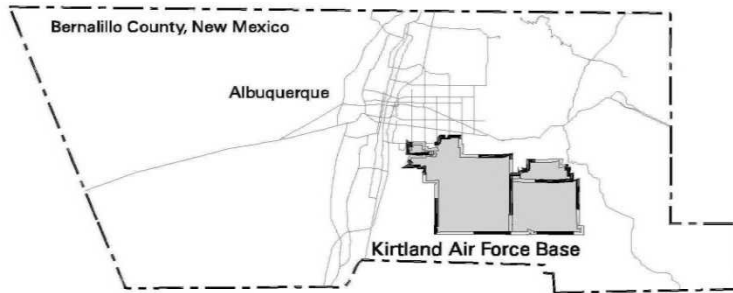




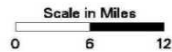
# Overview of Groundwater Monitoring Programs at Sandia National Laboratories

**Michael Skelly**  
SNL/NM  
Department 6234  
[mfskell@sandia.gov](mailto:mfskell@sandia.gov)

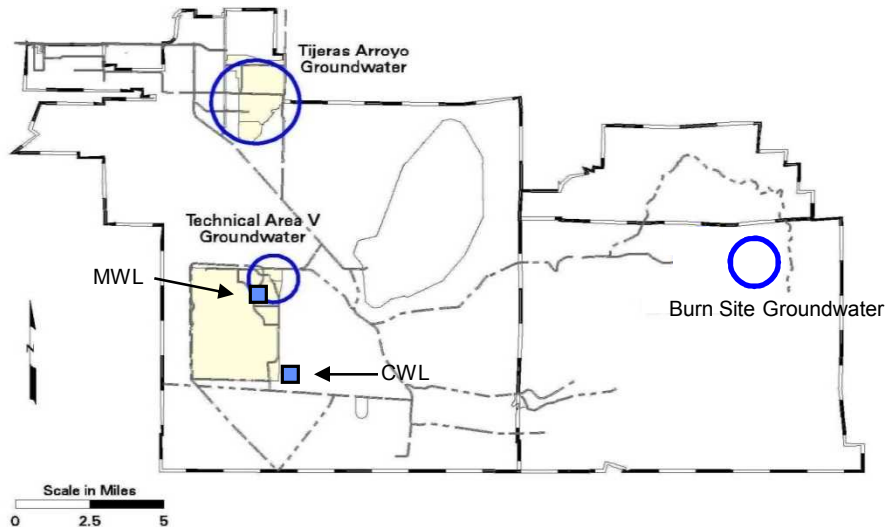
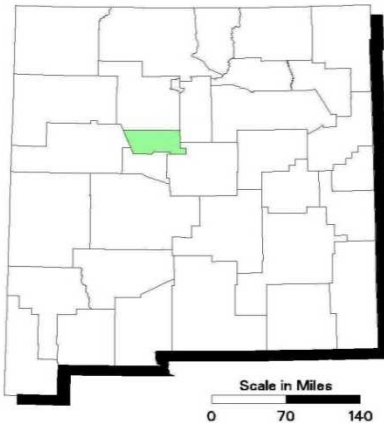
# Location of SNL Groundwater Projects



