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**NO FURTHER ACTION DECISION UNDER  
CERCLA**

**STUDY AREA 43E  
HISTORIC GAS STATION SITES  
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

**CONTRACT DAAA15-91-D-0008**

**U.S. ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND**

**JANUARY 1995**

*PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER*

**20070502733**

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STUDY AREA 43E  
HISTORIC GAS STATION SITES  
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

*Prepared for:*

U.S. Army Environmental Center  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland  
Contract DAAA15-91-0008

*Prepared by:*

ABB Environmental Services, Inc.  
Portland, Maine  
Project No. 7053-12

JANUARY 1995

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**GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Investigations of Study Area 43E (Historic Gas Station Site) at Fort Devens, Massachusetts have resulted in the decision that no further hazardous waste studies or remediation are required at this site. Study Area 43E was identified in the Federal Facilities Agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Defense as a potential site of contamination.

Fort Devens was placed on the National Priorities List under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act on December 21, 1989. In addition, under Public Law 101-510, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, Fort Devens was selected for cessation of operations and closure. In accordance with these acts, numerous studies, including a Master Environmental Plan, an Enhanced Preliminary Assessment, and a Site Investigation, have been conducted which address Study Area 43E.

Field investigation of Study Area 43E was initiated in 1992 in conjunction with the other 12 Groups 2, 7, and Historic Gas Stations Study Areas at Fort Devens. The Study Area 43E site investigation consisted of surficial geophysical surveys, which included a metal detector and ground penetrating radar survey.

The geophysical surveys indicated that one abandoned underground storage tank was present on the northern side of Building 2020. This tank was removed by ATEC Environmental Consultants on September 3, 1992. No visually contaminated soil was observed in the excavation, and groundwater was not encountered. ATEC Environmental Consultants performed field screening for volatile organic compounds and total petroleum hydrocarbons on 10 soil samples collected from the walls of the excavation. The photoionization detector headspace screening showed volatile organic compound concentrations ranging from 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million. Total petroleum hydrocarbons were detected at concentrations ranging from 4.8 to 43.5 parts per million. ABB Environmental Services, Inc. collected one composite sample from the bottom of the excavation for off-site laboratory analysis. Total petroleum hydrocarbons were detected at 85 parts per million. Based on ATEC Environmental Consultants' sampling results, the excavation was backfilled. Because total petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations were below 100 parts per million, no further site investigation was conducted.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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On the basis of findings at Study Area 43E and the Preliminary Risk Evaluation, there is no evidence or reason to conclude that petroleum contamination due to the former underground storage tank has caused significant environmental contamination or poses a threat to human health. The decision has been made to remove Study Area 43E from further consideration in the Installation Restoration Program.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This decision document has been prepared to support a no further action decision at Study Area 43E - Historic Gas Station Site (SA 43E) at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The report was prepared as part of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program to assess the nature and extent of contamination associated with site operations at Fort Devens.

In conjunction with the Army's Installation Restoration Program (IRP), Fort Devens and the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC; formerly the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency) initiated a Master Environmental Plan (MEP) in 1988. The MEP consists of assessments of the environmental status of SAs, specifies necessary investigations, and provides recommendations for response actions with the objective of identifying priorities for environmental restoration at Fort Devens. The Historic Gas Station Sites were identified in the MEP as potential areas of contamination. On December 21, 1989, Fort Devens was placed on the National Priorities List under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

An Enhanced Preliminary Assessment (PA) was also performed at Fort Devens to address areas not normally included in the CERCLA process, but requiring review prior to closure. A final version of the PA report was completed in April 1992. In 1992, DoD, through USAEC, also initiated a Site Investigation (SI) for SA 43A through S along with the other 12 SAs in SA Groups 2 and 7 at Fort Devens. The SI was conducted by ABB Environmental Services, Inc. (ABB-ES).

Under Public Law 101-510, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, Fort Devens has been selected for cessation of operations and closure. An important aspect of BRAC actions is to determine environmental restoration requirements before property transfer can be considered. Studies at SA 43E were conducted to support this overall mission.

