

- Cultural and natural places, select natural resources, and sacred objects that have importance for American Indians; and
- American folklife traditions and arts (WVNS 1994).

The cultural resource potential of the study area was initially considered to be moderate to high for locating unrecorded prehistoric and/or historic resources. Subsequent investigations indicated that these sensitivities were moderated by the extremely high degree of natural erosion and manmade impacts that have occurred in the study area. Cultural resource materials were found and 11 cultural resource sites were identified. The resources included eight historic archaeological sites, two standing structures, and one prehistoric lithic findspot (WVNS 1994).

The Project Premises, in which the proposed waste management actions described in Chapter 2 would take place, contain 114 buildings and structures. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has determined that facilities on the Premises are not eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* (SHPO 1995).

3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (59 Fed. Reg. 7629), directs federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Minorities are members of the following population groups: Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A minority population has been defined as a group in which minorities represent over 50 percent of the population. Low-income populations are groups with an annual income below the poverty threshold.

Demographic information obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau was used to identify low-income and minority populations within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the WVDP site. This radius is consistent with that used to evaluate collective dose for human health effects from the proposed waste management actions, continued operations, and accidents. Census data are compiled at a variety of levels corresponding to geographic areas. In order of decreasing size, the areas used are states, counties, census tracts, block groups, and blocks. A “block” is geographically the smallest census area; is usually bounded by visible features such as streets or streams or by invisible boundaries such as city limits, township lines or property boundaries; and offers the finest spatial resolution. Block data were used for characterization of minority distribution. Because block data are so specific to the individuals within a block (for example, sometimes only one family may live in a block), income data are only available at the block group and above. For this reason, block group data were used to identify low-income populations.

Demographic maps were prepared using 2000 data for minority populations and 1990 census data for low-income populations because income data from the 2000 Census were not available for the preparation of this DEIS. If available they will be incorporated into the FEIS. Figures 3-8 and 3-9 illustrate the distributions for minority and low-income populations, respectively.

Using block data, Figure 3-8 shows census blocks with minority populations that are over 50 percent within 80 kilometers (50 miles). The nearest block occurs on the Cattaraugus Reservation of the Seneca Nation of Indians. As shown in Figure 3-8, there are also two other Native American Indian reservations within 80 kilometers: the Allegheny Reservation (10 to 25 percent minority) and the Tonawanda Reservation (25 to 49 percent minority). There are several other census blocks with minority populations that are over 50 percent in the Buffalo metropolitan area. The total minority population within the