Sandia National Laboratories  
New Mexico  
Groundwater Investigations



Bernalillo County, New Mexico

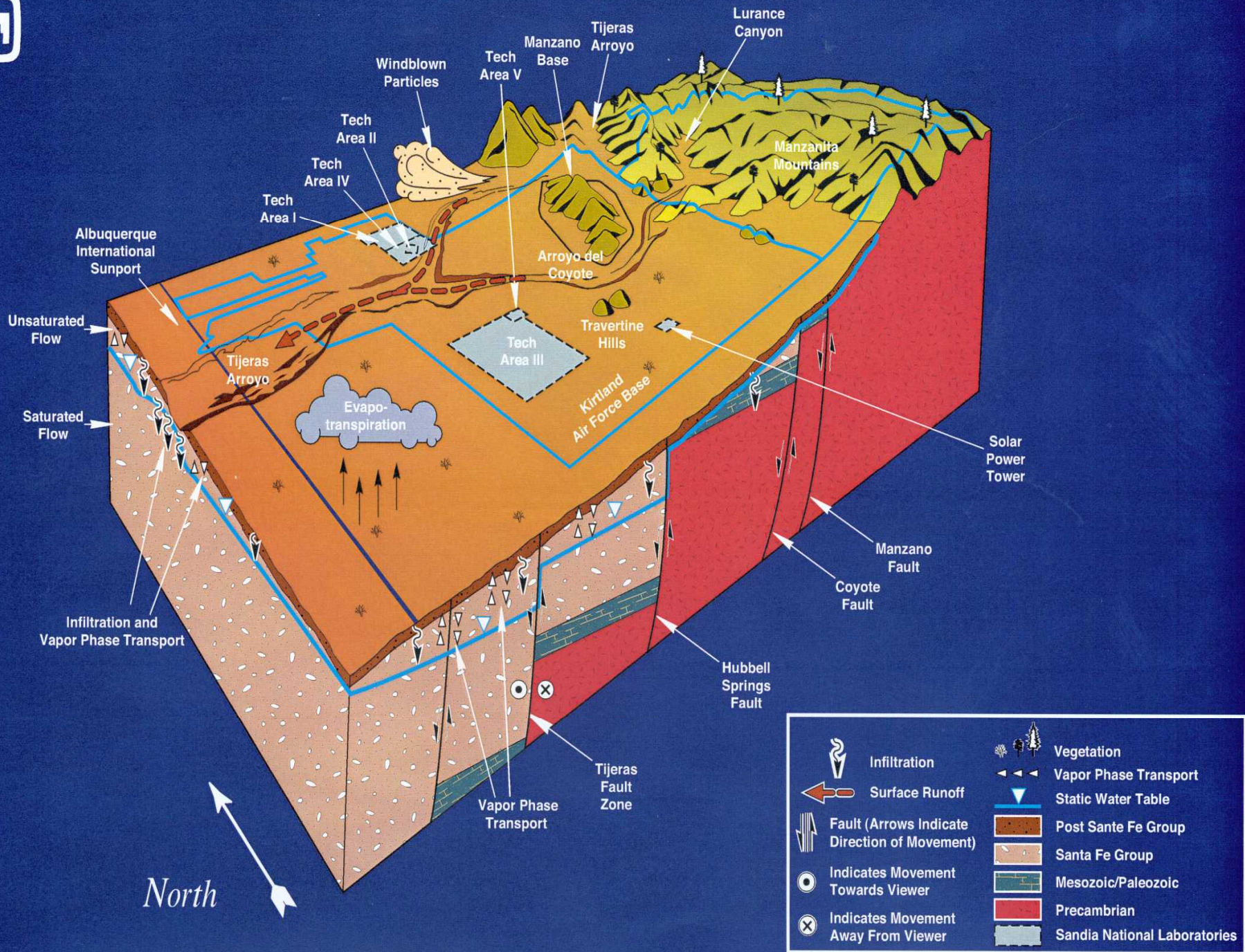


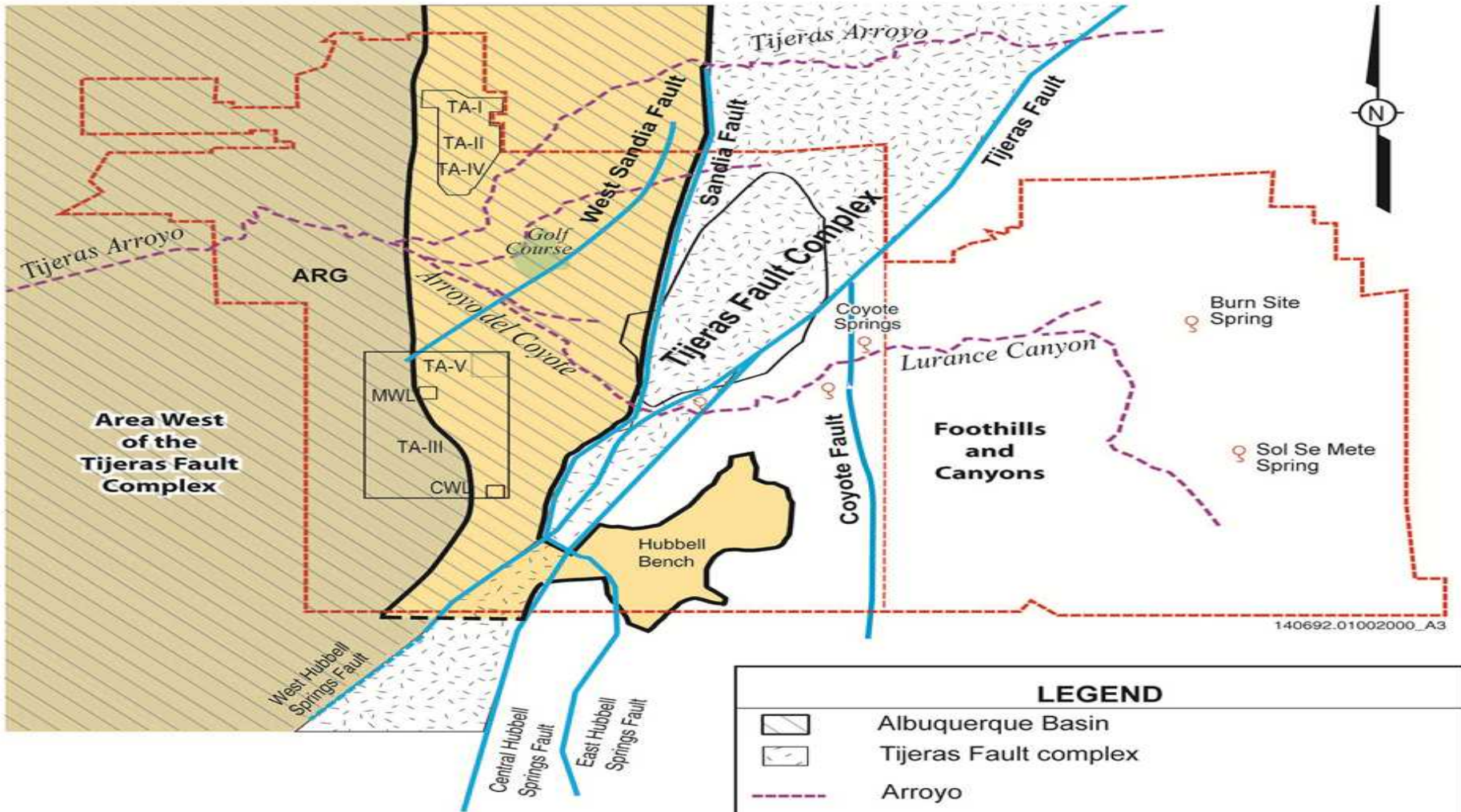


# General Groundwater Conditions at SNL

---

- **Groundwater occurs in two regimes, a basin-fill aquifer and a bedrock aquifer**
- **Depths to groundwater is typically 100 ft (bedrock) to 550 ft (basin fill), with a perched groundwater system near Tijeras Arroyo**
- **Naturally flows from the mountains to the Rio Grande**
- **Drinking water-supply wells are located in the northern part of KAFB**
- **Currently flowing northwest toward KAFB and ABCWUA water-supply wells**
- **Water table is falling 1 to 2 ft per year due to pumping, except for wells in the far north**
- **Minimal recharge from rain--except in mountains and along channels**
- **Slow flow rates (few ft per year to 10's of ft per year), except on the west side of the base (100's ft per year)**





140692.01002000\_A3



**LEGEND**

	Albuquerque Basin
	Tijeras Fault complex
	Arroyo
	KAFB boundary
	Spring
	Fault (dashed where inferred or buried)

Lithofacies at Regional Water Table:

	Fine-grained alluvial-fan lithofacies
	Ancestral Rio Grande Lithofacies (ARG)
	Fractured bedrock aquifer at various locations





