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Project Name: Pierce Metals Industrial Expansion
Project Number: 2005-84

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PIERCE METALS INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION BRISTOL, SULLIVAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

MARCH 2006

The Proposed Purpose and Need

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to provide financial assistance to Pierce Metals in Bristol, Sullivan County, Tennessee. The assistance would fund half the cost of building a 7,500 square foot production area addition and buying two permanent cranes.

Pierce Metals is located at 1224 5th Street in Bristol. The location is shown on the attached maps and aerial photograph. The company's business consists of structural steel and sheet metal fabrication, primarily by bending, cutting, and shaping; but with some welding of additional structural elements and minor painting. The addition would approximately double the size of the present manufacturing area. The company needs to reduce production costs to remain viable in the face of changes in the construction industry following September 11, 2001. Even with all other measures that have been taken, the layout of their building has hindered performance by limiting the number of employees that can work effectively, as well as the volume of work that can be produced at one time. Therefore, the only remaining way to achieve adequate cost reduction is to expand the existing building and purchase the cranes to accommodate a larger, more productive work force and operate more efficiently. Up to 10 more employees are expected to be hired over the next two years, and there would probably be a minor increase in production from the facility, but the objective for adding additional production space is to continue the present operation more profitably.

Alternatives and Comparison

There are two feasible alternatives, i.e., the Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. As noted above, the company has already undertaken all other alternative actions available to them to reduce cost. Under the Action Alternative, TVA would help fund an expansion of the production space, including the purchases of two cranes. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA would not make these funds available. In this event, the company either would seek alternative funding or, possibly, close if the inability to reduce costs made continued operation economically infeasible. If the company obtained alternative funding, overall environmental consequences under either alternative would be similar. If the facility were closed, there would be reduced minor local noise, solid wastes, and traffic production, but the existing 27 jobs would be lost, with resulting negative effects on the individuals losing work and on the local economy until and if replacement jobs could be obtained. These effects could be reduced if the company's existing business were absorbed by other local companies. Neither the Action nor No Action Alternative would have significant impacts.

Affected Environment and Evaluation of Impacts

Initial TVA staff review of the proposed expansion determined that it would be minor in scope and have little or no potential to have adverse impacts on most natural resources and the community. Several potential impacts were examined further and are discussed briefly in this EA. Based on TVA's review, impacts from the financial assistance for the expansion are expected to be minor and insignificant.

Air Quality

Sullivan County is designated non-attainment for the new eight-hour standard for ozone and is in the Tri-Cities early action compact agreement that sets out measures to be taken to meet the new standard.

The current small amount of painting uses several gallons per week of red oxide primer and generates very minor amounts of volatile organic compounds. According to company staff, no paint booth or state permit is now required, and the possible minor increase in production would not cause one to be required. This small amount of emissions would not affect the process of achieving and maintaining attainment under the early action compact.

A general conformity analysis is not required because volatile organic compounds emissions are and would be far below the de minimis threshold of 100 tons per year.

Wastes

The facility generates and would continue to generate minor quantities of office waste, used hydraulic fluid (from the hydraulic press brake), waste primer, dry fluid and primer containers, and paint filters. The company manages and would continue to manage these in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. They recycle and would continue to recycle the scrap metal from the fabrication process.

Terrestrial Habitat, Cultural Resources, Surface Water, Water Pollutants, Soil Erosion, Floodplains, land Use, and Local Parks

The proposed expansion site consists of cleared land with gravel, asphalt, and grass in areas not occupied by the office and production facilities. There are numerous areas of storage for scrap metal, equipment, and pallets. The pad for the addition was prepared in the past, so there would be no impacts on terrestrial habitat or cultural resources from construction of the addition. The only disturbance of the pad would be limited to installation of footings. Best management practices to manage sediment and erosion would be used if needed. The area of disturbance would be less than one acre and not need an erosion and sediment control plan. An existing interceptor storm water ditch adjacent to the site is connected to a manhole and storm water drain and keeps storm water drainage from affecting any adjacent properties. The company noted that the addition would allow the company to store equipment and material inside, thus eliminating any potential for storm water pollution from that source. The site does not lie in a floodplain.

