



## Environmental Cleanup Former Unisys Site, Great Neck, N.Y. Program Overview

2023

### Site Background

In 1996 Lockheed Martin acquired Loral Defense Electronics and Systems Integration, which included the former Unisys Corporation site at 1111 Marcus Ave in Lake Success, NY. The site straddles the border between the Village of Lake Success and the Town of North Hempstead, NY. With the acquisition came responsibility for the ongoing environmental cleanup at the site.

The site comprises approximately 90 acres and includes one main building and several smaller buildings to the south of the main building. The main building was constructed in 1941 by the U.S. government for the manufacture of sonar and related military equipment. Sperry Gyroscope

bought the business and property in 1951. Sperry merged with the Burroughs Corporation in 1986 to become Unisys Corporation. In 1995, Loral Corporation acquired the assets of Unisys Defense Systems, and in early 1996, Lockheed Martin purchased the electronics and systems integration businesses of Loral. After its purchase Lockheed Martin discontinued operations at the site in 1998 and in 2000 sold the property. The site is now operated as a commercial property with various tenants occupying the main building. Lockheed Martin remains responsible for the environmental cleanup.

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## Environmental Cleanup Background

As a part of the original manufacturing operation at the Unisys site, a series of dry wells were constructed at the southeast corner of the main building for the disposal of liquid wastes. These wells were the primary source of the volatile organic compounds that were first found at the site in the 1970s when the property was owned and operated by Sperry. Environmental contaminants of concern are present at the site in the groundwater, soil, soil vapor and sediments, and in groundwater off-site.

Between 1978 and 2012 a series of studies identified the nature and extent of these contaminants. A number of actions have been taken to address these findings. An area of contaminated groundwater, known as a plume, originates at the site and spreads out under approximately 1.5 square miles, extending north/northwest from the site. Additional information below describes the two groundwater collection and treatment systems that were installed by Lockheed Martin to mitigate the highest contaminant levels within the plume. The plume lies between 100 and 400 feet below the surface of the ground and has affected some of the public water supply wells for the Water Authority of Great Neck North and Manhasset-Lakeville Water District as well as the Village of Lake Success Golf Course irrigation well.

Treatment systems are in place on the impacted public water supply and irrigation wells, and the water they supply meets the standards appropriate for their use. The primary contaminants of concern

in the groundwater are trichloroethene (TCE); tetrachloroethene (PCE); 1,2-dichloroethene (1,2-DCE) and Freon 113. These chemicals are typically used as cleaning solvents.

The contaminants in the soil and sediments include metals, principally copper, barium and cadmium, and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), principally polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The contaminated soil is located in defined areas on the property.

In a May 1991 Consent Order (D108.5Bew d FrOrd SVOCs), Tm contaDur7as id speration 417 5BYSDEC, wh);eration 0pp

## Groundwater Cleanup

In April 1993, Unisys installed an interim groundwater treatment system (Operating Unit 1, OU1) to begin removing volatile organic compounds from the on-site groundwater at the 90-acre site's northern boundary and to contain the movement of the plume. The 1997 Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) directed installation of a state-of-the-art groundwater treatment system to replace the interim system. Lockheed Martin began construction of this system in 2001 and it began operation in August 2002. A separate Record of Decision for off-site groundwater, released by the NYSDEC in late 2014, approved Lockheed Martin's proposal to upgrade the capacity of OU1 from 730 gallons per minute to 850 gallons per minute by adding an additional deeper well for extracting groundwater from the plume for treatment. Design of the upgrade to the groundwater treatment plant began in 2015 and construction was completed in 2018. The system is now operating at 850 gallons per minute.



*New Manhasset-Lakeville Water District water treatment facility funded by Lockheed Martin to provide clean water to their customers.*

To clean up the contaminated groundwater that had already moved off site, Lockheed Martin constructed a second interim off-site groundwater treatment system (Operating Unit 2, OU2) in June 2004 just south of the Great Neck South school property at a former water supply treatment facility. The Record of Decision issued by the NYSDEC in late 2014

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*On-Site (OU1) Groundwater Treatment System*

approved Lockheed Martin's proposal to continue

The OU-1 ROD Amendment required remediation of seven areas onsite. The seven areas were excavated between 2017 and 2021, with contaminated soil taken offsite to a disposal facility and clean soil imported and back filled in the seven excavations. Lockheed Martin has submitted completion reports to the NYSDEC and is waiting on final approvals.