# Drilling a Monitoring Well

---





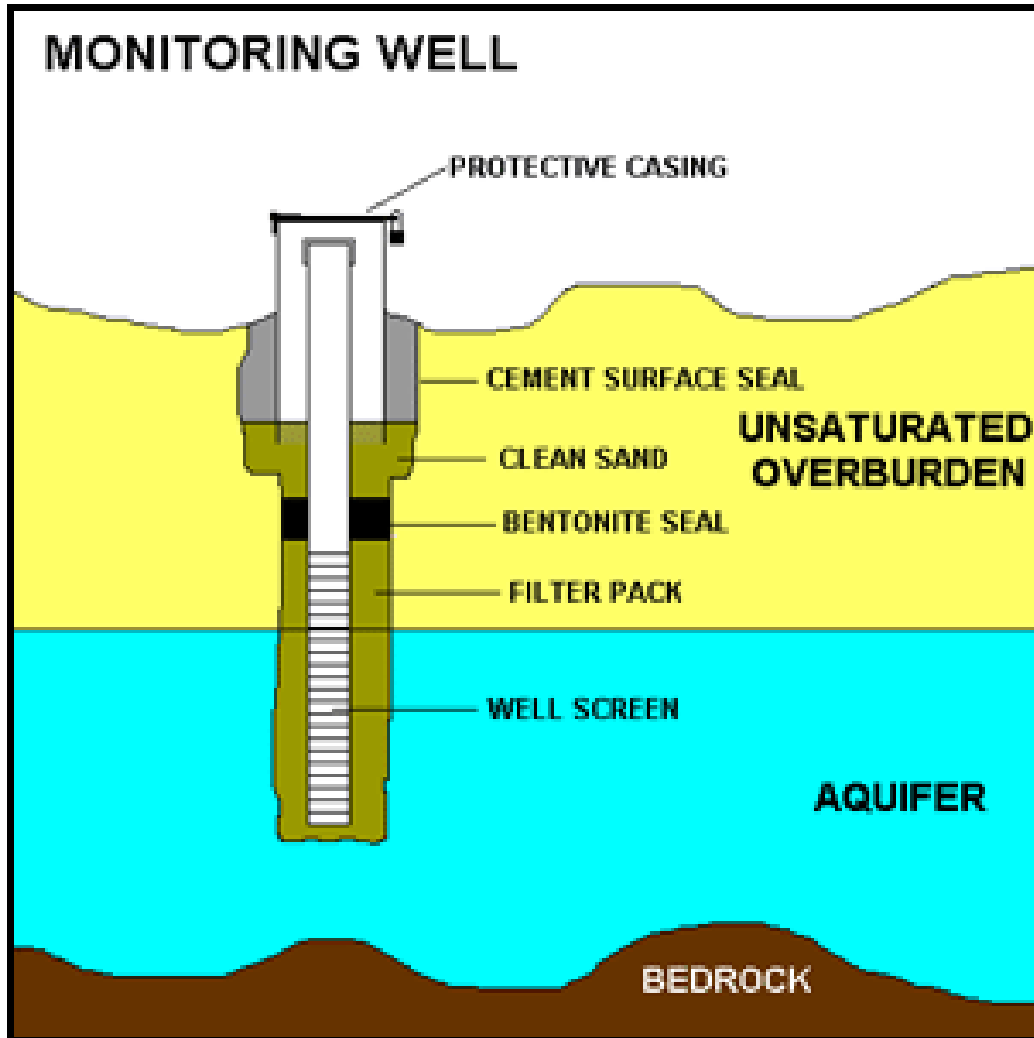




NON-POTABLE



# Typical Monitoring Well





WIL KING

PAPE MACHINERY

2-3

LOADING DEVICES





# Sampling a Groundwater Monitoring Well





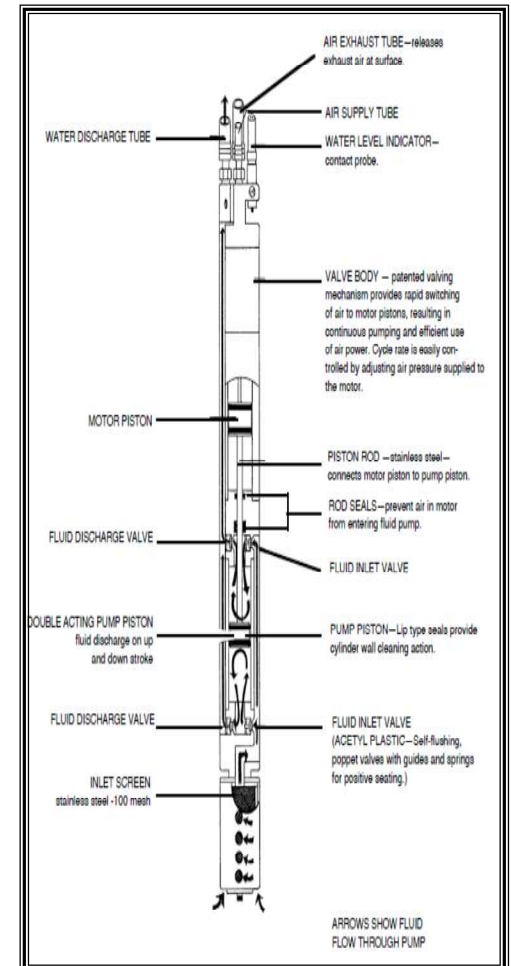
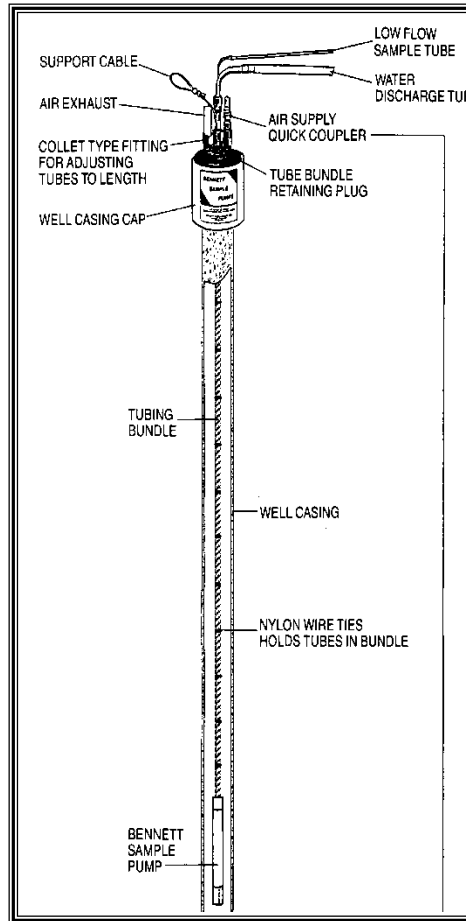
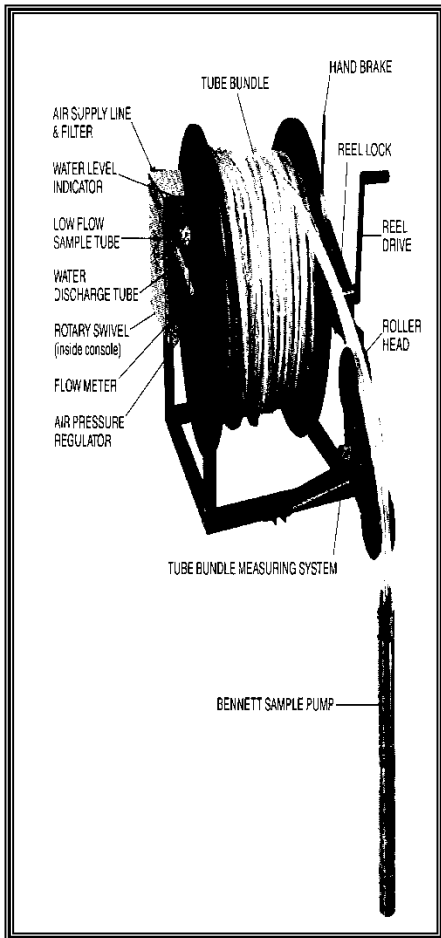


345-5814  
TRACY 263-3444  
1371-0364  
749-789-3174  
TRV-MW10-513.06  
TRV-MW9-495.96  
MW3-541.91  
MW7-509.93  
LWBS-MW2-  
LIC # DEW-852410





# Groundwater Sampling Equipment







## Seven Groundwater Projects at SNL

---

1. **Groundwater Protection Program**--detection monitoring to ensure that current operations are not degrading groundwater
2. **Chemical Waste Landfill**—detection monitoring of a remediated landfill
3. **Mixed Waste Landfill**—detection monitoring of a closed, covered landfill
4. **Burn Site Groundwater**--contamination regulated as Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) with nitrate above regulatory standard and perchlorate above NMED screening level
5. **Tijeras Arroyo Groundwater**--contamination regulated as SWMU with nitrate and trichloroethene (TCE) contamination above regulatory standards
6. **Technical Area V**--contamination regulated as SWMU with nitrate and TCE above regulatory standards
7. **Miscellaneous SWMUs**--Six small sites, each with one to three wells, with routine characterization monitoring