The company is on a major street in a mixed industrial and residential area. The back part of Defrice Park, which contains a pond approximately an acre in size, is adjacent to the back of the property, separated from it by the interceptor ditch. This area of the

park is used informally for activities such as youth league football practice. The expansion would be on the existing property and still leave the facility fairly small in size compared to other facilities in the area and would be consistent with nearby land uses. The expansion has received a variance from Board of Zoning Appeals from the setback requirements, with no public opposition.

Cumulative Impacts

Due to the small size of the expansion and lack of potential significant impact on the environment, TVA expects that the incremental effect of this project, when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions (particularly the existing facility), would have insignificant cumulative impacts.

Mitigation Measures

There would be only insignificant environmental effects; thus, no mitigation measures are needed.

Preferred Alternative

The alternative preferred by TVA is the Action Alternative.

TVA Preparers

This EA was prepared by Peter K. Scheffler, Senior NEPA Specialist.

Agencies/persons consulted:

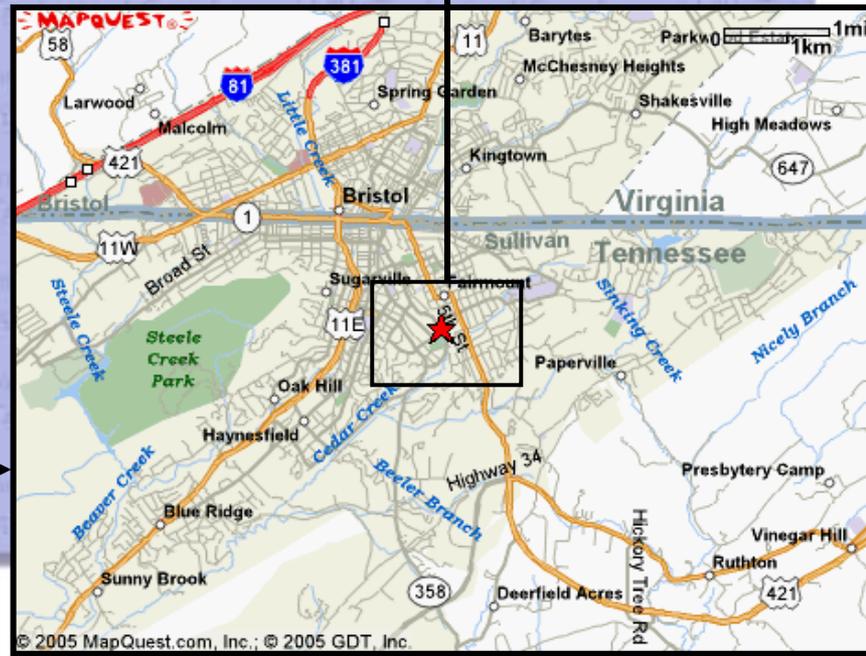
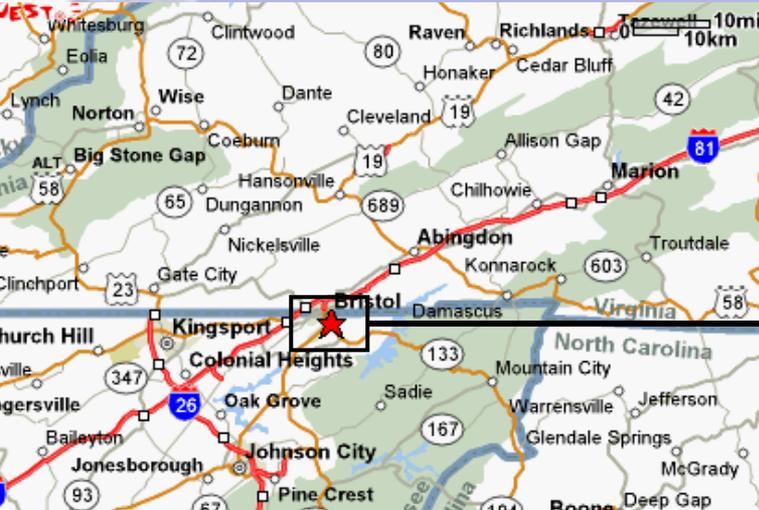
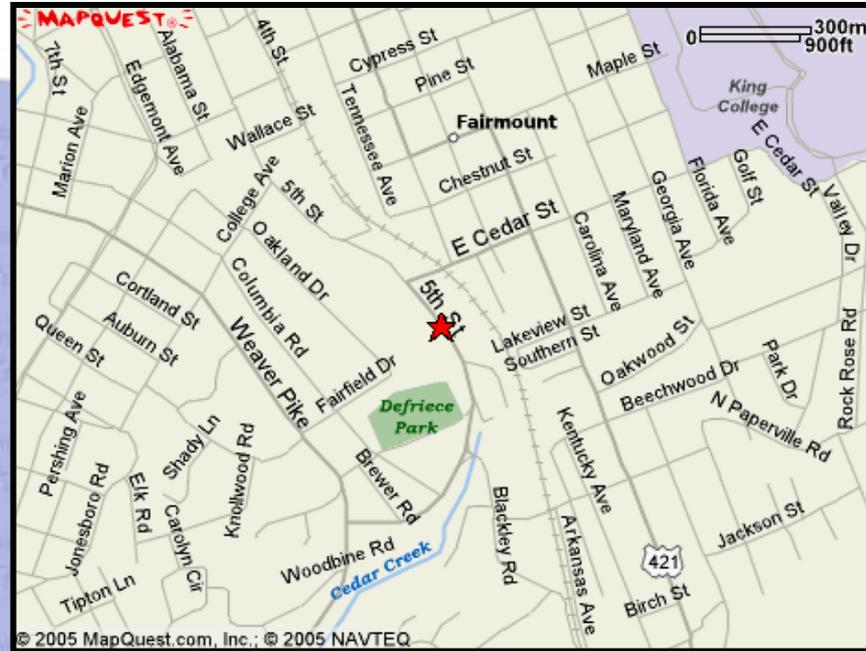
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Company staff
Travis Blake, Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control
Mike Johnson, Director, Bristol Leisure Services Department
Hakim Merrill, Bristol Land Use Planner
Bill Sorah, Director, Bristol DCM-Operations
Philip S. McMullan, Project Manager, Economic Development

