



Site Characterization of the Burn Site Groundwater Area of Concern

**Sandia National Laboratories,
New Mexico (SNL)**

17 July 2014

**Michael Skelly
SNL/NM
Department 6234
mfskell@sandia.gov**

Bernalillo County, New Mexico

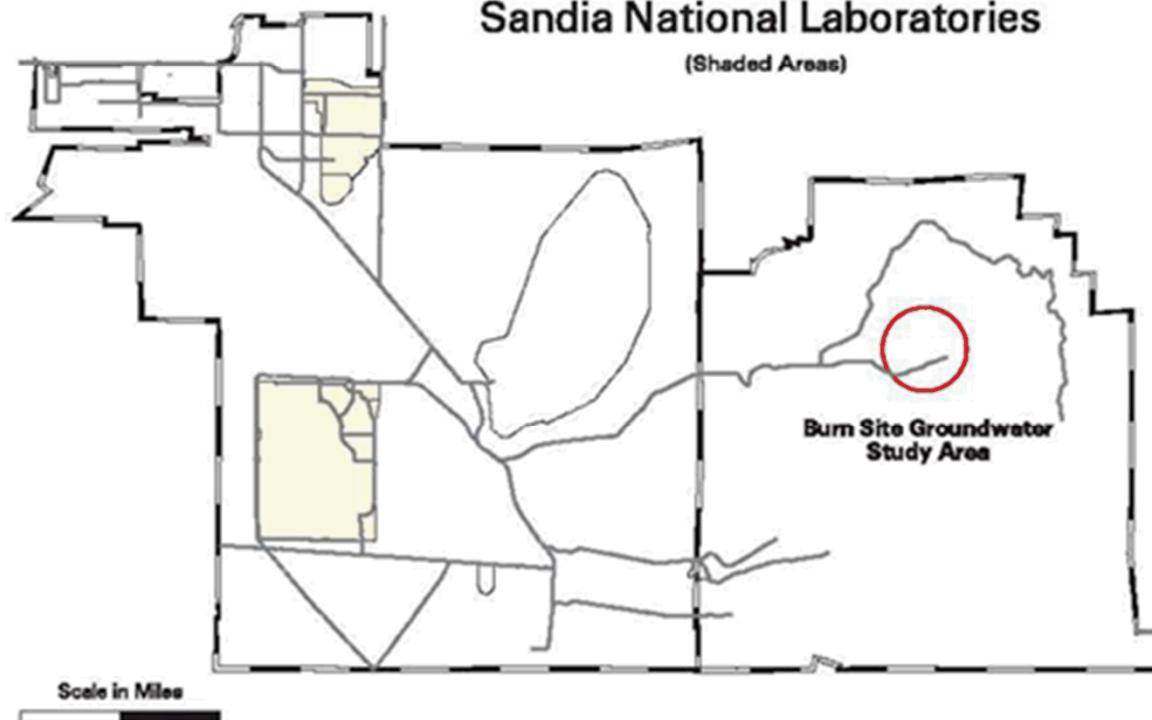
Albuquerque

Kirtland Air Force Base

Scale in Miles
0 6 12

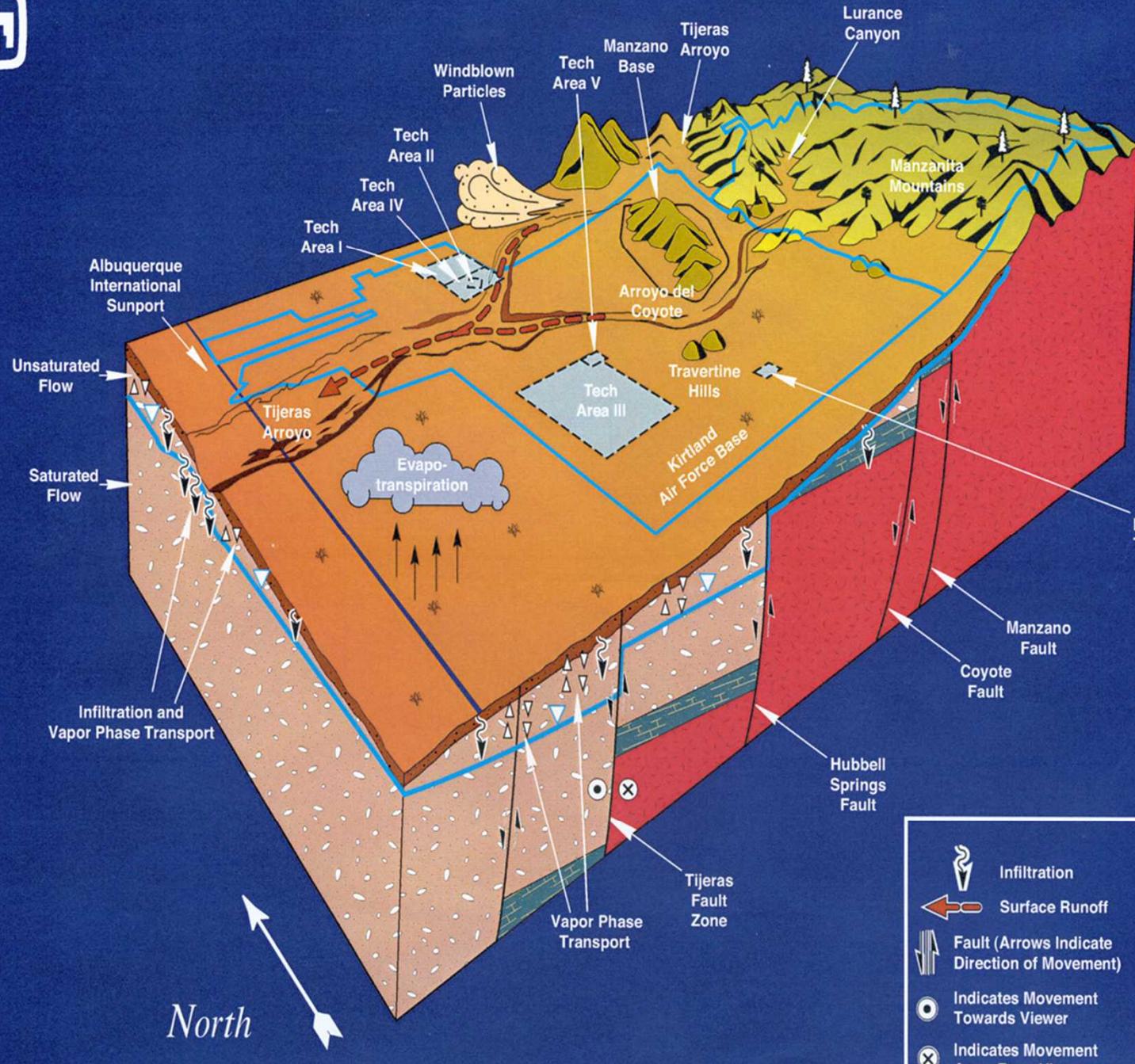
**Bernalillo County, New Mexico****Sandia National Laboratories**

(Shaded Areas)