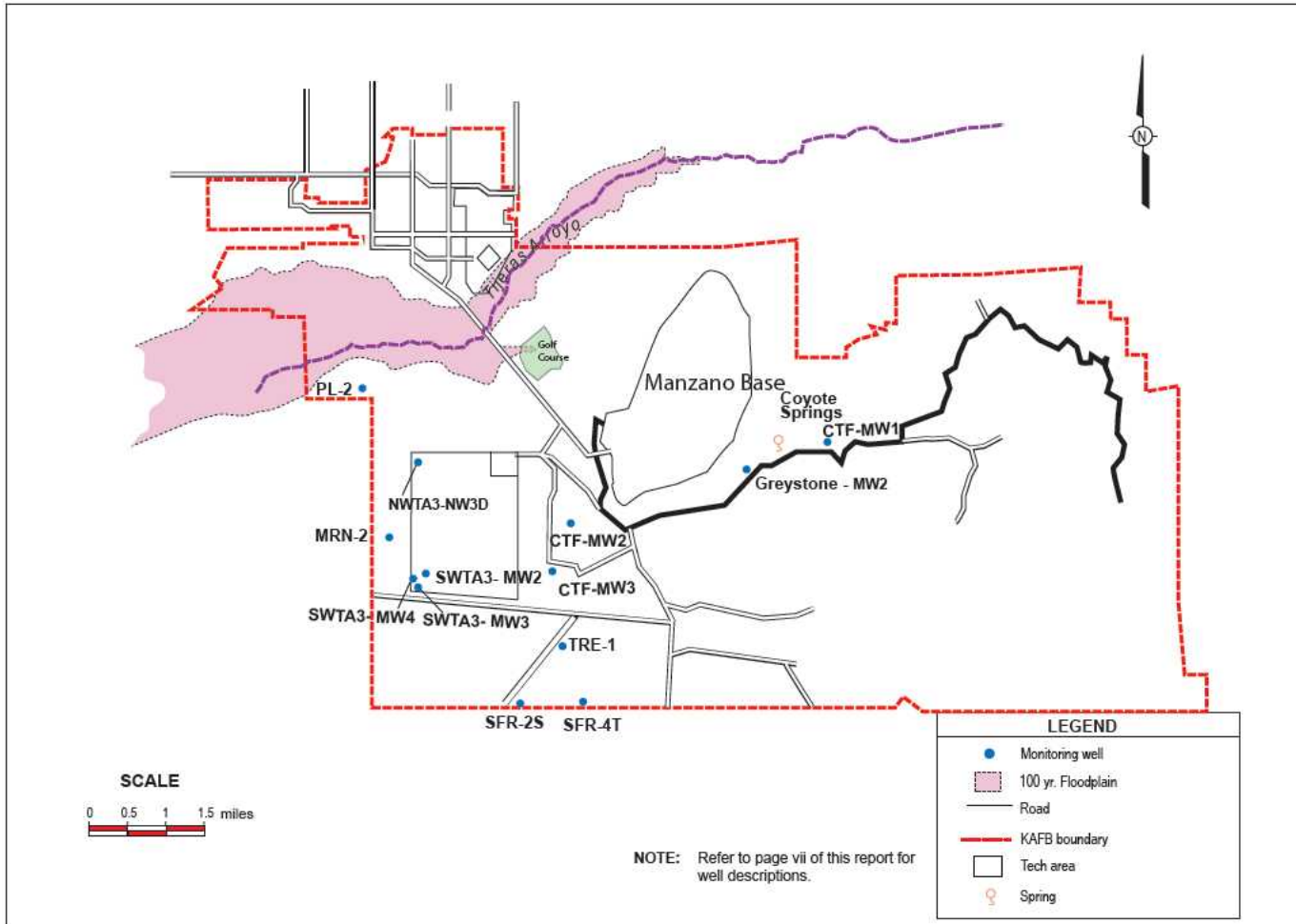


# Groundwater Protection Program

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- Protecting groundwater resources at SNL and the surrounding area.
- Determining the impact, if any, of operations at SNL on the quality and quantity of groundwater.
- Establishing baseline water quality and groundwater flow information.
- Providing stakeholders with an update of groundwater data for all SNL groundwater investigations through the publication of an *Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report* (available on the internet at [http://www.sandia.gov/news/publications/environmental\\_reports/index.html](http://www.sandia.gov/news/publications/environmental_reports/index.html))

# Groundwater Protection Program





# Groundwater Protection Program

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SANDIA REPORT  
Unlimited Release  
SAND2012-4311P  
Printed June 2012

Calendar Year 2011

## Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report

Prepared by  
Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

Approved for public release; further dissemination unlimited

SANDIA REPORT  
SAND2011-5552P  
Unlimited Release  
Printed September 2011



## 2010 Annual Site Environmental Report for Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico



## Chemical Waste Landfill

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- 1.9 acre landfill, operational from 1962 to 1981
- TCE discovered in 1990 in groundwater prompted remediation via soil-vapor extraction and excavation of contaminated soils and debris.
- Currently regulated under a Post-Closure Care Permit
- 4 groundwater monitoring wells sampled semiannually, no analytes above regulatory standards
- 5 soil-vapor monitoring wells sampled annually








1554600

1555000

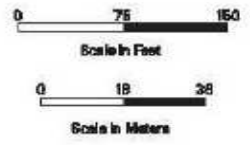
**NOTE: Potentiometric Surface based on groundwater elevations at CWL-BW6, CWL-MW9, CWL-MW10 and CWL-MW11 and regional potentiometric trends.**



**Legend**

-  Groundwater Monitoring Well
-  Road, paved and unpaved
-  Fence
-  Potentiometric surface contour, feet above Mean Sea Level, dashed where inferred
-  Chemical Waste Landfill

Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1998 North American Vertical Datum