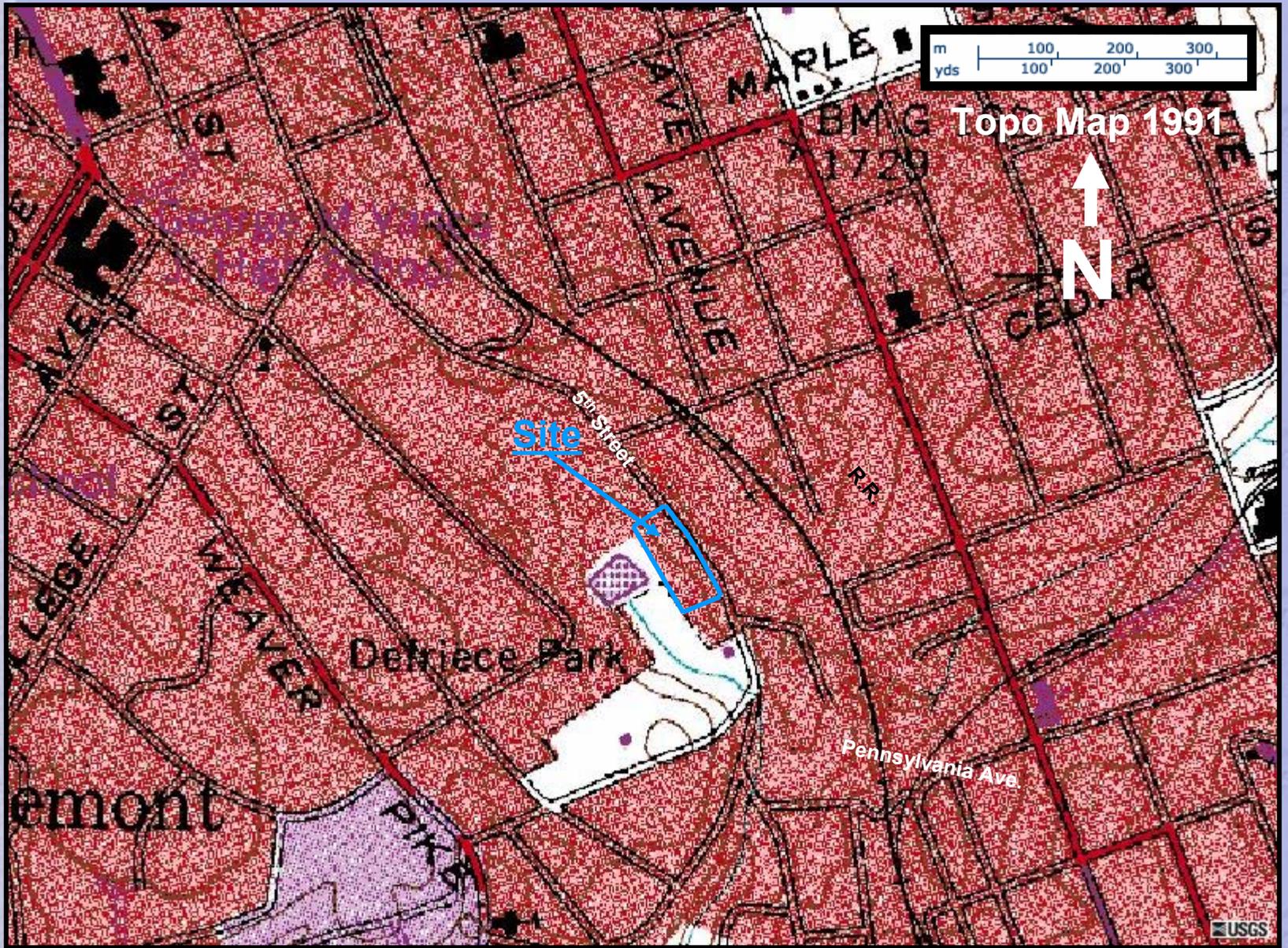
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