at the Site.

Background

In July 1996, McGrath Steel removed two 2,000-gallon USTs from beneath the 67th Street sidewalk adjacent to the McGrath property near the southwest intersection of 67th and Hollis Streets. The USTs were used to store unleaded gasoline and diesel. Petroleum hydrocarbons were detected in analyses of confirmatory soil samples collected from the initial UST pits and from the subsequent over-excavation. ACHCS subsequently requested a ground water investigation workplan.

¹ June 30, 2005 letter from Barney M. Chan, ACHCS, to Jon Braden, McGrath Steel Company, Re: Fuel Leak Case RO0000063, McGrath Steel Company, 6655 Hollis Street, Oakland, California, 94608;

August 4, 2004 letter from Barney M. Chan, ACHCS, to Robert Thomas, McGrath Steel Company, Re: Fuel Leak Case RO0000063, McGrath Steel Company, 6655 Hollis Street, Oakland, California, 94608, re-submitted on July 15, 2005 to Mr. Jon Braden, McGrath Steel Company.

On May 20, 1998, Weiss drilled three boreholes (B-1 cross-gradient, B-2 upgradient, and B-5 downgradient) near the location of the former USTs². Petroleum hydrocarbons were detected only in soil samples collected from boring B-5 at a depth of 12 feet below ground surface (ft bgs). Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as gasoline (TPH-G) was detected at a concentration of 27 parts per million (ppm), TPH as diesel (TPH-D) was detected at 2.8 ppm, benzene was detected at 0.28 ppm, toluene was detected at 0.6 ppm, total xylenes was detected at 0.49 ppm, and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) was detected at 3.8 ppm. Petroleum hydrocarbons were detected in ground water samples collected from borings B-1, B-2, and B-5 at maximum concentrations of 270 ppm of TPH-G, 1.6 ppm TPH-D, 59 ppm MTBE. Also detected were 21 ppm, 34 ppm, 6 ppm, and 36 ppm (respectively) of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes (BTEX).

In September 1999, Weiss proposed to further delineate the extent of dissolved petroleum hydrocarbons in ground water downgradient from the former USTs by installing a ground water monitoring well. It is assumed that the workplan was not approved and that the proposed Site characterization work was not conducted.

Objective

The project objective is to determine the extent of petroleum hydrocarbons in soil and ground water near the former USTs at the Site, if present. It is our understanding that this work must be performed in order to progress toward Site closure.

Investigation Strategy

The proposed plan is to delineate the extent of any dissolved hydrocarbons in ground water with the collection and analysis of soil and ground water samples collected from six temporary borings. A direct-push or hollow-stem auger drill rig will be used to core the soil borings to ground water, estimated to be between 12 and 15 ft bgs. Figure 2 depicts the approximate location of the proposed borings. One boring is proposed adjacent to the former USTs, and because of the potentially large number of other hydrocarbon sources in the vicinity, one boring is recommended cross-gradient of the former USTs, near the south side of 67th Street. Two borings are proposed cross-gradient of former soil boring B-5 (one on the north side of 67th Street and one on the sidewalk adjacent to the northwest corner of the McGrath warehouse). Two borings are proposed cross- and downgradient of boring B-5 (25 ft west, one on the south side and one on the north side of 67th Street), to delineate the downgradient edge of dissolved hydrocarbons in ground water.

A grab ground water sample will be collected from each boring and analyzed for TPH-D, TPH-G, BTEX, MTBE, tert-amyl methyl ether (TAME), ethyl tert-butyl ether (ETBE), di-isopropyl ether (DIPE), tert-butyl alcohol (TBA), ethylene dibromide (EDB), and ethylene dichloride (EDC). One soil sample will be collected every four to five ft bgs, up to and including the soil/water

² Per the Weiss Subsurface Investigation Report dated August 5, 1998, only three of seven proposed boreholes for the 1998 investigation were drilled due to adverse field conditions and schedule restraints.

interface, for analysis of the same constituents. Monitoring wells may or may not be proposed at a later date, depending on the outcome of the site characterization activities described in this workplan.