### ***Sediment***

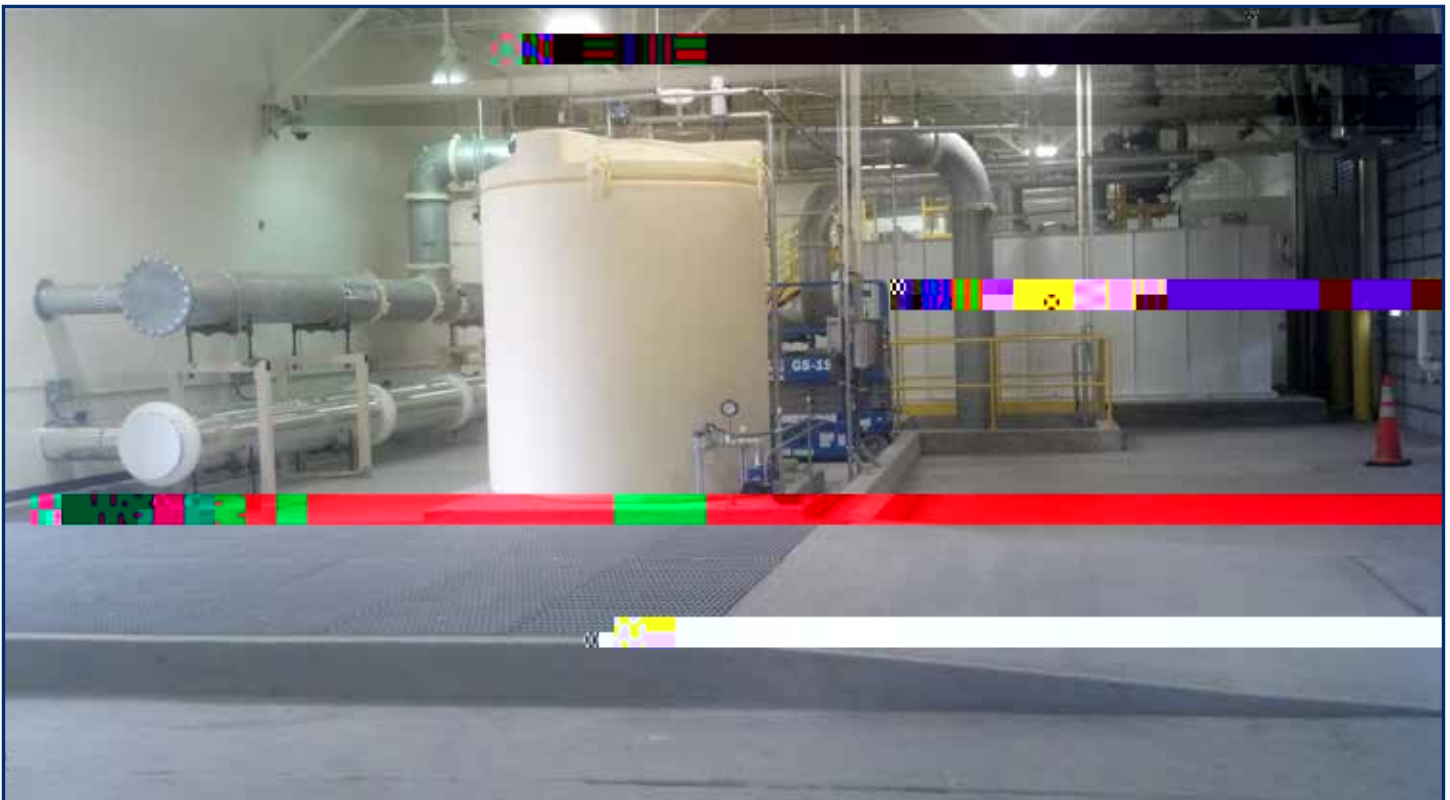
During the course of its investigations, Lockheed Martin discovered contaminants at the bottom of three stormwater basins located at the southwest corner of the site. The contaminants resulted from stormwater runoff from site parking lots, roads and building roofs and are confined to the sediment. Lockheed Martin proposed, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in its 1997 Record of Decision accepted, that public health would be served best by simply limiting access to these basins. An environmental easement is now in place requiring

that these basin sediments not be disturbed and that the basins continue to be used for stormwater management. Deed restrictions have been recorded, a fence was constructed and is maintained around the basins, and warning signs to restrict access are posted at the basins and on the fence.