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## 2.0 BACKGROUND AND PHYSICAL SETTING

### 2.1 DESCRIPTION AND LAND USE

Fort Devens is located approximately 35 miles northwest of Boston, Massachusetts, within Middlesex and Worcester counties. The installation consists of approximately 9,280 acres and includes portions of the towns of Ayer, Harvard, Lancaster and Shirley. Cities in the vicinity include Fitchburg, Leominster and Lowell. Land surfaces range from about 200 feet above mean sea level (MSL) along the Nashua River in the northern portion of the installation to 450 feet above MSL in the southern portion of the installation.

Fort Devens was established in 1917 as Camp Devens, a temporary training camp for soldiers from the New England area. In 1931, the camp became a permanent installation and was redesignated as Fort Devens. Throughout its history, Fort Devens has served as a training and induction center for military personnel and a unit mobilization and demobilization site. All or portions of this function occurred during World Wars I and II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The primary mission of Fort Devens is to command, train, and provide logistical support for non-divisional troop units. The installation also supports that portion of the U.S. Army Intelligence School located at Fort Devens, for the Army Readiness Region, for Reserve Components, and for Army Reserve and National Guard in the New England area.

Fort Devens currently consists of three major land use areas: Main Post, South Post, and North Post (Figure 2-1).

The majority of the facilities on Fort Devens are located in the Main Post area, north of Massachusetts Highway 2. The Nashua River intersects the Main Post along its western edge. The Main Post provides all of the on-post housing, including over 1,700 family units and 9,800 bachelor units (barracks and unaccompanied officer's quarters). Other facilities on the Main Post include community support activities (such as a shoppette, cafeteria, post exchange, commissary, bowling alley, golf course, and hospital), administrative buildings, classrooms and training facilities, maintenance facilities, and ammunition storage facilities. The Historic Gas Station Sites, including SA 43E, are located on the Main Post.

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## SECTION 2

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The South Post is located south of Massachusetts Highway 2 and contains individual training areas designated for troop training, range activities, and a drop zone. The Nashua River bounds the South Post on the northeast side.

The North Post is directly north of the Main Post. The principal activities on the North Post are the Douglas E. Moore Army Airfield, and the installation Waste Water Treatment Plant.

### 2.2 REGIONAL GEOLOGY

Fort Devens is near the western boundary of the Seaboard Lowland Section of the New England-Maritime Physiographic province (Jahns, 1953). It is adjacent to the Worcester County Plateau of the Central Uplands province and part of the installation lies within the province (Koteff, 1966). The land surface is almost completely covered with unconsolidated glacial outwash deposits, resulting in few bedrock outcrops. The surficial deposits are underlain by a highly complex assemblage of intensely folded and faulted metasedimentary rocks with occasional igneous intrusions. The geomorphology of the region is dominated by glacial features such as outwash plains, kames, kame terraces, drumlins, and eskers.

### 2.3 REGIONAL HYDROGEOLOGY

Groundwater at Fort Devens occurs largely in the permeable glacial-deltaic outwash deposits of sand, gravel, and boulders. Well yields within these sediments are dependent upon the hydraulic characteristics of the aquifer and can range from 2 to over 300 gallons per minute (gpm). Small amounts of groundwater can be obtained from fractured bedrock with yields ranging from 2 to 10 gpm. Minor amounts of groundwater may be found in thin, permeable glacial lenses elsewhere on the installation. The primary hydrogeologic feature at Fort Devens is the Nashua River, which flows through the installation in a south to north direction, with an average discharge rate of 55 cubic feet per second. In addition to the Nashua River, the terrain is dissected by numerous brooks attendant wetlands. There are also several kettle ponds and one kettle lake located within the installation.

#### 2.4 STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

SA 43E, one of the 19 Historic Gas Station Sites, is included in the Group 2 SAs located on the Main Post. The structures of the historic gas station at SA 43E consisted of a pump island and a small gasoline pumphouse. Based on historic records, the gas station was a Type A station and appears to have had one 5,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST) located between the gasoline pumphouse and the pump island. The station was used during World War II as a vehicle motor pool to support military operations. The motor pool operations were discontinued during the late 1940s or early 1950s. No records were available on the decommissioning of this motor pool or the removal of the associated UST. The area where SA 43E was reportedly located is currently a paved parking lot for Buildings 2000 and 2020 (Shawmut Bank), located in the central portion of the Main Post (Figure 2-2).

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### 3.0 RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

#### 3.1 MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

SA 43, the Historic Gas Station Sites, was identified as a possible source for release of contaminants into the environment. The 19 gas stations were identified from a circa 1941 map (Barbour, 1941). The MEP recommended that the remaining USTs be located, and residual contamination in soil be removed (Biang, et al., 1992).