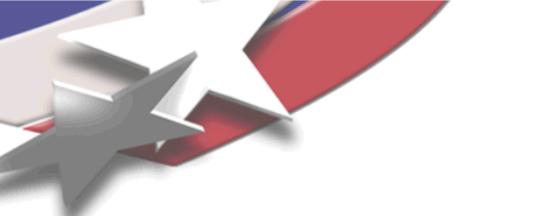


Burn Site Groundwater Study Area

Scale in Miles
0 2.5 5







History of the Burn Site

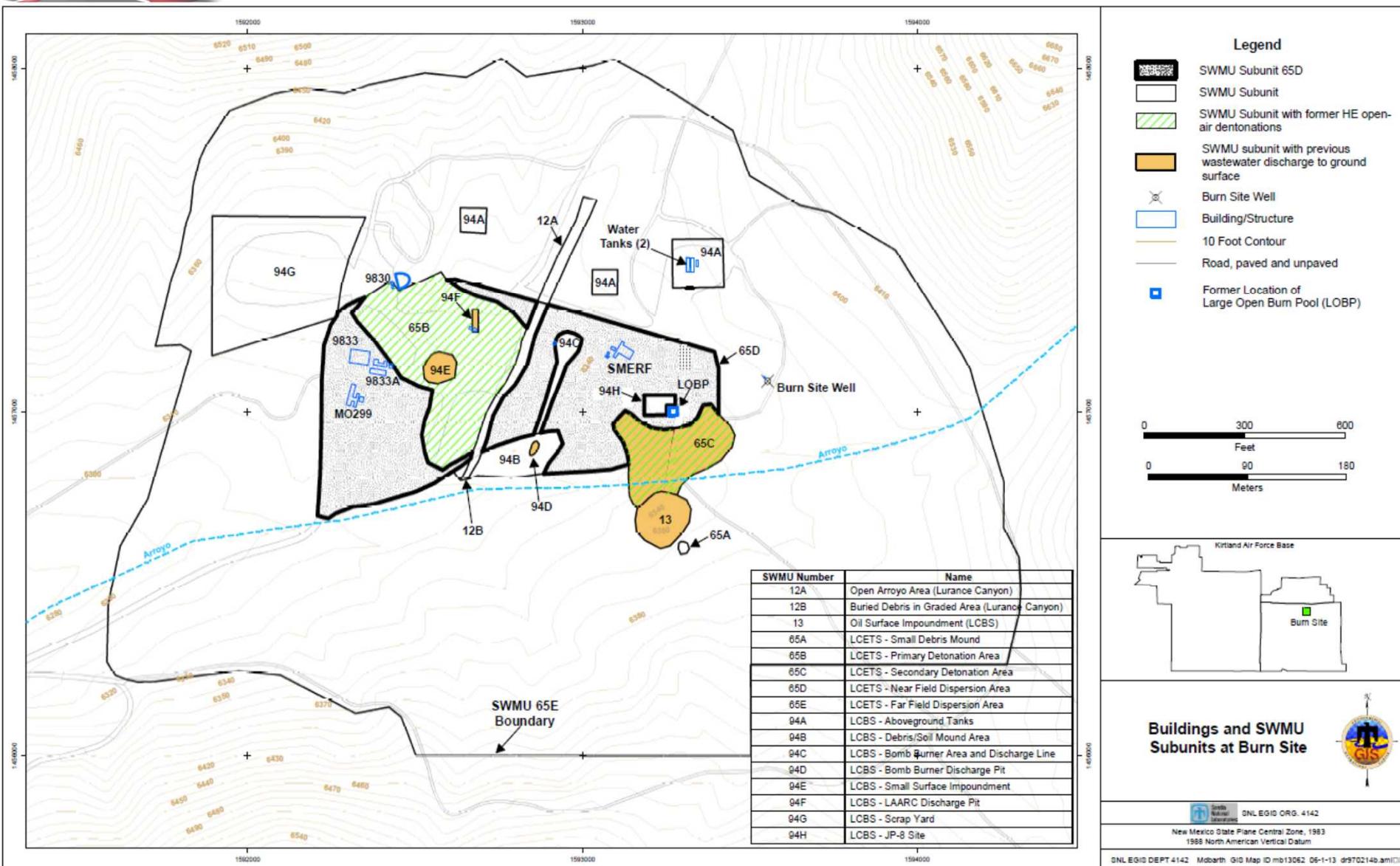
- The Lurance Canyon Burn Site (SWMU 94) and Lurance Canyon Explosive Test Site (SWMU 65) have been used since 1967.
- Historical operations (1967 and 1975) included open detonation of HE compounds and the open burning of HE compounds, liquid propellants, and solid propellants.
- Burn testing began in the early 1970s and has continued to the present.
- Early burn testing was conducted in unlined pits excavated in native soil.

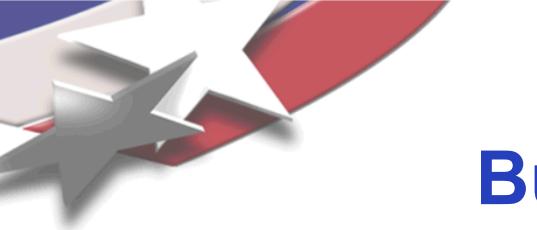


History of the Burn Site (continued)

- By 1975, portable, steel, burn pans were used for open burning, mostly using JP-4.
- The Light Air Transport Accident Resistant Container Unit was constructed in 1980, and other engineered burn units were constructed by 1983. These burn units used jet fuel, gasoline, and diesel for the burn tests.
- Most current research has involved testing the fire survivability of transportation containers, weapon components, simulated weapons, and satellite components.