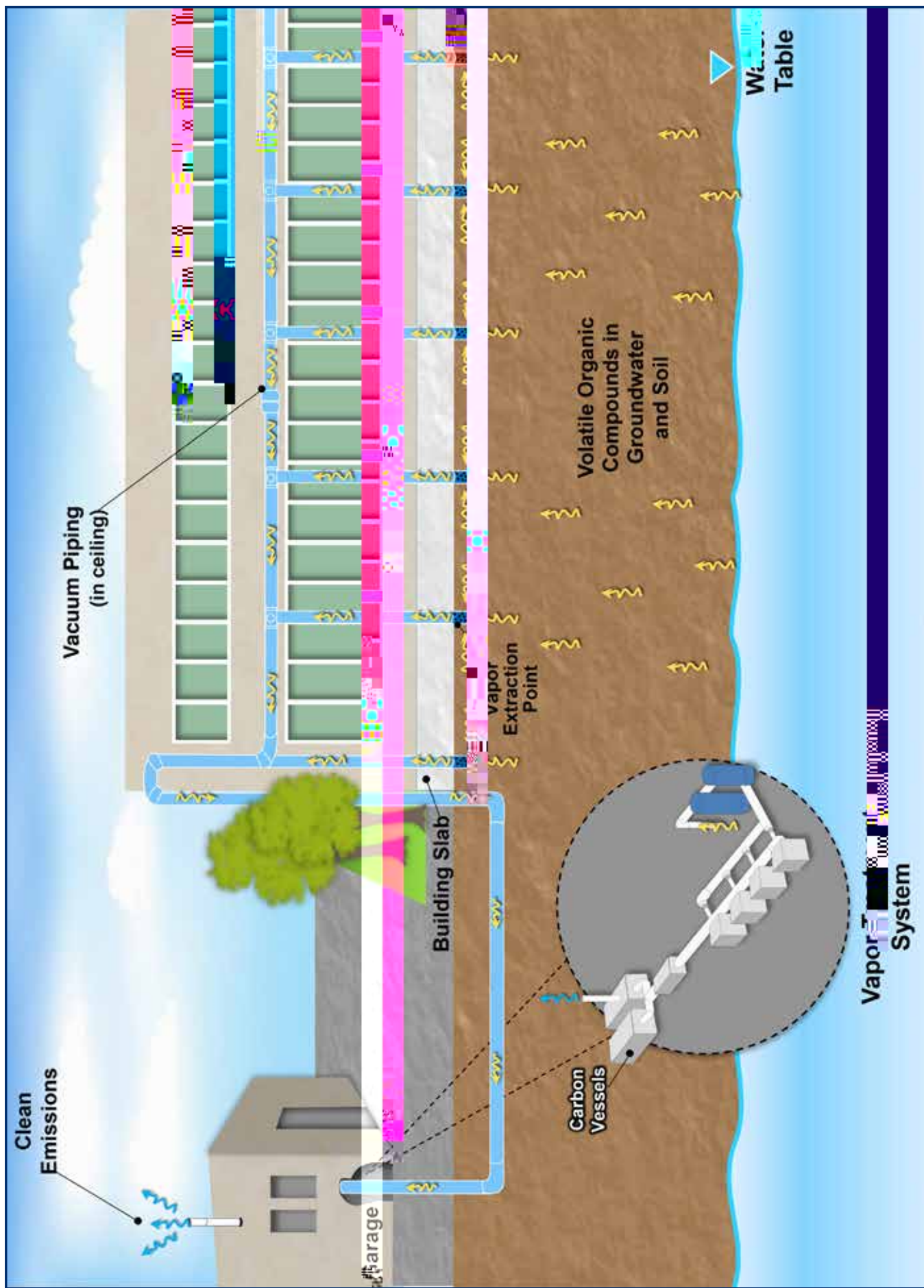
### ***Main Building Vapor Mitigation***

In 2006, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) released guidance on vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion, or soil vapor intrusion, refers to chemicals in soil that move as a gas or vapor through the soil and into a building. Responding to this guidance, Lockheed Martin investigated whether or not chemical vapors were present at the site. While samples taken in 2007 revealed no indoor air concentrations in the site buildings above the state guidelines, samples taken in 2008 identified two areas in the main building that did not meet state guidelines. Subsequently, Lockheed Martin installed two temporary sub-

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*The sub-slab depressurization system (SSDS) ensures safe air quality inside the main building*



Graphic depicts sub-slab vacuum system which extracts vapors from beneath the entire building and pipes those gases to the garage, where they are treated and clean air is released.

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slab depressurization systems (SSDS) to quickly improve indoor air quality in these locations. Sub-slab depressurization systems use a vacuum to collect soil vapor below the foundation of a building, treat it and move the cleaned air to the outside of the building. Lockheed Martin informed building management of the situation and worked closely with tenants and the property owner to install the sub-slab depressurization systems.