Scope of Work

To assess current soil and ground water conditions at the Site, the focused soil and ground water investigation will include the following tasks:

- Prepare a Site-specific health and safety plan based on the Weiss Corporate Health and Safety Plan and Site-specific parameters (i.e. previous sampling results);
- Obtain boring and well installation permits from Alameda County Zone 7 Water Agency;
- Obtain an encroachment permit from the City of Emeryville Department of Public Works;
- Conduct a subsurface utility survey prior to the start of work;
- Contact Underground Service Alert (USA) at least 48 hours prior to drilling;
- Subcontract a California-licensed drilling contractor to drill six soil borings to ground water and collect soil samples at 4- to 5-ft intervals up to and including the soil/water interface;
- Collect one grab ground water sample from each boring;
- Analyze all soil and ground water samples for TPH-D, TPH-G, BTEX, MTBE, TAME, ETBE, DIPE, TBA, EDB, and EDC by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Methods 8015M and 8260B;
- Contain soil cuttings and purged ground water at the McGrath Steel facility in 55-gallon drums pending profiling for disposal; and,
- Compile the results of the investigation and prepare an investigation summary report for submittal to ACHCS, which will include a Site location map, descriptions of field procedures, logs, maps, and cross-sections of borings, tabulated analytic data, the laboratory certified analytical reports and chain-of-custody forms, and conclusions and recommendations of a registered engineer or geologist.

Schedule

The scope-of-work described above will be initiated no more than 60 days after receiving written approval from the ACHCS for this workplan. A report will be submitted 45 days after all fieldwork is completed and the analytic data are received.

Mr. Barney Chan, ACHCS
August 26, 2005

4



Please feel welcome to call me at 650-968-7000 if you have any questions or comments regarding this workplan.

Sincerely,
Weiss Associates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Maile Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the letters.

L. Maile Smith, PG
Project Manager

Figures

cc: Mr. Jon Braden, McGrath Steel Company

lms:LMS

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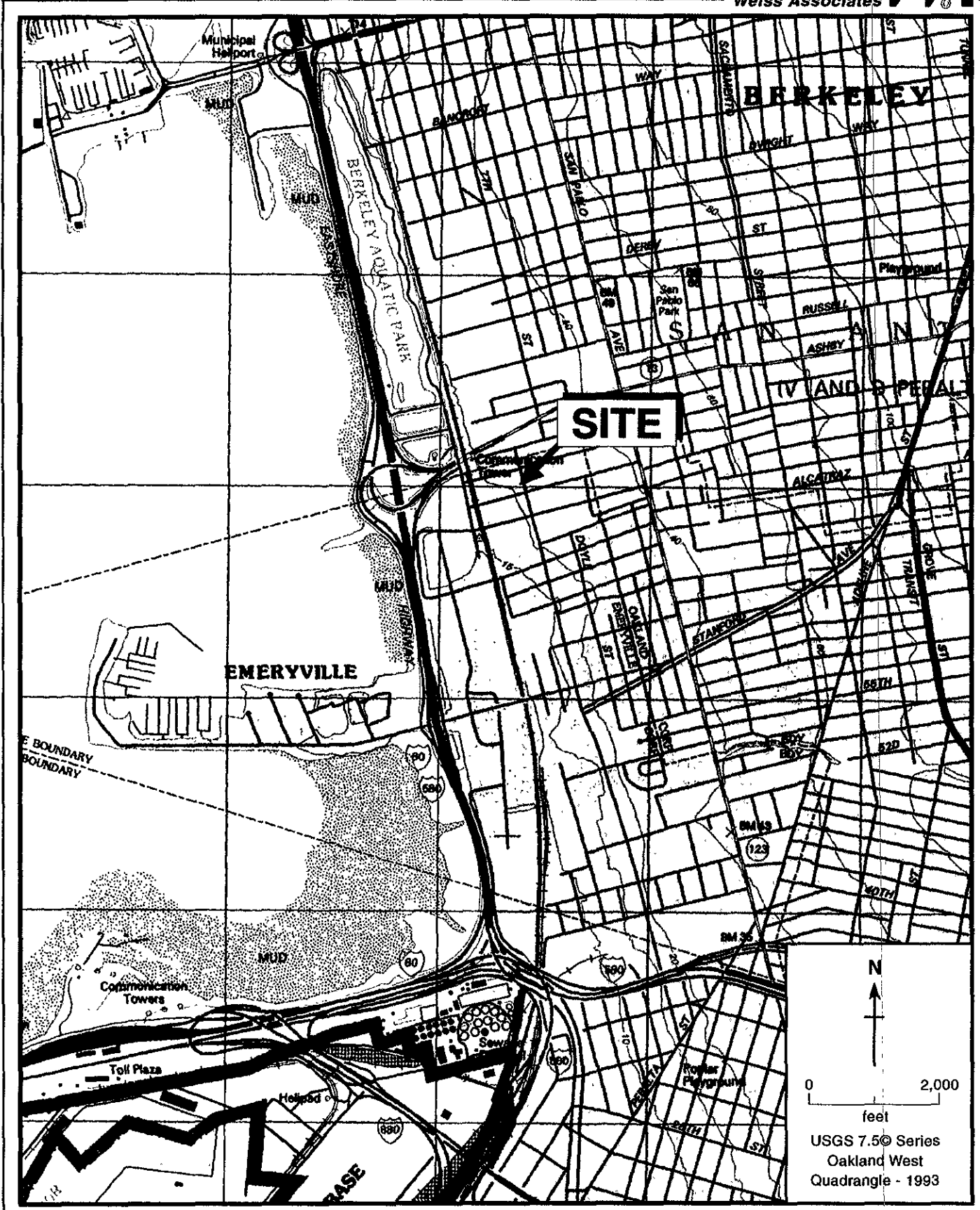