#### 3.2 ENHANCED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

The PA included a review of the study and recommendations presented in the MEP and considered other areas that might require evaluation due to the closure of Fort Devens. No additional findings or recommendations for SA 43E were provided in the PA.

#### 3.3 SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT

The SI was initiated in June 1992 and included the following 13 Group 2 and 7 SAs originally identified listed in the MEP.

- SA 13 Landfill No. 9
- SA 43 Historic Gas Stations (19 Sites)
- SA 45 Lake George Street Vehicle Wash Area
- SA 49 Building 3602 Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Site
- SA 56 Building 2417 LUST Site
- SA 57 Building 3713 Fuel Oil Spill
- SA 58 Buildings 2648 and 2650 Fuel Oil Spills
- SA 12 Landfill No. 8
- SA 14 Landfill No. 10
- SA 27 Waste Explosive Detonation Range (Hotel)
- SA 28 Waste Explosive Detonation Range (Training Area 14)
- SA 41 Unauthorized Dumping Area (Site A)
- SA 42 Popping Furnace

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### SECTION 3

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The SI was conducted by ABB-ES under contract with the USAEC. The Final Site Investigation Report was issued May 1993. The purpose of the SI was to verify the presence or absence of environmental contamination and to determine whether further investigation or remediation was warranted.

The SI field investigation program for SA 43E consisted of a surficial geophysical program which included a metal detector and ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey. The geophysical investigation conducted at SA 43E indicated that one abandoned UST was present on the northern side of Building 2020 (see Figure 2-2). The metal detector was used first to locate the UST and then the GPR survey identified the ends and the sides of the UST. The geophysical measurements collected in the field are presented in Appendix L of the SI Report (ABB-ES, 1993).

#### 4.0 CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT

The 5,000-gallon UST at SA 43E was removed by ATEC Environmental Consultants (ATEC) on September 3, 1992. The tank was observed to be in good condition, without holes, perforations, or severe corrosion. Associated piping, however was corroded (ATEC, 1992). Tank contents at the time of removal consisted only of about 2,640 gallons of gasoline and sludges. The gasoline was removed by Cyn Oil Corporation (ATEC, 1992). The scrap tank was disposed of at John C. Tombarello and Sons on September 16, 1992 (ATEC, 1992). No visually contaminated soil was observed in the excavation, and groundwater was not encountered. Soil samples were collected from the excavation to determine whether the contents of the UST had adversely impacted soil or groundwater quality at SA 43E. The results of the analyses are presented in the following paragraphs.

##### 4.1 SOILS

At the time of the tank removal, ATEC performed field screening on 10 soil samples collected from the excavation walls at depths of 5 to 6 feet (Figure 4-1). The headspaces of each soil samples were screened with a photoionization detector (PID) for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). A Non-Dispersive Infrared (NDIR) Analyzer was used to screen for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHC). The PID headspace screening showed VOC concentrations ranging from nondetect to 0.5 part per million (ppm). TPHC was detected at concentrations ranging from 4.8 to 43.5 ppm (Table 4-1). ABB-ES collected one composite soil sample from the bottom of the excavation. This sample was analyzed at ABB-ES' Wakefield, Massachusetts laboratory for TPHC using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Method 418.1, and the concentration was 85 ppm (see Table 4-1). Based on the results of ATEC's sampling and analysis, ATEC backfilled the excavation. Because TPHC concentrations were less than 100 ppm, no further site investigation was conducted.

##### 4.2 GROUNDWATER

Groundwater was not encountered in during the excavation of the UST at SA 43E.

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### 5.0 PRELIMINARY HUMAN HEALTH RISK EVALUATION

The UST at SA 43E was discovered by ABB-ES and removed by ATEC during the SI. Prior to backfilling, ATEC collected eight soil samples from the excavation walls which were screened for TPHC by the NDIR method. TPHC levels ranged from 4.8 ppm to a maximum value of 43.5 ppm in the UST wall samples. The TPHC concentration in a confirmatory soil sample collected by ABB-ES for TPHC analysis by USEPA Method 418.1 was 85 ppm. Based on a comparison of these results against the calculated risk-based commercial/industrial concentration value of 1,700 ppm for gasoline, and against the Massachusetts Contingency Plan's most conservative concentration of 500 ppm, there should be no significant risk to public health from soil contamination at SA 43E.