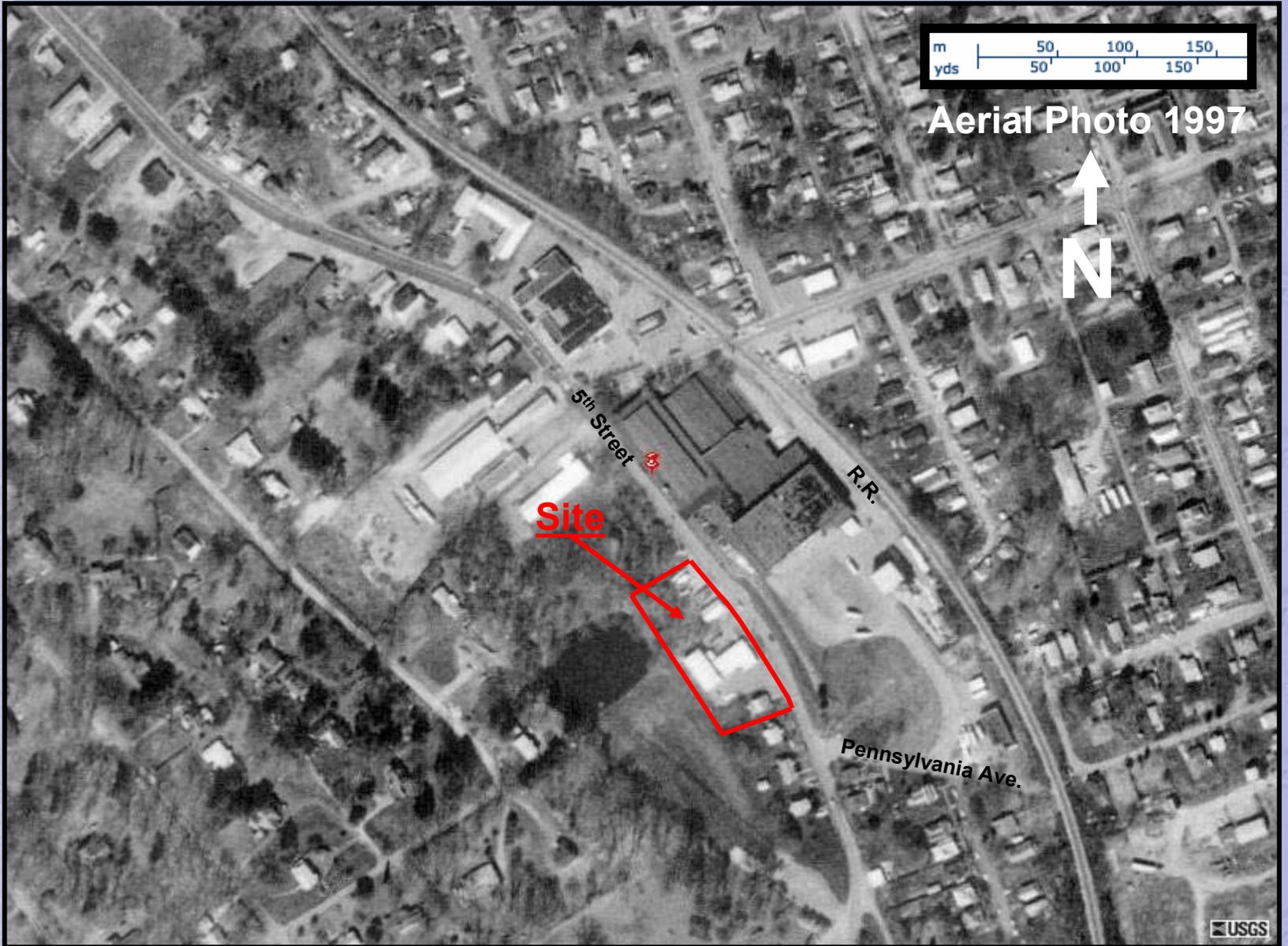
location maps, aerial photograph, and Flood Insurance Rate Map