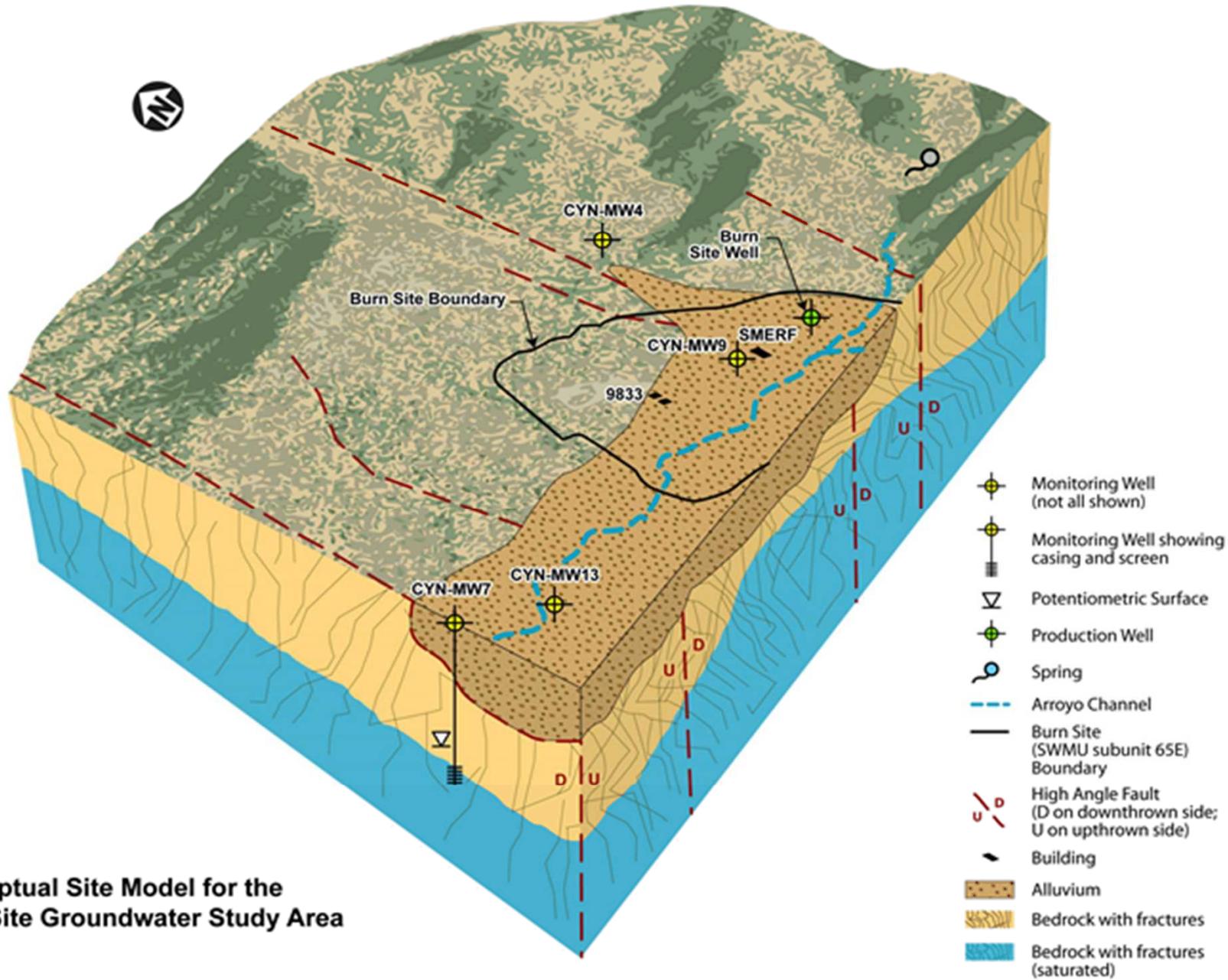
SWMUs



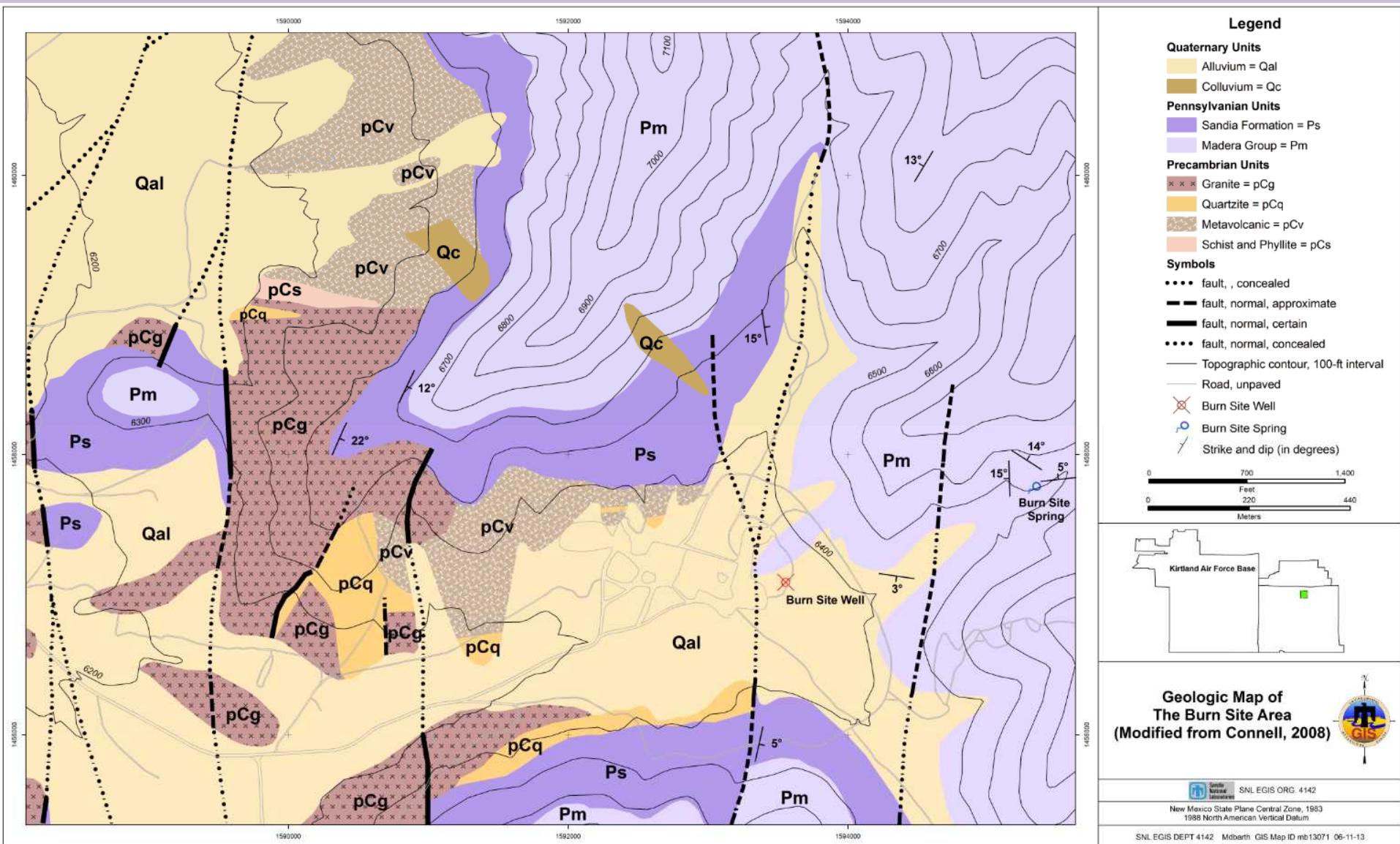


Burn Site Groundwater AOC

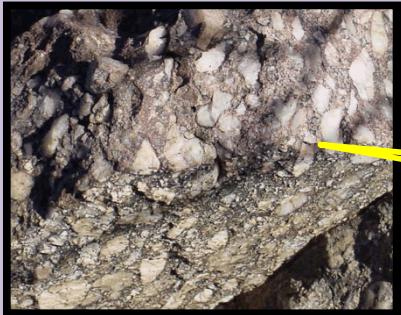
- GW monitored since 1996
- GW occurs at ~125 to 380 ft deep in fractured bedrock
- Currently monitoring 10 wells
- Nitrates (6 wells) and perchlorate (1 well)
 - Nitrate: 0 to 37 ppm (std. = 10 ppm)
 - Perchlorate: 0 to 9 ppb (no std. established)
- Small plume 9 mi. away from drinking-water supplies
- Tentative source—suspected wide-spread non-point source from use of high explosives, with a possible contribution from natural nitrate sources