## Mixed Waste Landfill

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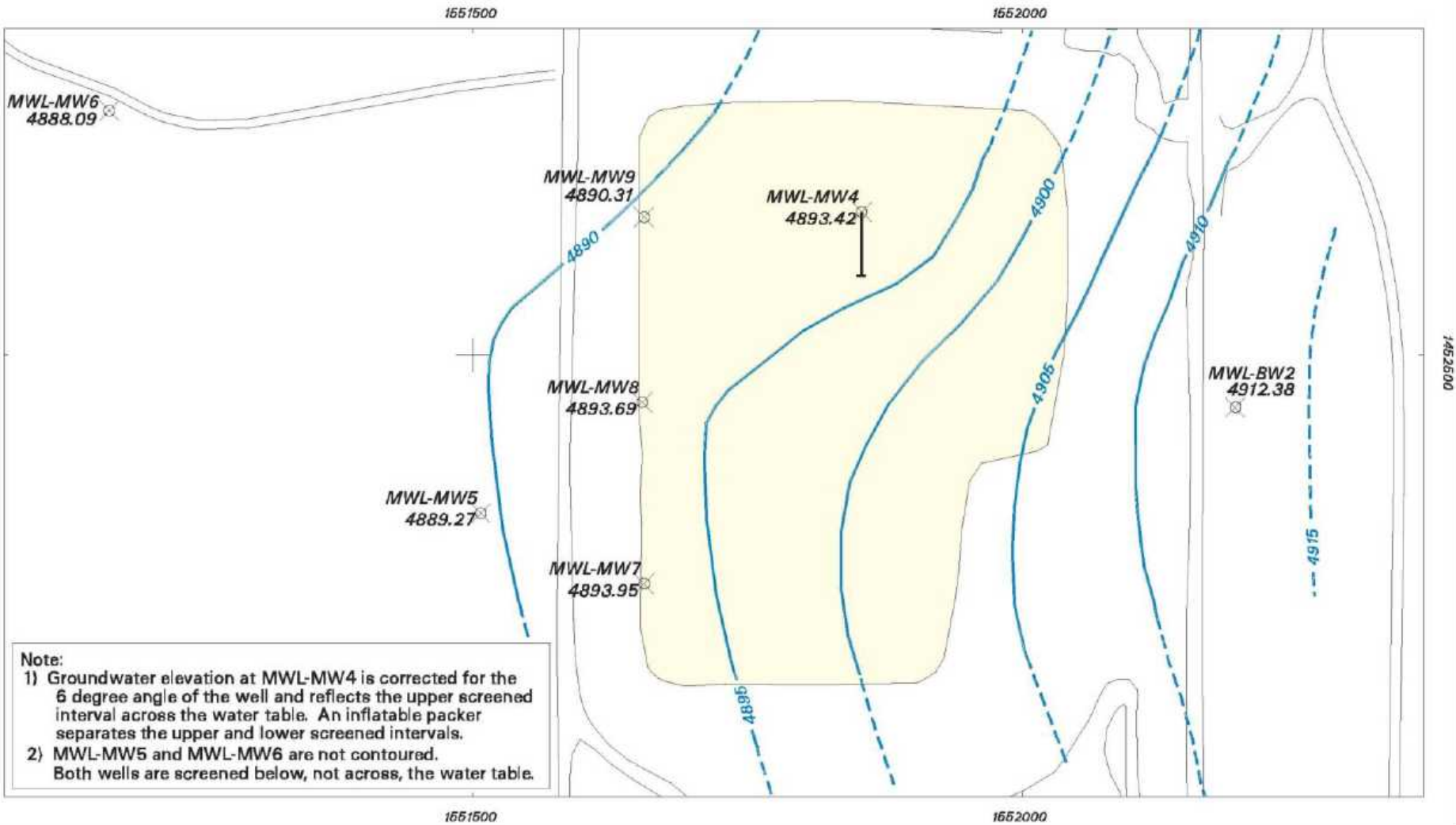
- 2.6 acre landfill, operational 1959 to 1988
- Groundwater monitoring & other field investigations began 1990
- Public Hearing on remedy in 2004
- NMED issued Final Order in 2005; selecting evapotranspirative cover w/ bio-intrusion barrier as remedy (constructed in 2009)
- 7 groundwater monitoring wells sampled annually, no analytes above regulatory standards








# Mixed Waste Landfill

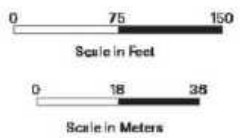
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-  Monitoring well, groundwater
-  Monitoring well, angled extent shown for MWL-MW4 with water table elevation
-  Potentiometric Surface contour, feet amsl, dashed where inferred
-  Road, unpaved
-  Mixed Waste Landfill

**Legend**



Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1988 North American Vertical Datum