**Pierce Metals
1224 5th Street
Bristol, Sullivan County
Tennessee 37620**







Aerial Photo 1997

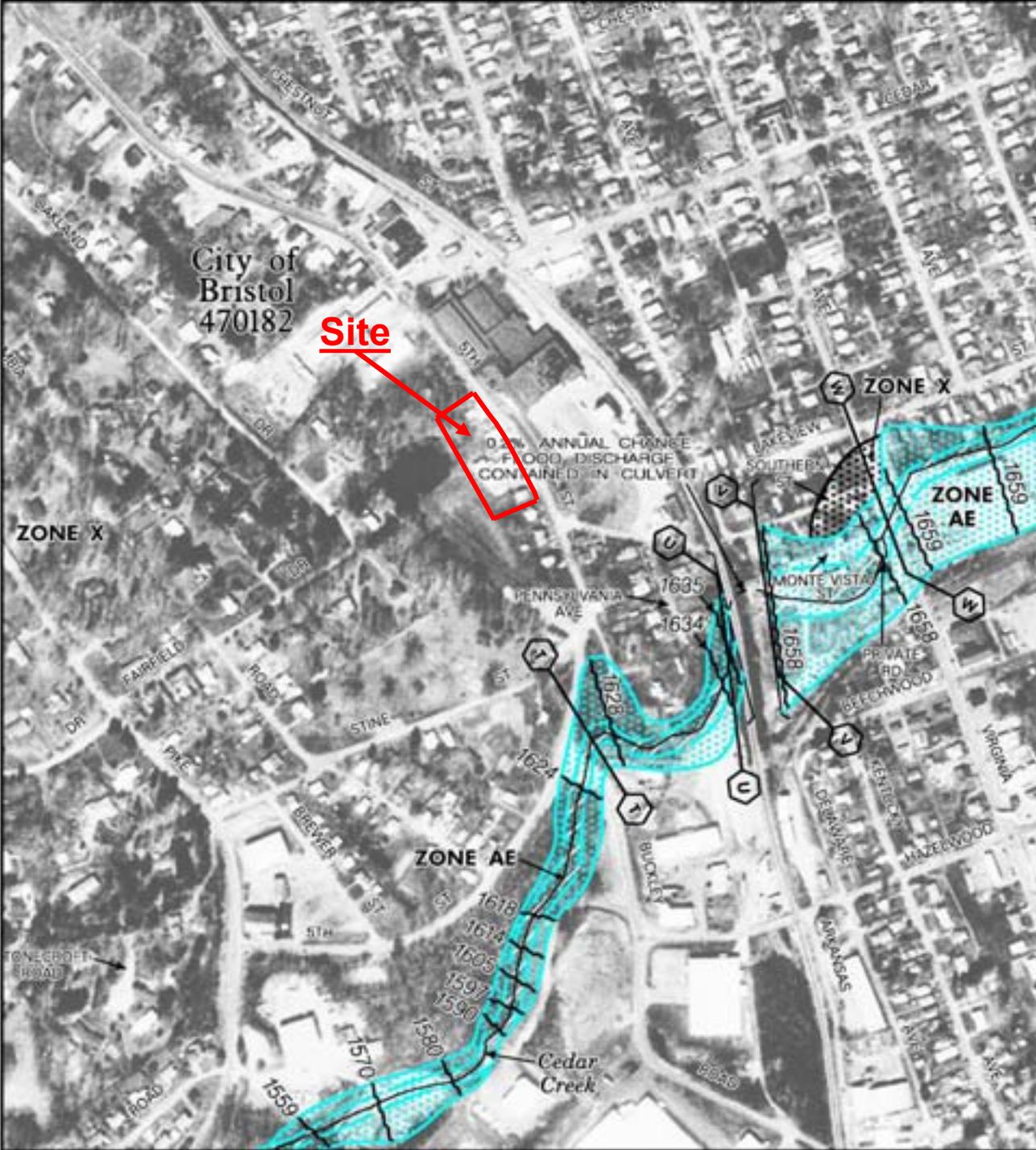


Site

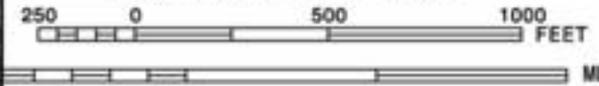
5th Street

R.R.

Pennsylvania Ave.



MAP SCALE 1" = 500'



NFP PANEL 0004 C

FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
 CITY OF
 BRISTOL,
 TENNESSEE
 SULLIVAN COUNTY

PANEL 4 OF 17
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:
COMMUNITY BRISTOL, CITY OF
MAJOR PANEL SUFFIX 4700 004 C

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.

MAP NUMBER
 4701820004C
MAP REVISED
 FEBRUARY 4, 2004

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at www.msc.fema.gov