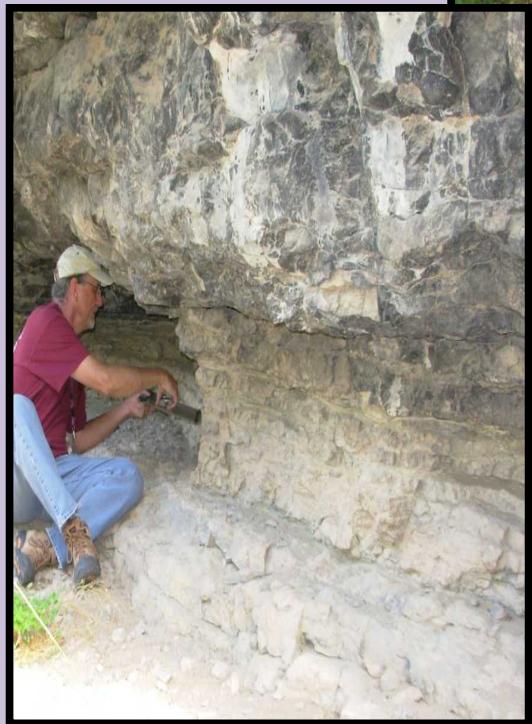
BSG AOC Geologic Map



Pennsylvanian Sandia Formation



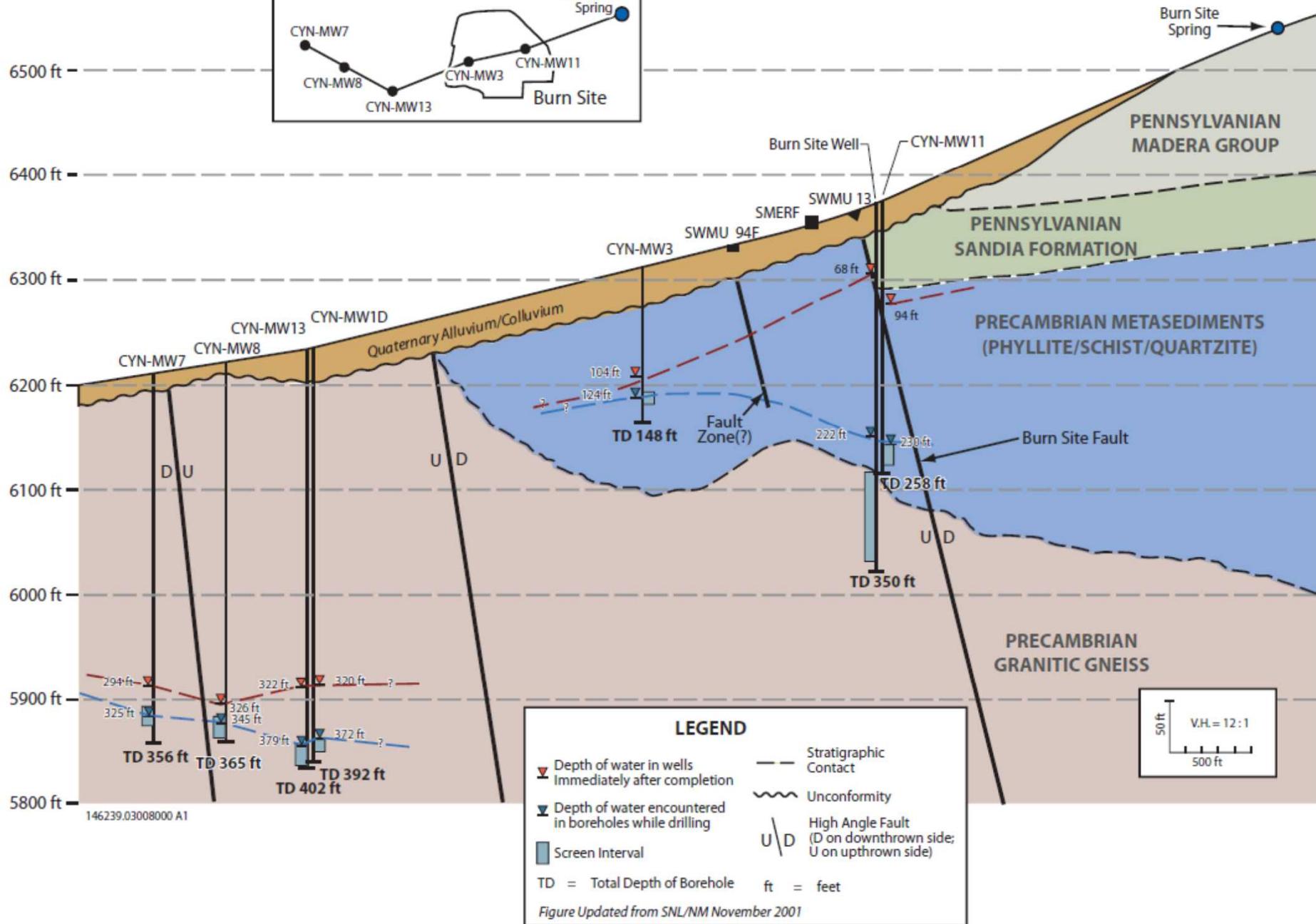
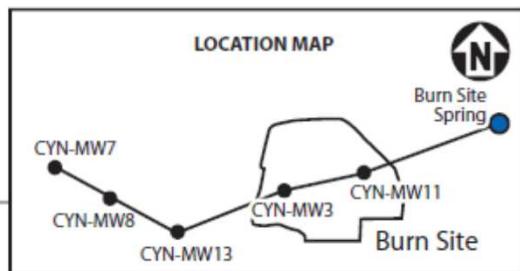
Pennsylvanian Madera Group