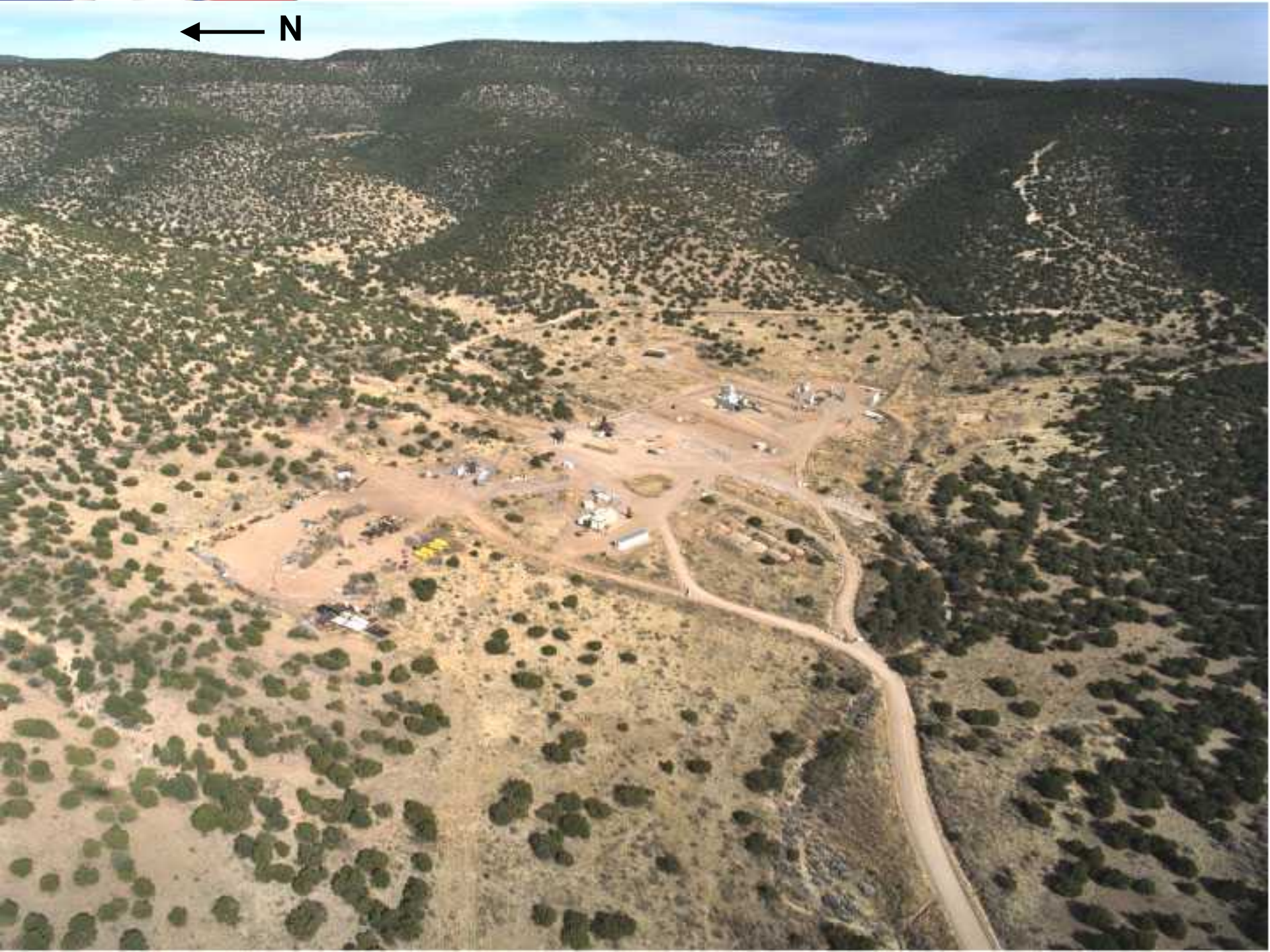


## Burn Site Groundwater

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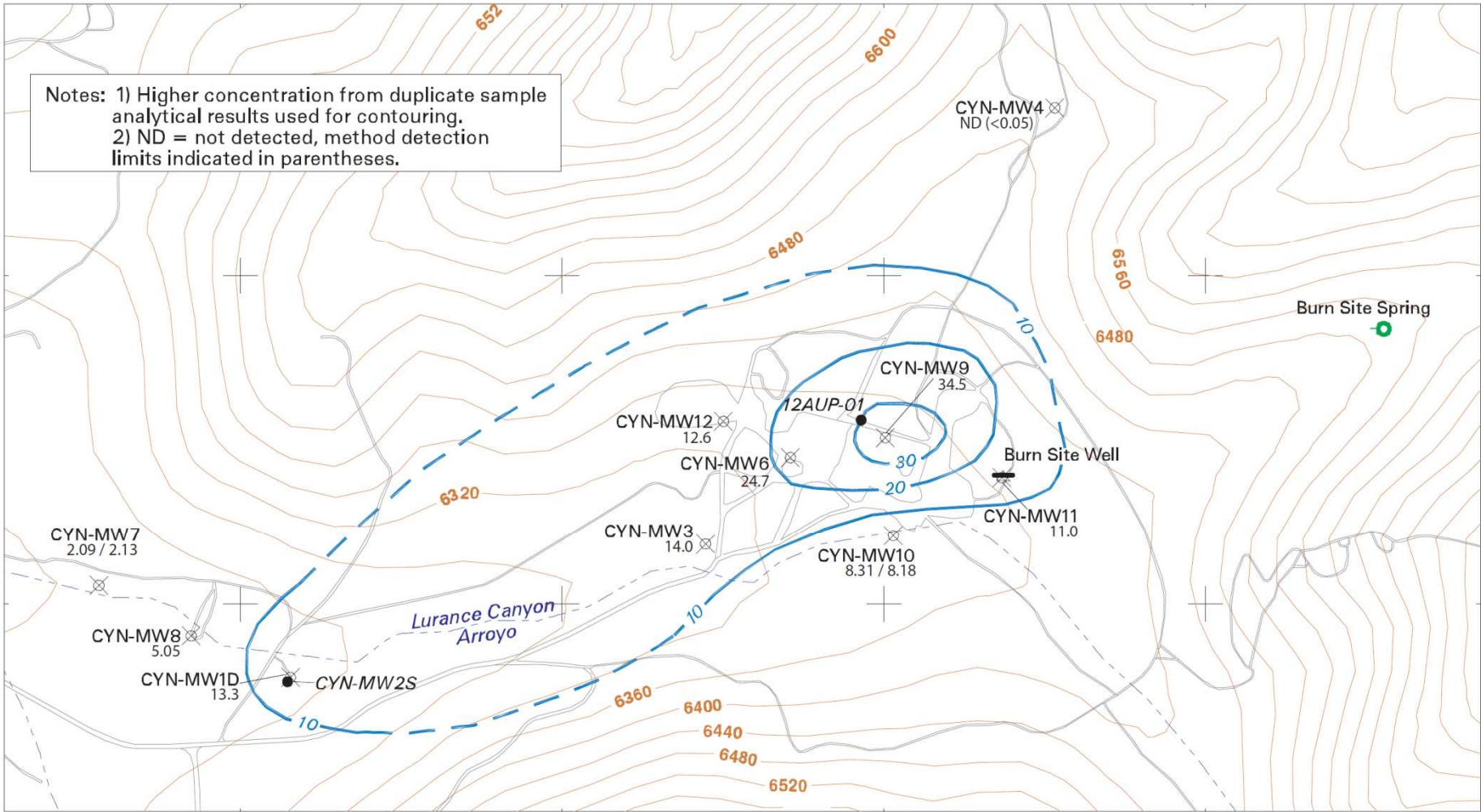
- Groundwater monitored since 1996
- Groundwater occurs at ~100 to 200 ft deep in fractured bedrock
- Currently monitoring 10 wells
- Contaminated with nitrate (5 to 6 wells) and perchlorate (1 well)
  - Nitrate: 0 to 37 parts per million (ppm) (regulatory standard is 10 ppm)
  - Perchlorate: 0 to 9 parts per billion (ppb) (no drinking water standard established)
- Small plume very far 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

← N



1590000 1591500 1593000 1594500

Notes: 1) Higher concentration from duplicate sample analytical results used for contouring.  
 2) ND = not detected, method detection limits indicated in parentheses.