Figure 1. Site Location Map—McGrath Steel, 6655 Hollis Street, Emeryville, California

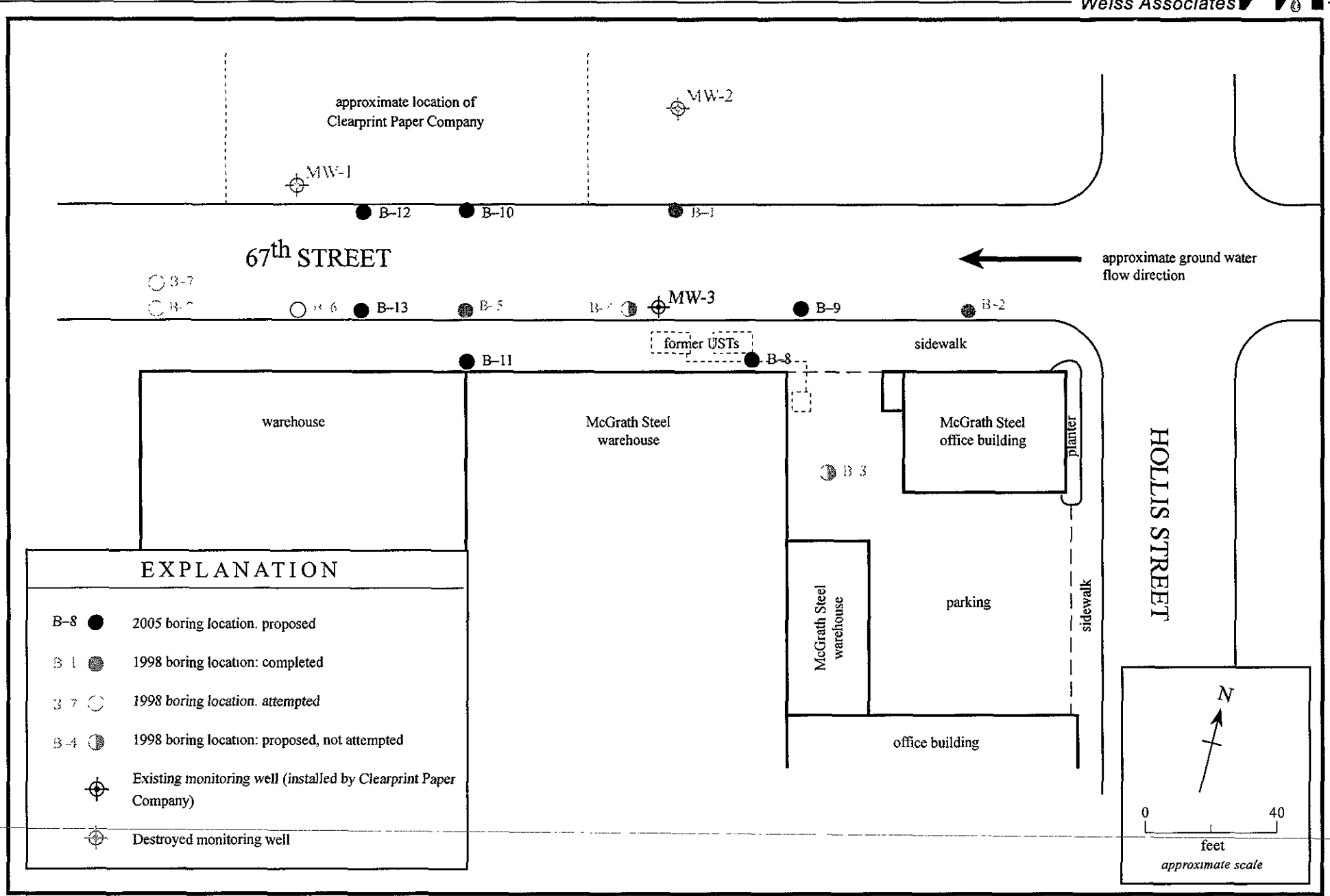


Figure 2. Site Plan and Proposed Boring Locations, McGrath Steel, 6655 Hollis Street, Emeryville, California