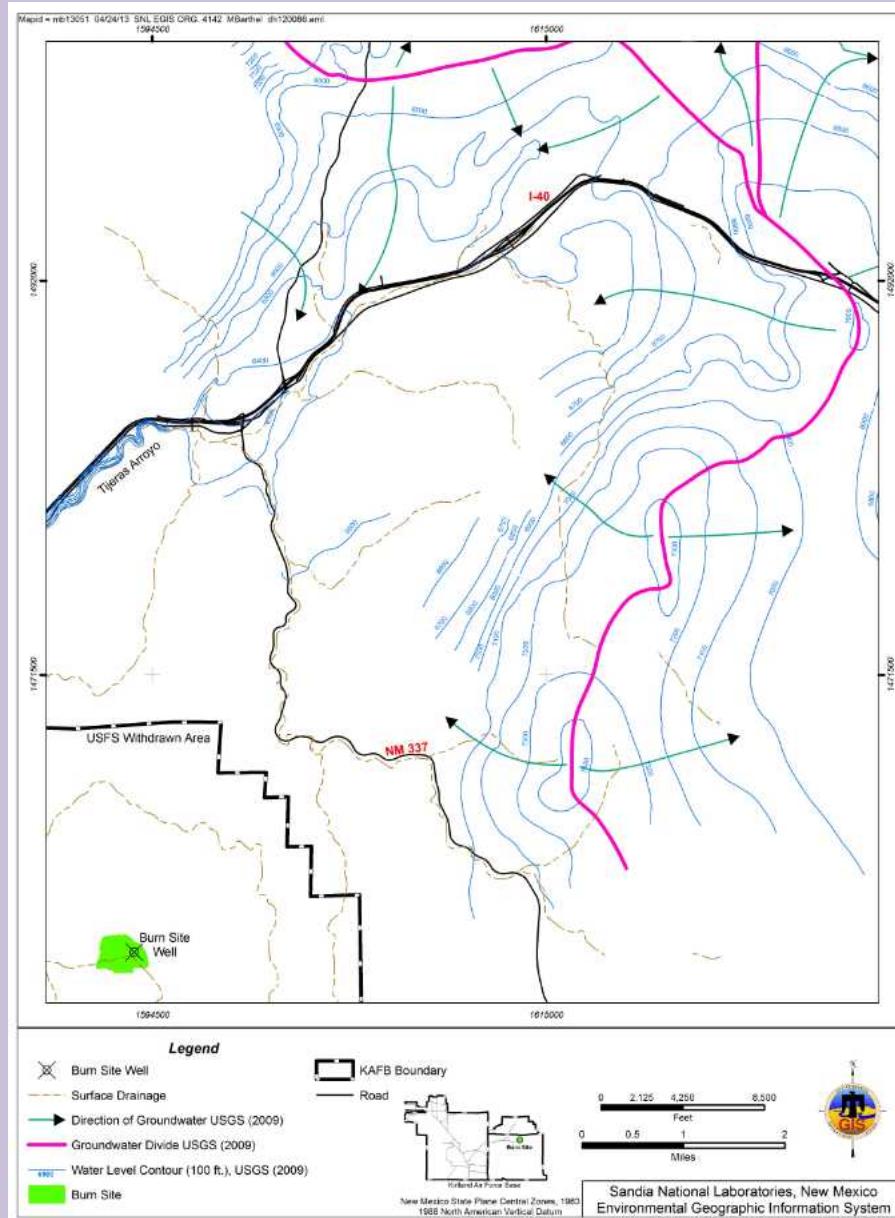
Burn Site
Spring

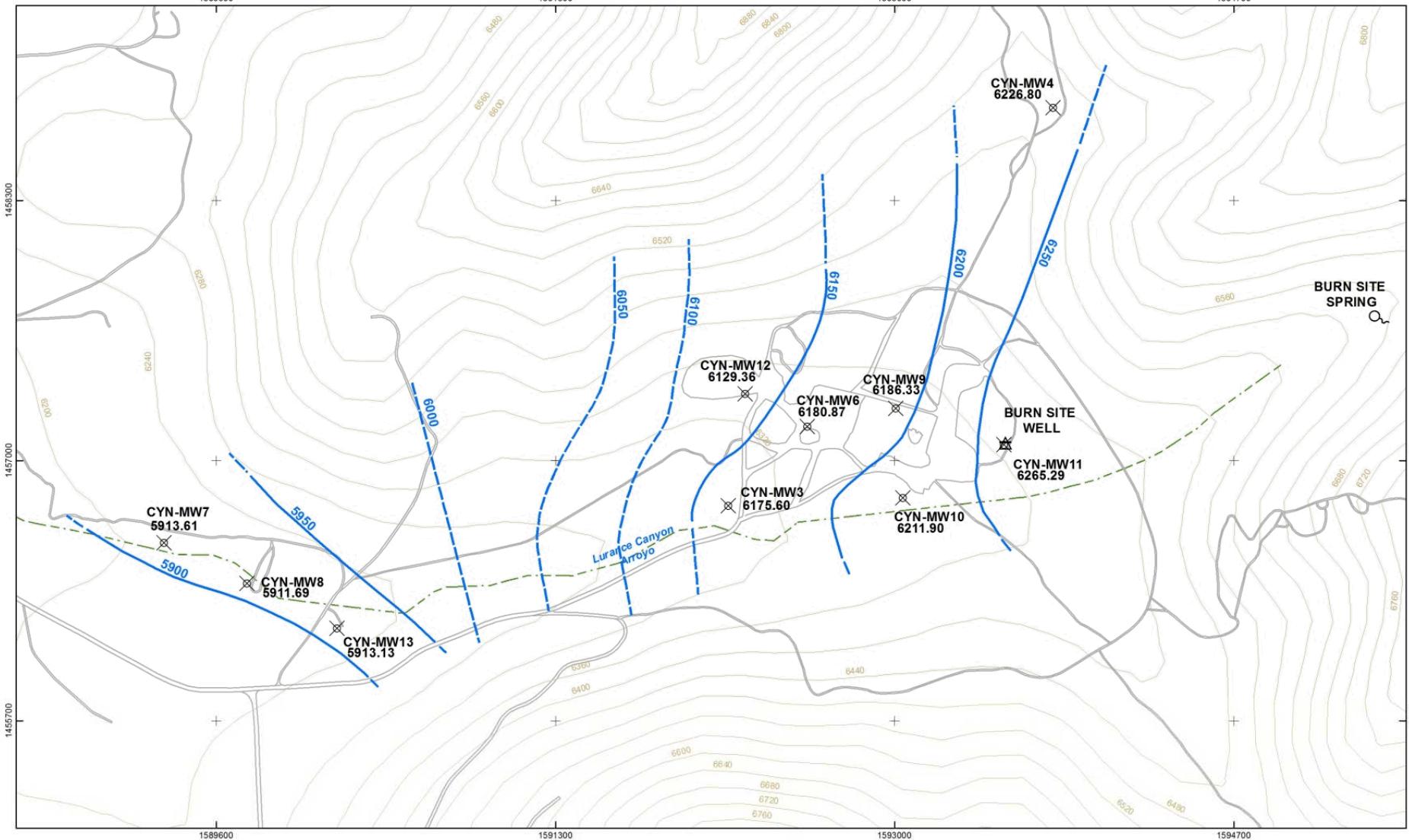
WEST

EAST



Regional Groundwater Potentiometric Surface





Legend

- △ Production well (non-potable)
- ✖ Monitoring well, groundwater.
(Groundwater elevation, feet amsl,
October 2013, datum NAVD88).
- 6226.80
- Potentiometric surface contour, feet
amsl, dashed where inferred

Road, unpaved Road

Surface drainage, arroyo

Ground surface contour, feet amsl

Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico
Environmental Geographic Information System