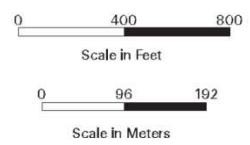


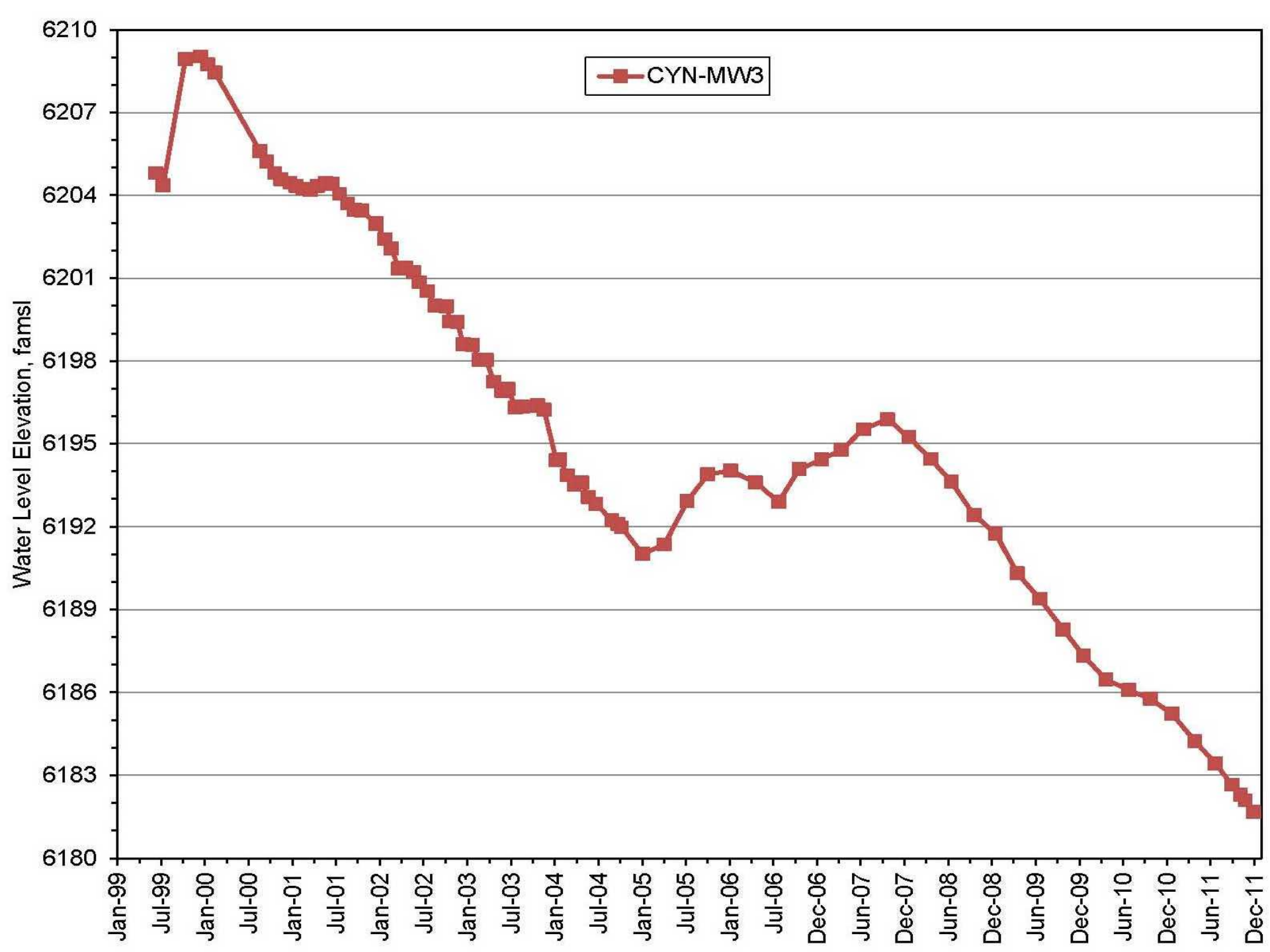
1590000 1591500 1593000 1594500

**Legend**

- Groundwater Monitoring Well, with October 2011 Nitrate plus Nitrite Concentrations (mg/L)
- Production Well (non-potable)
- Spring
- Peizometer
- Unpaved Road
- 40-ft. Contour
- Major Surface Drainage
- Concentration Contour (mg/L)

Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico  
 Environmental Geographic Information System