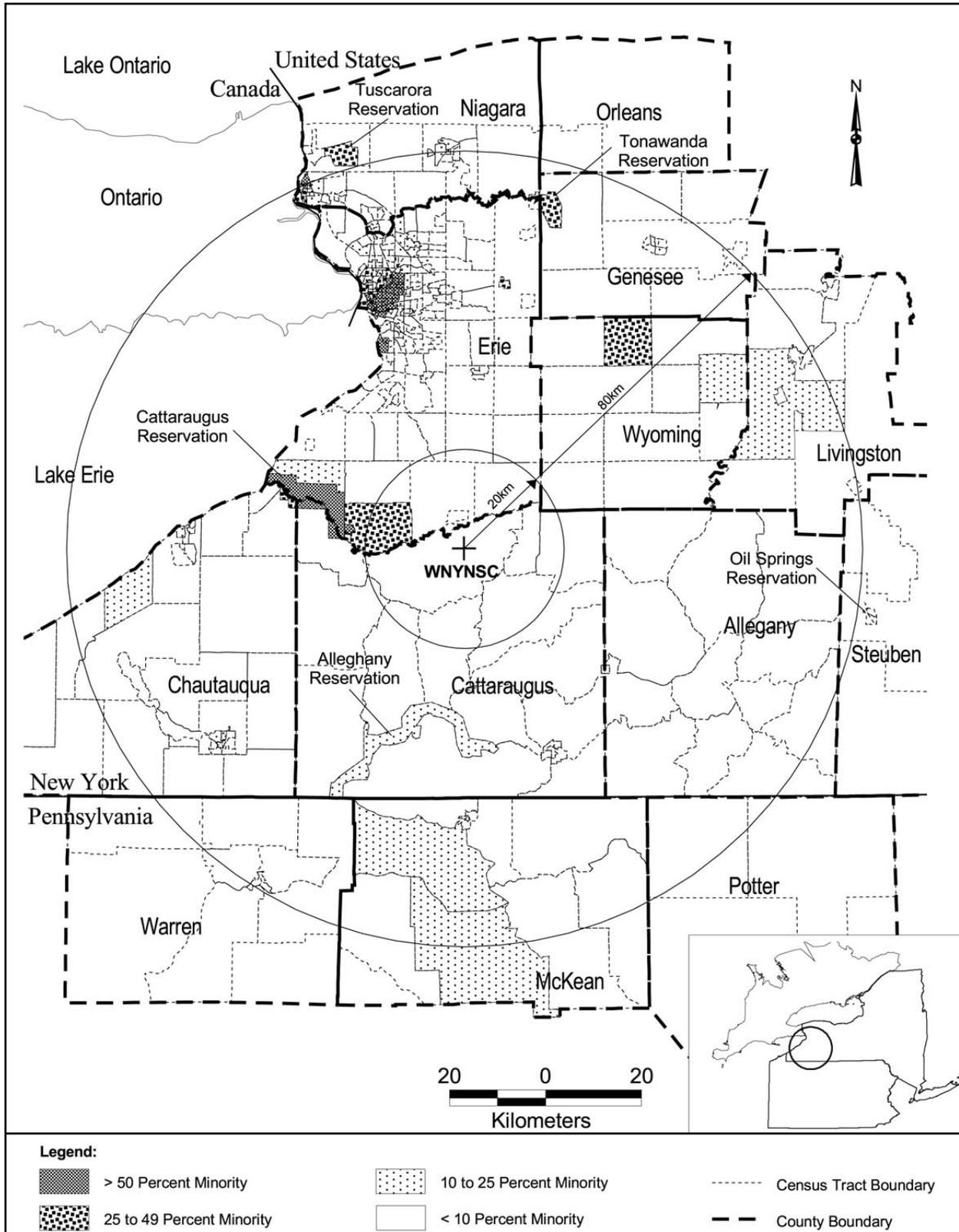


Figure 3-8. 2000 Minority Population Distribution

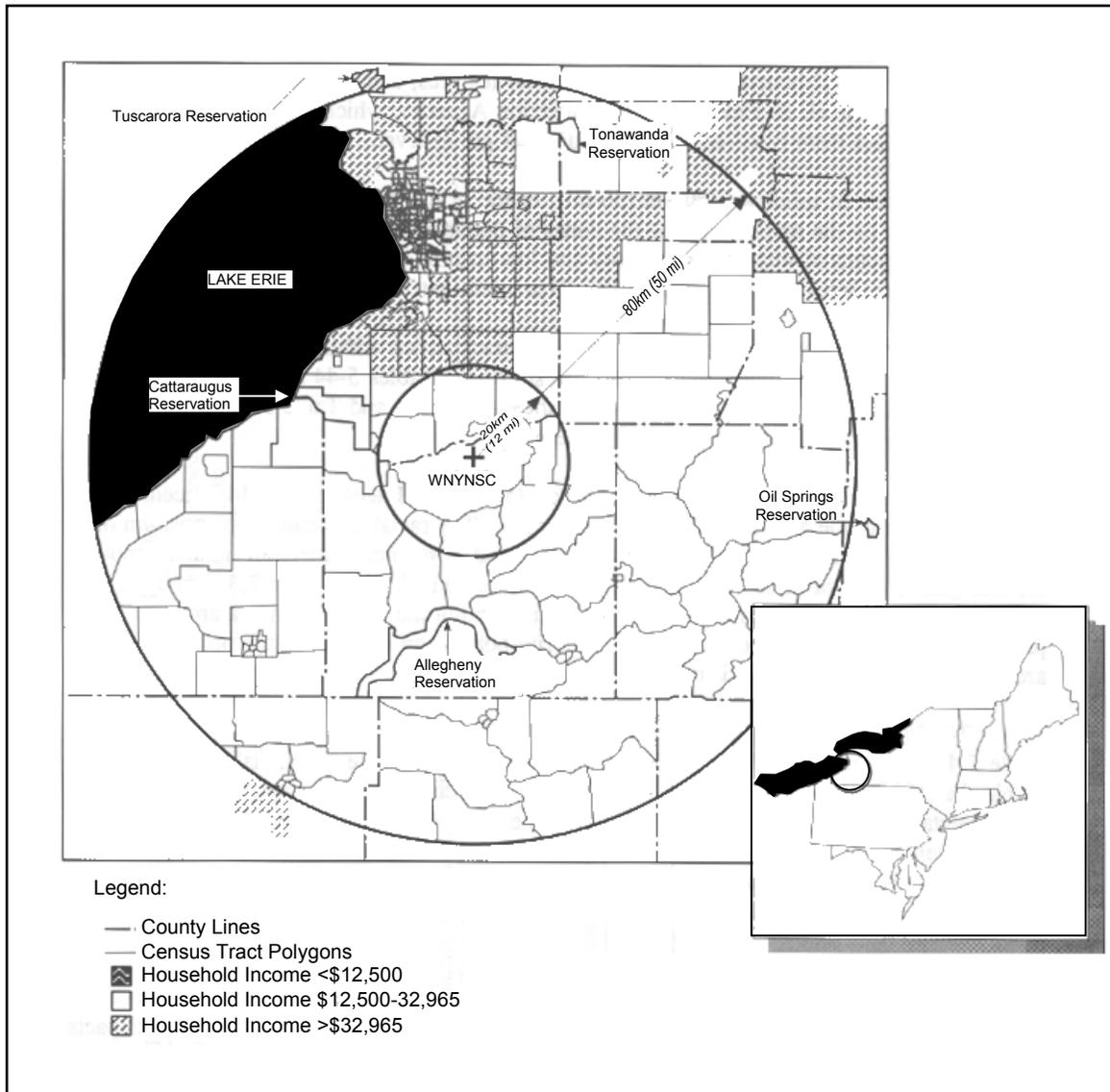


Figure 3-9. Low-income Population Distribution Within 80 Kilometers of the Center

80-kilometer radial distance from the WVDP site accounts for approximately 13 percent of the population in the area, or about 207,852 people. The racial and ethnic composition of this population is predominantly African-American and Hispanic (USCB 2001).

Using block group data from 1990 (income data were not yet available for 2000), Figure 3-9 (DOE 1996) identifies no block groups with an average income below the 1990 poverty level of \$12,670 for a family of four. A further assessment of the census data determined that within the 80-kilometer (50-mile) area, approximately 13 percent of the population was low-income (DOE 1996). The poverty level established by the Census Bureau for 2000 is \$17,600. Because this increase from 1990 is based on the annual increases in the consumer price index, it is likely that the regional percentages of low-income have not changed significantly.