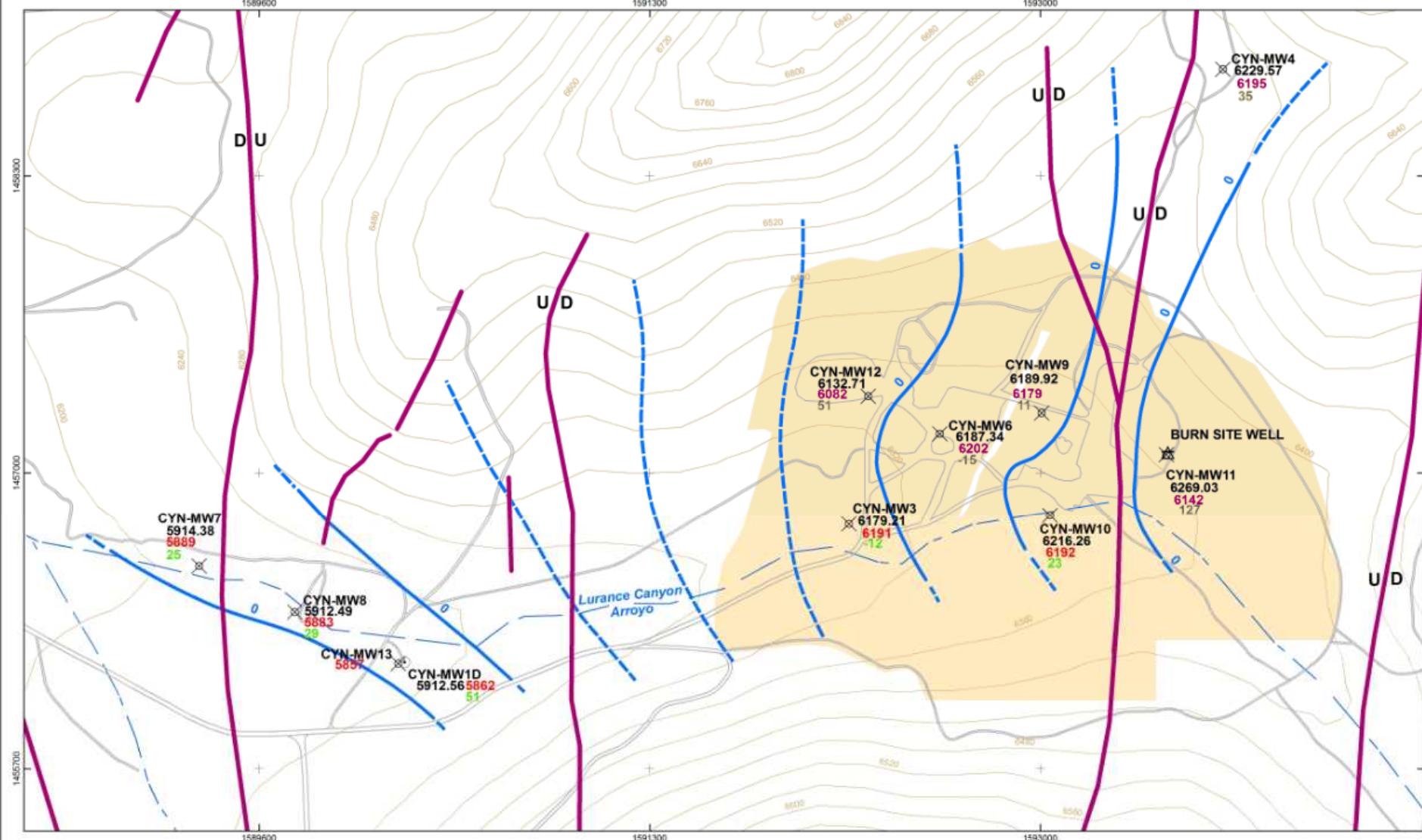
0 400 800 1,600

Feet

0 87.5 175 350

Meters

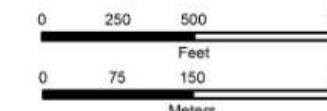




Legend

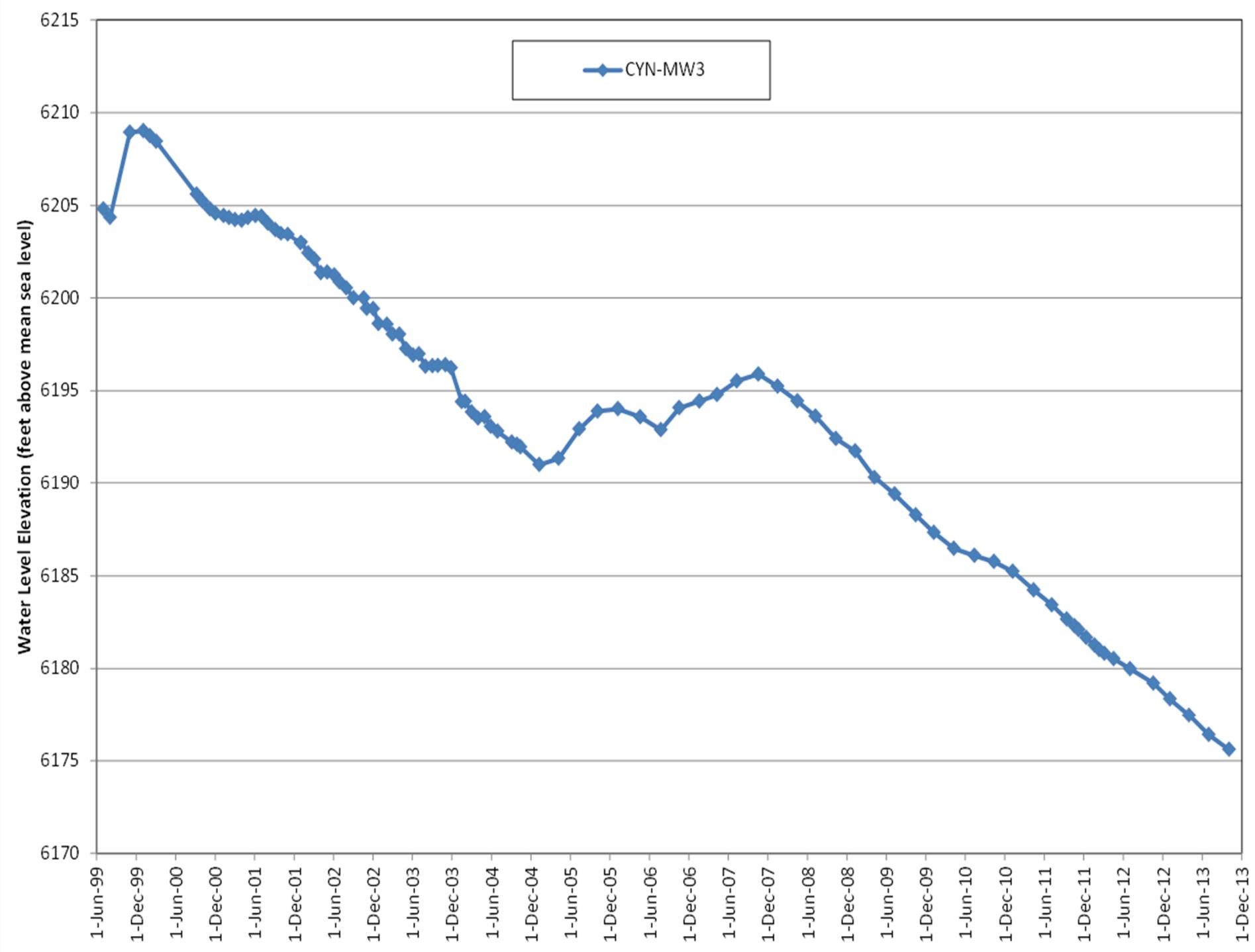
		Legend	
	▲ Production well (non-potable)	U/D High-angle Normal fault (D on downthrown side, U on upthrown side). (Connell, 2008)	
	✖ Monitoring well, groundwater with groundwater elevation, feet amsl, October 2012 (datum NAVD88)	Potentiometric surface contour, feet amsl, dashed where inferred	
6269.03	● CYN-MW1D, plugged and abandoned	Road, unpaved Road	
6144	Elevation (FT amsl) of first groundwater encountered while drilling.	Surface drainage, arroyo	
51	Pressure head, ft, October 2012	Ground surface contour, feet amsl	
		SWMU 65/94	

Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico
Environmental Geographic Information System



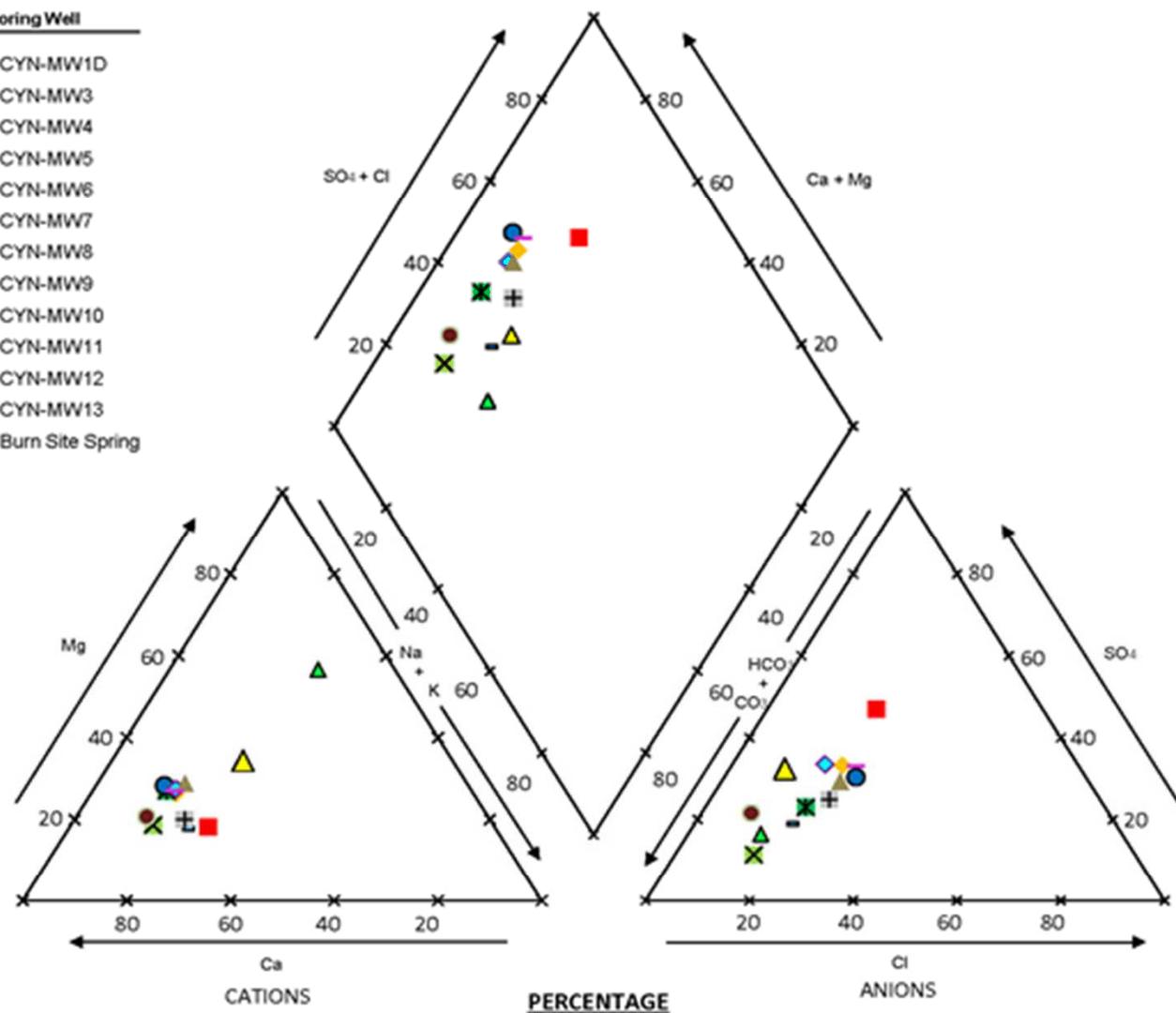
New Mexico State Plane Central Zone, 1983
1988 North American Vertical Datum





Monitoring Well

- CYN-MW1D
- ◆ CYN-MW3
- ▲ CYN-MW4
- ✖ CYN-MW5
- CYN-MW6
- CYN-MW7
- + CYN-MW8
- CYN-MW9
- ◆ CYN-MW10
- ▲ CYN-MW11
- CYN-MW12
- CYN-MW13
- ▲ Burn Site Spring