Lockheed Martin then constructed and began operating a new building-wide sub-slab depressurization system in 2013. The system is continuously operated and monitored to ensure that a vacuum is constantly maintained under the building. The NYSDOH concurs that the sub-slab depressurization system protects human health. Lockheed Martin will continue to advise tenants and the property owner on the sub-slab depressurization system performance. Since startup, over 500 pounds of contaminants of concern have been removed from the soil vapor.

### ***LA Fitness Building Vapor Mitigation***

Vapor sampling in the on-site LA Fitness building began in 2007, with results from the 2008 sampling event identifying the need for vapor intrusion mitigation in the unoccupied basement space of the building. A passive venting system was installed to prevent sub-slab soil vapor from entering the occupied portions of the building.

In 2017, the NYSDOH released revised guidance for evaluating soil vapor intrusion and lowered the mitigation action threshold for concentrations in the sub-slab. Subsequent sampling in the LA Fitness building had concentrations in the sub-slab that required vapor mitigation based on the new, more stringent standards. No exceedances in indoor air were detected. However, due to the sub-slab vapor exceedances, Lockheed Martin installed two extraction points in the building. These two

extraction points operate independently of the sub-slab depressurization system located in the main building. Lockheed Martin sampled sub-slab vapors and indoor air in the gym on-site in 2018. Results from the sampling found no exceedances in the indoor air, but the sub-slab vapors met the more stringent requirements for vapor mitigation.

## **Terms to Know**

**1,2-DCE** — 1,2-Dichloroethylene is a colorless, volatile liquid with an ether-like, slightly acrid odor.

**Aquifer** — An underground area of rock or materials such as gravel or sand that contain or through which groundwater moves.

**Deed restriction** — A legal requirement that is attached to a property deed that controls how land can or cannot be used.

**Engineering Controls** — Physical barriers such as fences and sub-slab depressurization systems that prevent access to contaminated soil or spaces, or that prevent contaminated vapor from entering buildings.

**Environmental Easement** — Environmental easements protect public health by restricting the use of a property to specified categories or by requiring deed restrictions or engineering controls.

**Freon 113** — Freon 113 is a colorless, nonflammable liquid often used as a solvent. Since 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has restricted the use of Freon 113.

**PCE** — The man-made liquid solvent tetrachloroethene, also known as tetrachloroethylene or perchloroethylene, is used in dry cleaning and for removing grease from metal surfaces. PCE evaporates easily, producing a sweet, ether-like odor.

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**Plume** — A body of contaminated groundwater originating from a specific source and influenced by factors such as local groundwater movement and the character of the aquifer.

**Pump and Treat System** — Pump and treat systems pump contaminated groundwater to the surface where it is cleaned, or treated, and tested to ensure cleanup standards have been met. The cleaned water can be put back into the ground, a body of water, a public sewer, or used in a municipal drinking water supply system. OU1 and OU2 are pump and treat systems.

**Record of Decision** — A public document that explains the methods a state's environmental agency has approved for an environmental cleanup.

**Sediments** — Soil, sand, and minerals that are washed from land into water and catch basins, usually by rain.

**Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE)** — Soil vapor extraction is a process that uses a vacuum to draw vapors from the soil toward piping that has been placed in the ground near the source of the contamination. The collected vapors are treated before being released into the atmosphere.

**Sub-Slab Depressurization Systems (SSDS)** — An engineering control that prevents vapors from entering a building by applying a vacuum

**Stormwater recharge basin** — A sand-lined basin created to collect stormwater to prevent flooding and infiltrate collected water into the ground through permeable soil.

**TCE** — The chemical compound trichloroethylene, also known as trichloroethylene, is commonly used as an industrial solvent or degreaser. It is a clear, non-flammable liquid with a sweet smell.

**Vapor Intrusion** — The process by which volatile organic compounds that are present in soil or groundwater move through the soil and enter the air of an overlying building. Vapor intrusion can occur in any type of building through a crack or opening in a basement, crawl space or slab.

**Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)** — A type of chemical that transforms from a liquid to a gas at room temperature.

## Point of Contact and Additional Information

Lockheed Martin Corporation: (800) 449-4486

Technical documents for this site are available at [www.lockheedmartin.com/greatneck](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/greatneck) or at these libraries:

Great Neck Public Library  
159 Bayview Avenue  
Great Neck, NY 11023  
Phone: 516-466-8055

Hillside Public Library  
155 Lakeville Road  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
Phone: 516-355-7850