

## Site Search Process

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the applicant to submit a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, the descriptions of the general site search process, the identification of the target search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Manchester Facility are provided below.

As a tower developer, Optasite bases its decision to seek out a site in an area based on its knowledge and understanding of existing weaknesses in the systems of the several wireless carriers operating in the area and/or consultation with individual carriers. A target area is chosen central to the area in which the coverage and/or capacity needs have been identified. The area targeted is the geographical location where the installation of a site would, based on general radio frequency engineering and system design standards, be likely to address the identified problem. Optasite’s goal is to locate sites that will provide for orderly integration into the existing wireless systems of multiple carriers.

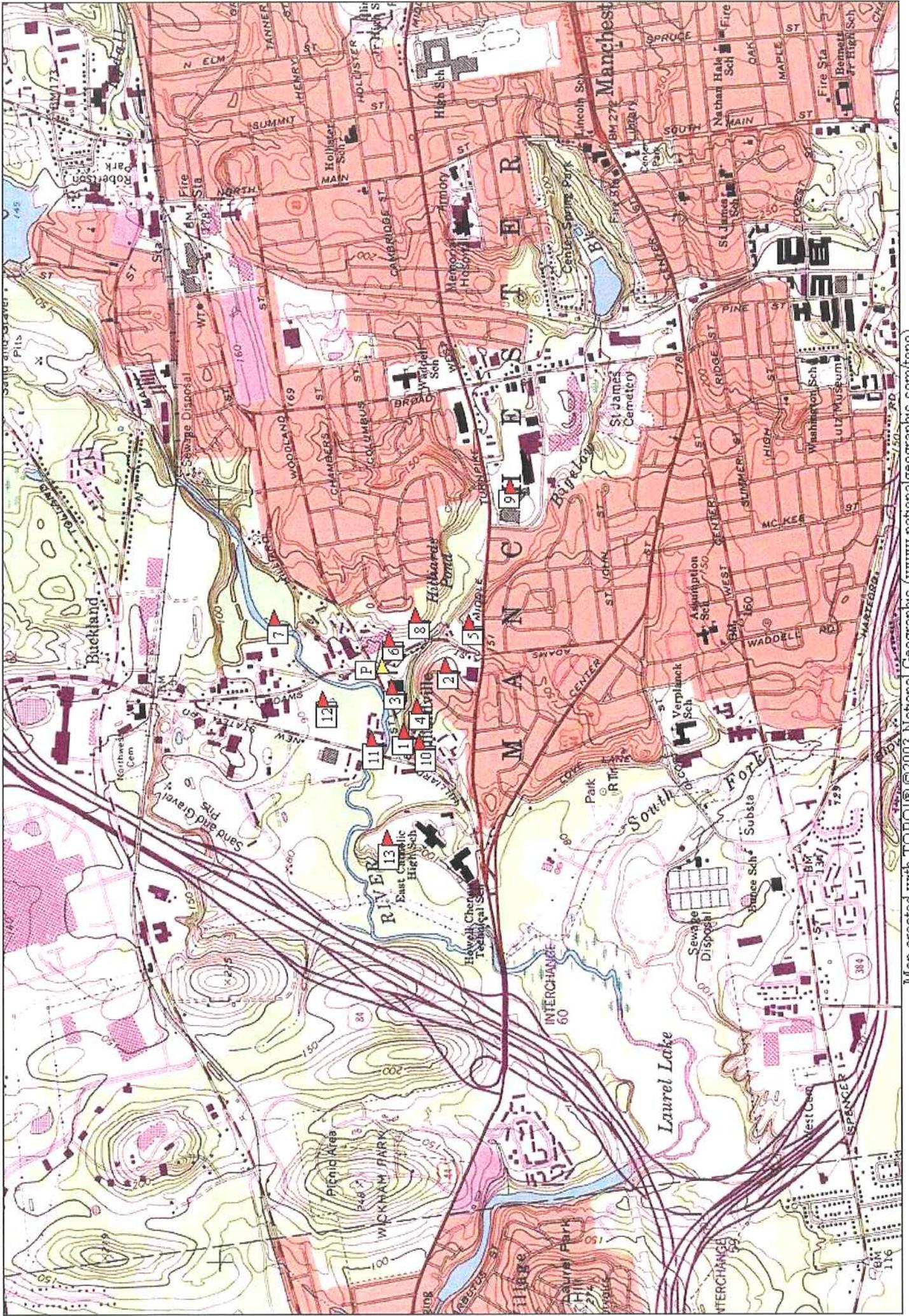
Optasite is sensitive to State and local desires to minimize the construction of new towers, and does not initiate searches in areas with known acceptable structures. In this area of Manchester, there are several existing towers. However, those towers are either of insufficient height or too far from the target area to provide adequate coverage. In addition, there are no existing structures available for co-location that are of sufficient height to provide adequate coverage to the target area.

In general, Optasite first studies the area to determine whether industrial or commercial areas or areas which have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics are present. Potential locations are studied by radio frequency engineers to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. The list of potential locations is further refined based on the willingness of property owners to make their property available. Analysis of potential environmental effects and benefits may further narrow the alternatives. In each site search, the weight afforded to relevant factors may vary depending on the nature of the area and the availability of potential sites.

Optasite investigated numerous properties in the area of the 640 Hilliard Street, LLC property at 640 Hilliard Street. While 160 New State Road, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 1, would have provided adequate coverage, it was rejected because it did not have adequate ground space required for a compound. The owners of 579 Middle Turnpike West, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 2, initially expressed interest in locating a facility on their property, however, they eventually rejected all offers. 642 Hilliard Street, immediately adjacent to the Property and depicted on the rejected site map as

Site 3, would have provided adequate coverage. Optasite entered into lease negotiations with the property owner but the property owner eventually rejected all leasing proposals. While the property located at 708 Hilliard Street, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 4, may have been a suitable location, the owner rejected all offers as he intends to build apartments or other development on the land. Optasite rejected 515 Middle Turnpike West, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 5, because it did not have sufficient ground space to accommodate a compound. Offers made to the owners of 331 Adams Street, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 6, were rejected. The property investigated at 249 Adams Street, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 7, was found to be too far north of the target area. The owner of 381 Adams Street, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 8, rejected all offers; this property would also have been topographically difficult to build on since the property consists of a ravine with a stream traversing it. The following properties would have provided adequate coverage, but were rejected due to lack of sufficient ground space: 346 Middle Turnpike West; 106 New State Road; and 226 New State Road, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 9, 10, and 11 respectively. Other investigated properties that were found to be too far from the target area included: 41 Center Street and 105 New State Road, depicted on the rejected site map as Site 12 and 13 respectively.

The property on which the proposed site is located is superior to all others reviewed. Owned by 640 Hilliard Street, LLC, it is approximately a 1.23 acre parcel that is located in an industrial zone with the majority of the surrounding land uses consisting of industrial and commercial uses. Based on its elevation and location, a tower within the property would provide adequate coverage east of I-84, along Route 6 and the surrounding areas. In addition, development of a facility at this property will result in minimal clearing, grading and tree removal.



Map created with TOPO! ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)