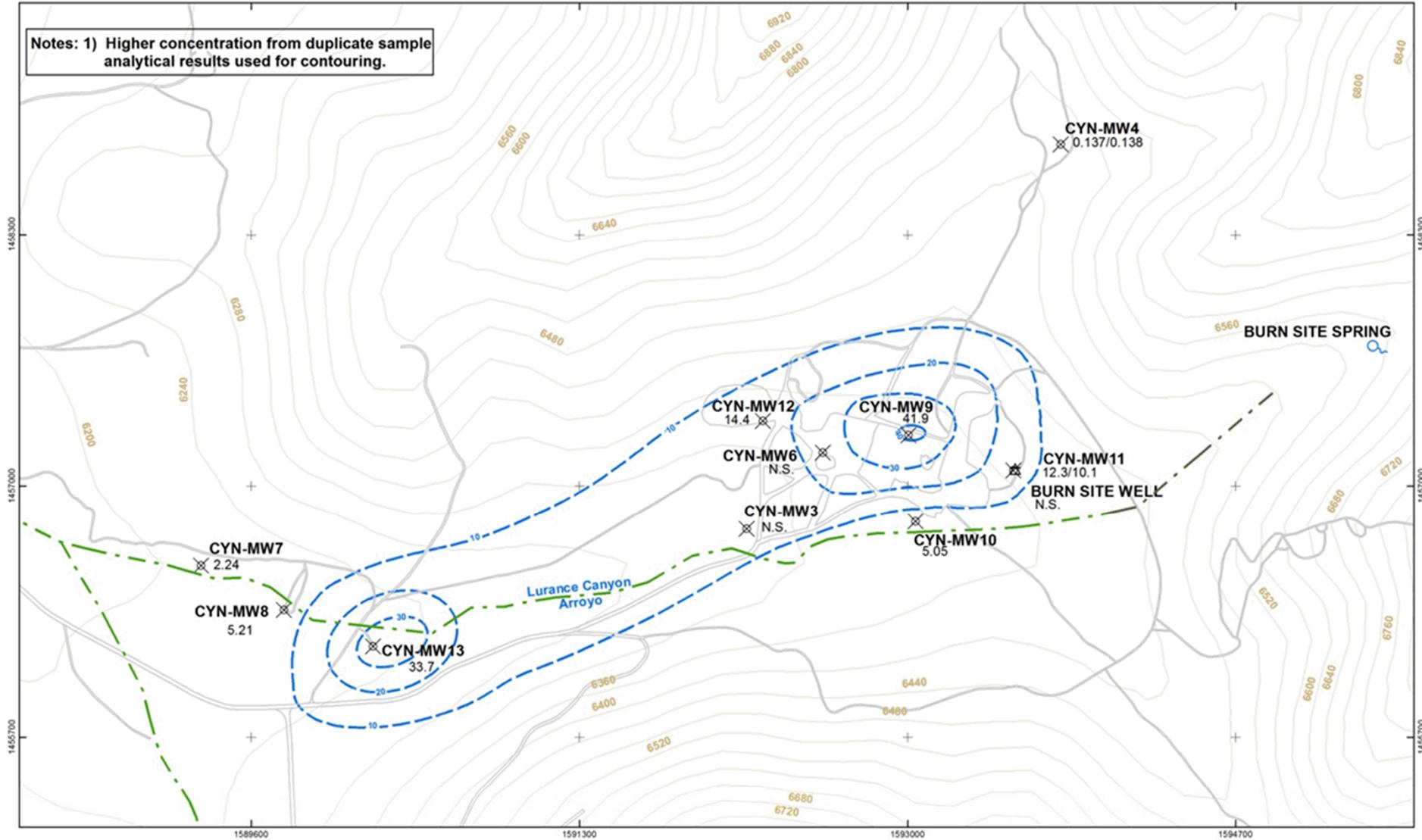


1591300

1593000

1594700

Notes: 1) Higher concentration from duplicate sample analytical results used for contouring.



Legend

Groundwater Monitoring Well, with December 2013 Nitrate plus Nitrite Concentrations (mg/L). N.S. denotes not sampled.



Spring



Production Well (non-potable)

Concentration Contour (mg/L)
(dashed where inferred)

Unpaved Road



Arroyo



40-ft. Contour

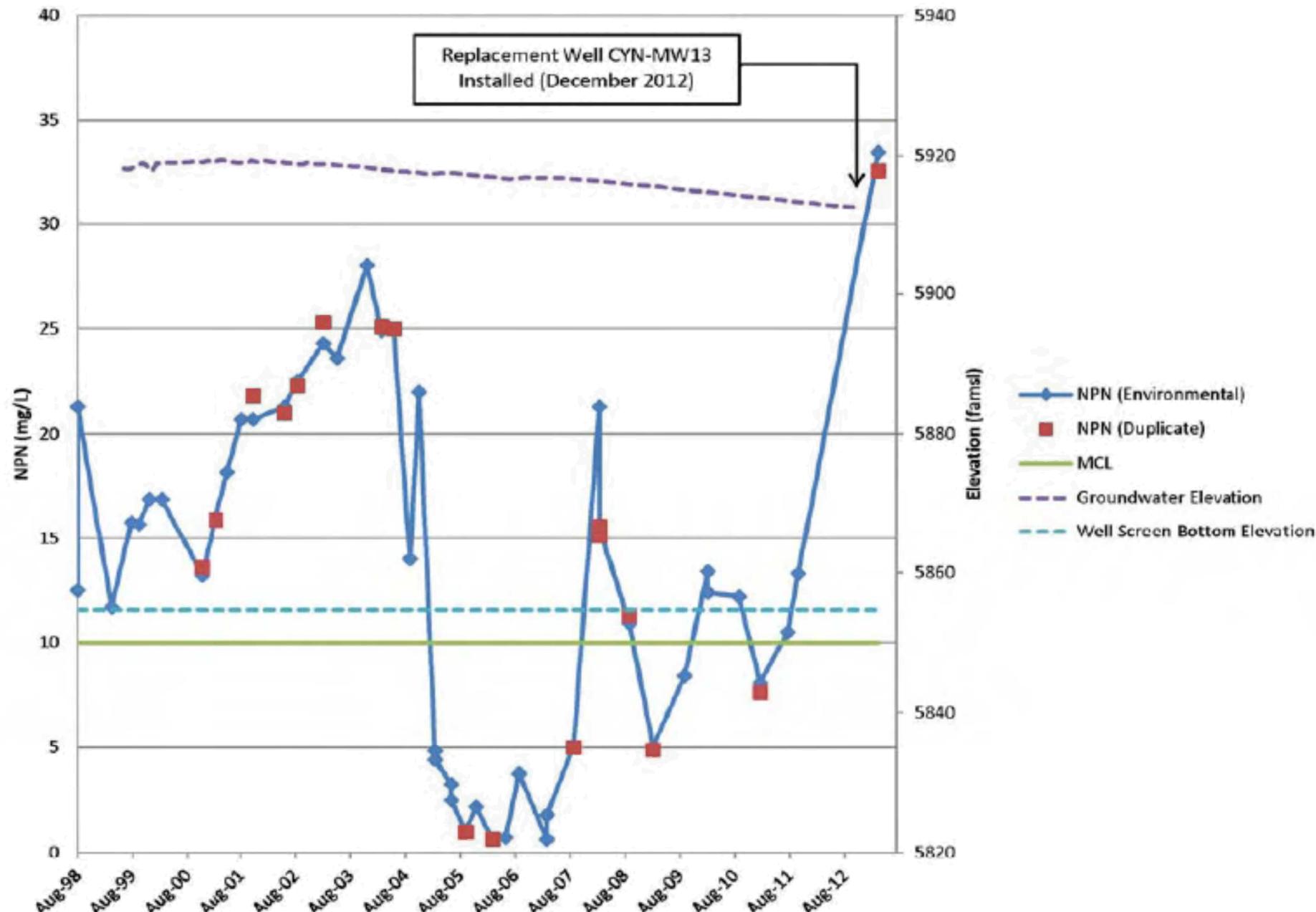
0 250 500 1,000
Feet

0 112.5 225 450
Meters

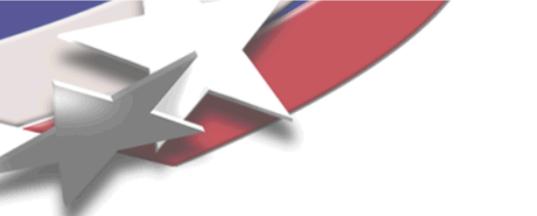
Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico
Environmental Geographic Information System



New Mexico State Plane Central Zone, 1983
1988 North American Vertical Datum



Nitrate plus Nitrite Concentrations, CYN-MW1D and Replacement Well CYN-MW13



Summary

- BSG located in eastern/mountainous portion of KAFB
- Early 1960's -1992, liquid effluent released to vadose zone
- Regional aquifer in fractured bedrock at 125 to 380 ft bgs
- Regional aquifer contaminated with Nitrate at 3 to 4 times MCL
- Nearest drinking wells 9 miles away
- BSG permitted to DOE; on Air Force Base with strong institutional controls
- Updated CCM and CME Report due to NMED March 31, 2016