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**6.0 PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL RISK EVALUATION**

A preliminary ecological risk evaluation was not prepared for SA 43E because contaminants associated with a UST would be confined to subsurface soil, and would not impact any ecological receptors.

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**7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Limited field investigation conducted by ABB-ES and sampling conducted by ATEC during UST removal operations at SA 43E indicated that historical petroleum use at this location has not adversely impacted soil or groundwater. Therefore, no further action is recommended for this historic gas station.

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8.0 DECISION

On the basis of the findings at SA 43E, there is no evidence or reason to conclude that petroleum contamination from the former UST has caused significant environmental contamination or pose a threat to human health or the environment. The decision has been made to remove SA 43E from further consideration in the IRP process. In accordance with CERCLA 120 (h) (3), all remedial actions necessary have taken place, and the USEPA and MADEP signatures constitute concurrence in accordance with the same.

James C. Chambers  
JAMES C. CHAMBERS  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator

15 JAN 95  
Date

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

James P. Byrne  
JAMES P. BYRNE  
Fort Devens Remedial Project Manager

1/10/95  
Date

Concur

Non-concur (Please provide reasons for non-concurrence in writing)

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

D. Lynne Welsh  
D. LYNNE WELSH  
Section Chief, Federal Facilities - CERO

1/18/95  
Date

Concur

Non-concur (Please provide reasons for non-concurrence in writing)

ABB Environmental Services, Inc.

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## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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ABB-ES	ABB Environmental Services, Inc.
ATEC	ATEC Environmental Consultants
bgs	below ground surface
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
gpm	gallons per minute
GPR	ground penetrating radar
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MEP	Master Environmental Plan
MSL	mean sea level
NDIR	Non-Dispersive Infrared
PA	Enhanced Preliminary Assessment
PID	photoionization detector
ppm	part per million
PRE	Preliminary Risk Evaluation
SA	Study Area
SI	site investigation
TPHC	total petroleum hydrocarbon compounds
USAEC	U.S. Army Environmental Center
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
UST	underground storage tank
VOC	volatile organic compound

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## REFERENCES

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- ABB Environmental Services, Inc. (ABB-ES), 1993. "Final Site Investigation Report - Groups 2, 7, and Historic Gas Stations, Fort Devens, Massachusetts"; Data Item A009; prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center by ABB Environmental Services, Inc., Portland, ME, May.
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**TABLE 4-1  
ATEC FIELD SCREENING RESULTS  
SA 43E - HISTORIC GAS STATIONS**

**DECISION DOCUMENT  
FORT DEVENS**

SAMPLE NO.	FIELD SCREENING		LABORATORY	
	PID (ppm)	NDIR (ppm)	VOC (ppm)	TPHC (ppm)
SS-1	0.5	16.9	N/A	N/A
SS-2	0.2	43.5	N/A	N/A
SS-3	ND	6.2	N/A	N/A
SS-4	ND	17.7	N/A	N/A
SS-5	ND	22.1	N/A	N/A
SS-6	ND	5.6	N/A	N/A
SS-7	ND	4.8	N/A	N/A
SS-8	ND	7.7	N/A	N/A
SS-9	0.5	24.5	N/A	N/A
SS-10	0.5	12.1	N/A	N/A
LSS-1	N/A	N/A	ND	< 21.0
LSS-2	N/A	N/A	ND	127.0
XEE-92-01X	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.0

**NOTES:**

SS = ATEC field screening soil sample

LSS = ATEC laboratory soil sample

ND = Non-detect

N/A = Not analyzed

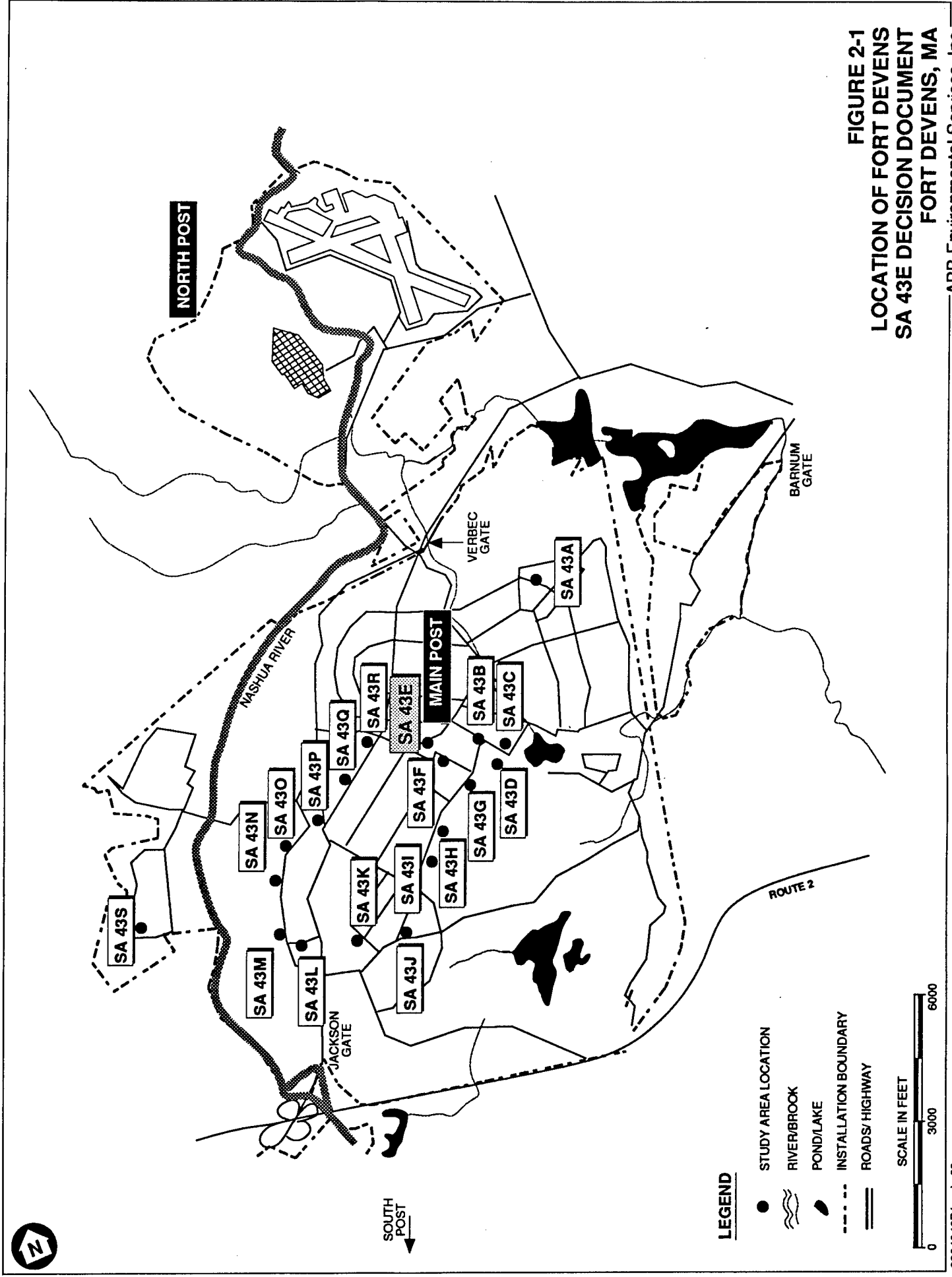
PID = Photoionization Detector

NDIR = Non-Dispersive Infrared

VOC = Volatile Organic Compound

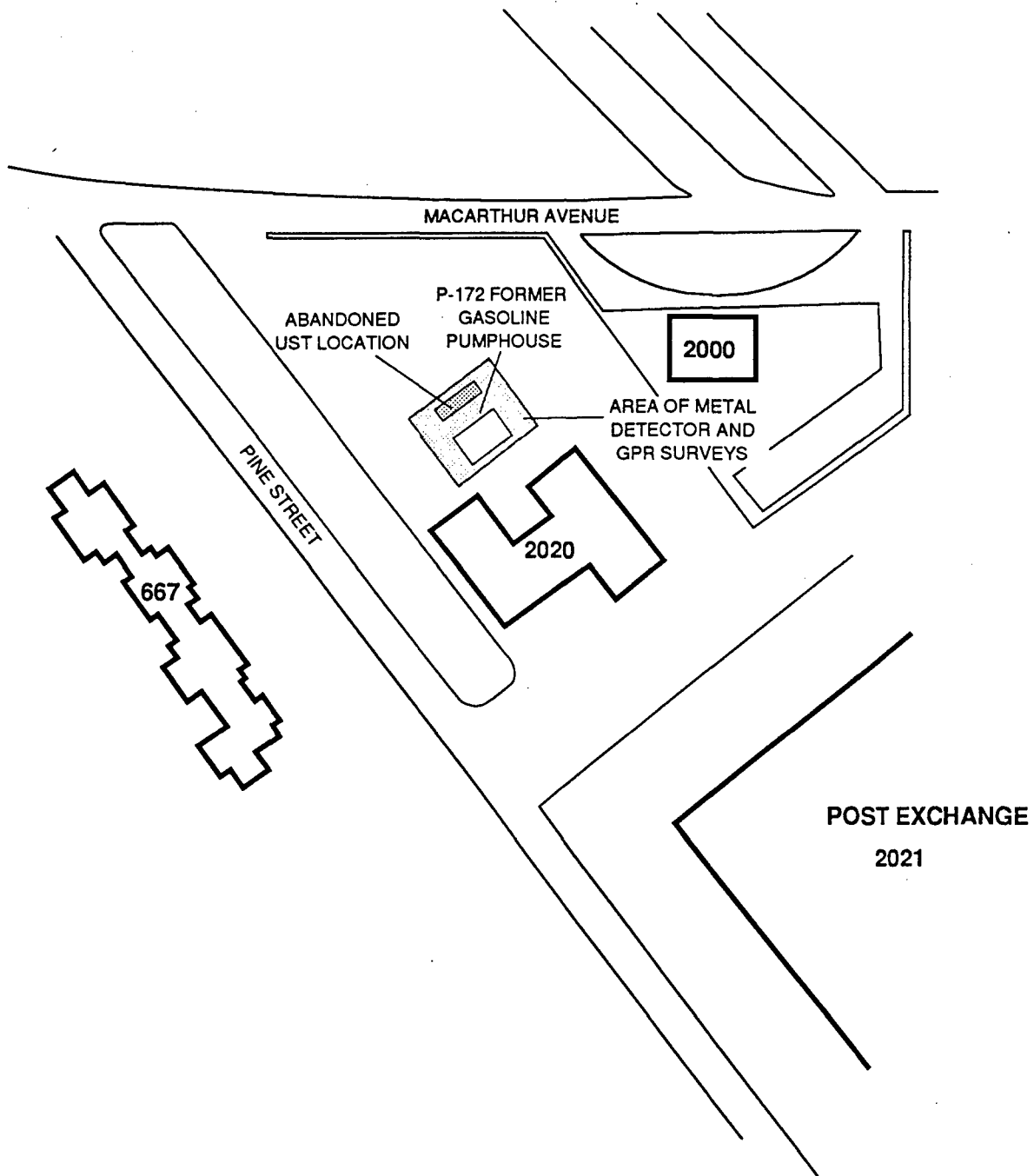
TPHC = Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon Compounds

PPM = Part Per Million



**FIGURE 2-1**  
**LOCATION OF FORT DEVENS**  
**SA 43E DECISION DOCUMENT**  
**FORT DEVENS, MA**

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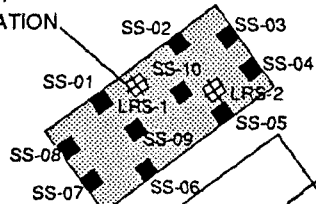
**FIGURE 2-2**  
**LOCATION OF SA 43E**  
**SA 43E DECISION DOCUMENT**  
**FORT DEVENS, MA**

ABB Environmental Services, Inc.



MACARTHUR AVENUE

UST  
EXCAVATION



P-172  
FORMER GASOLINE  
PUMPHOUSE

PINE STREET

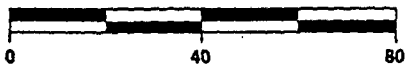
2020

**LEGEND**

■ ATEC FIELD SCREENING SAMPLE LOCATION

⊠ ATEC LABORATORY SOIL SAMPLE LOCATION

SCALE IN FEET



**FIGURE 4-1**  
**LOCATION OF HISTORIC GAS STATION**  
**SA 43E DECISION DOCUMENT**  
**FORT DEVENS, MA**

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