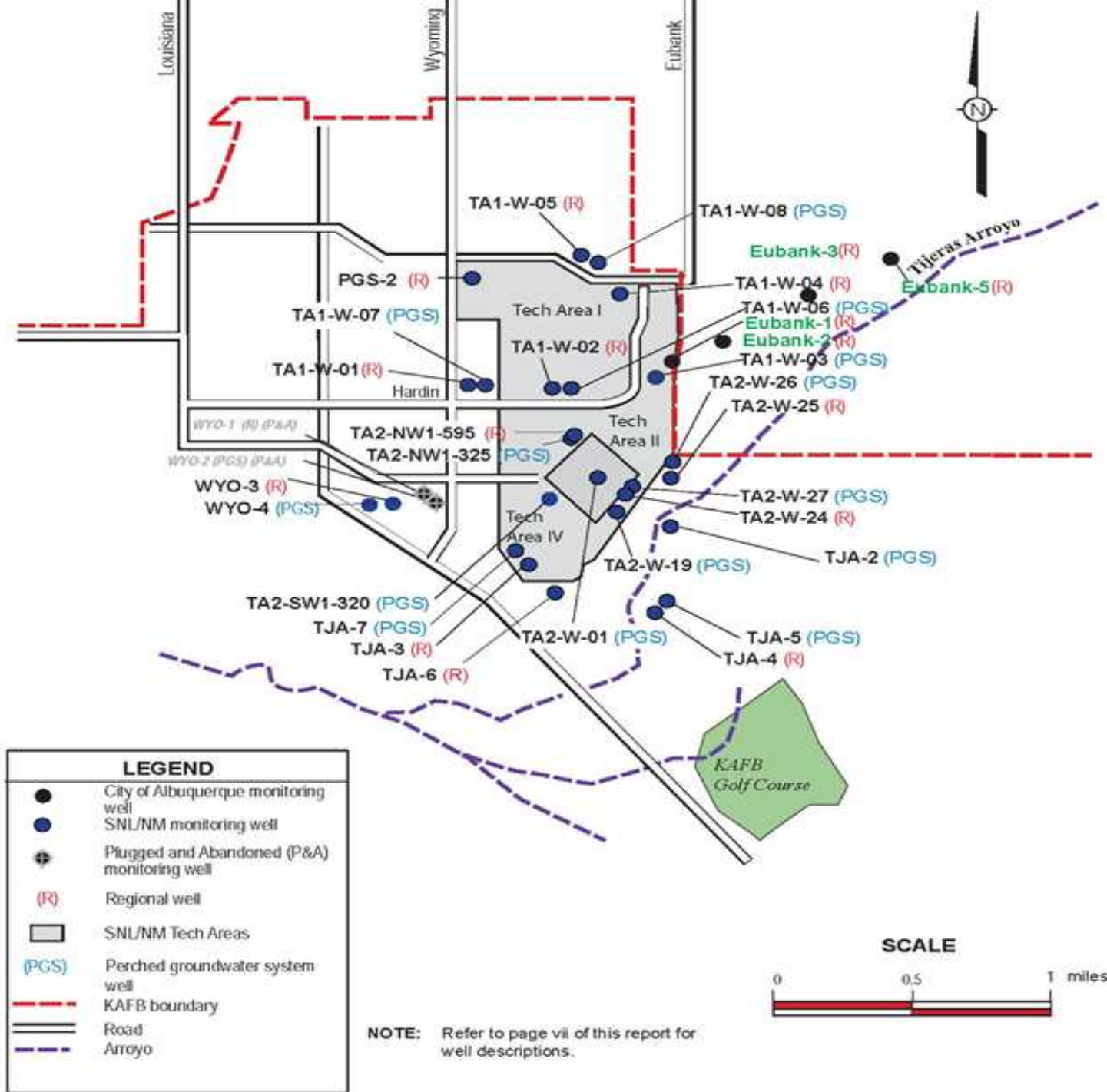


# Tijeras Arroyo Groundwater

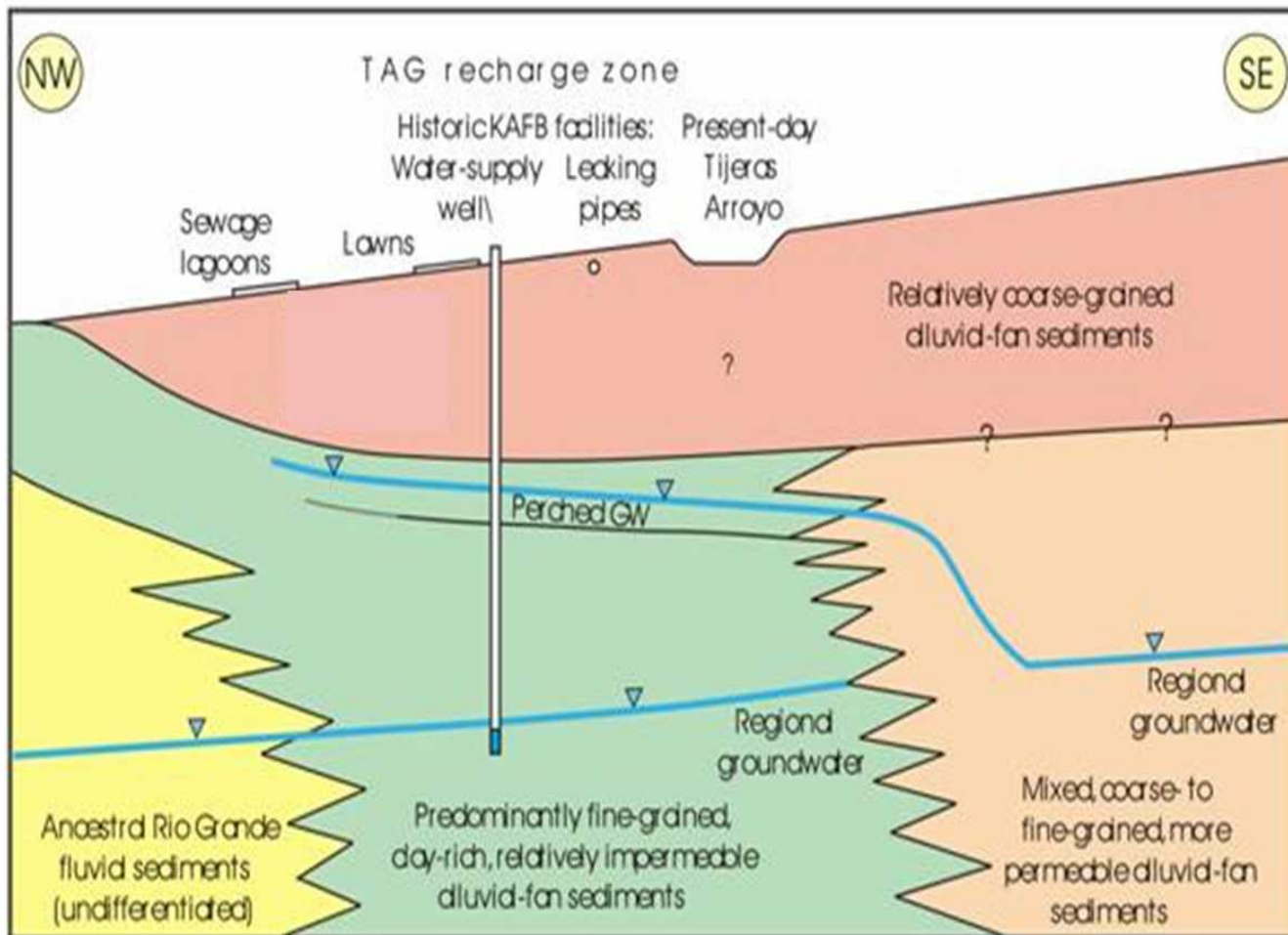
---

- Groundwater monitored since 1992
- Groundwater occurs at ~300 ft in a perched aquifer and 500 ft in the regional aquifer in unconsolidated sediments
- Large area--covers forty square miles, DOE/Sandia responsible for less than 2 square miles of the total and limited to contaminants found in the perched aquifer
- Contaminated with nitrate (5 wells) and TCE (1 well)
  - Nitrate: 0 to 33 ppm (regulatory standard is 10 ppm)
  - TCE: 0 to 9 ppb (regulatory standard is 5 ppb)
- Suspected sources include former and active waste-water systems owned and operated by DOE/Sandia, Kirtland AFB and ABCWUA

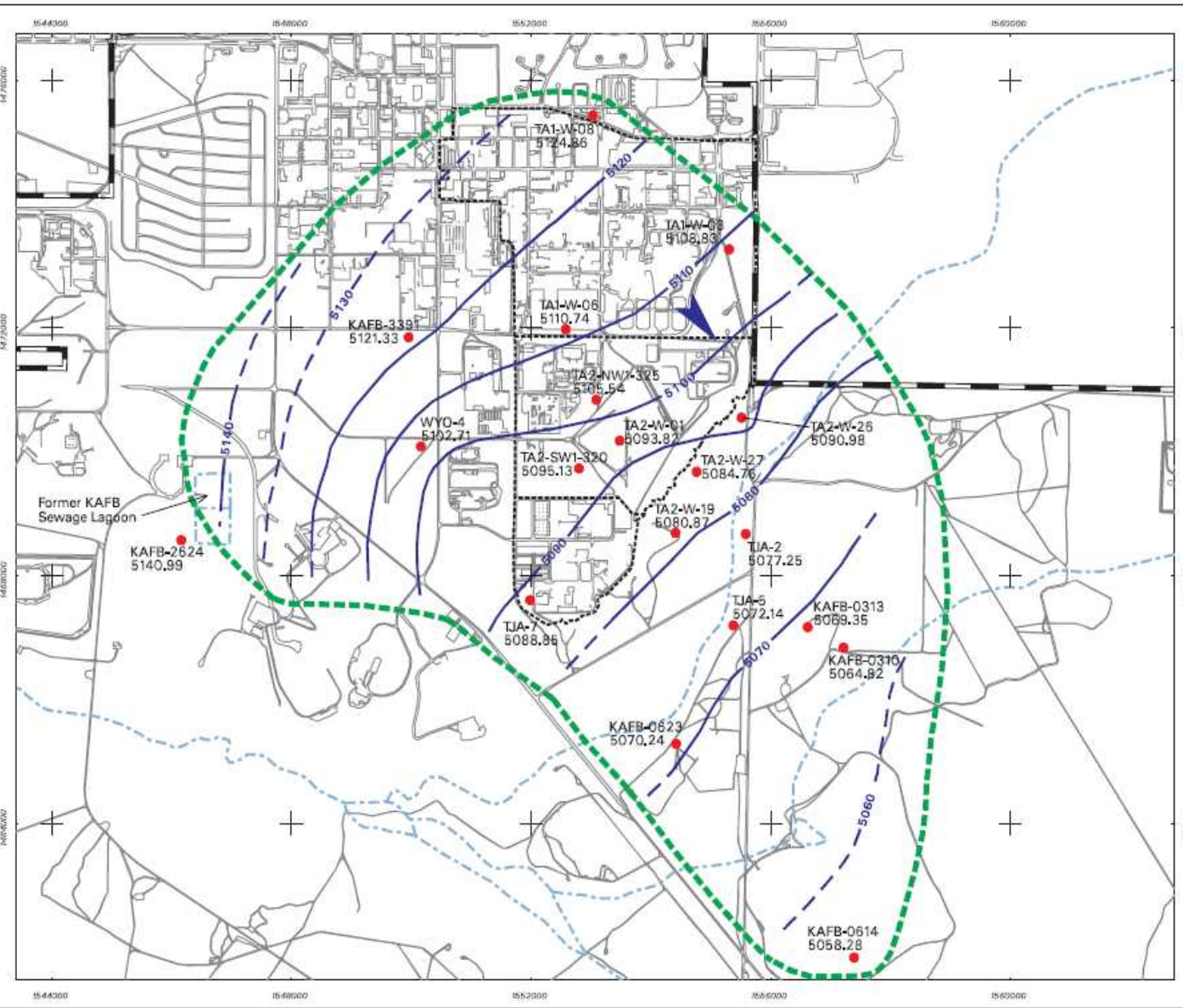












# Tijeras Arroyo Groundwater



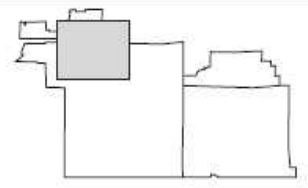
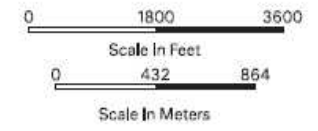




# Legend

-  Monitoring well, groundwater elevation, feet amsl, October 2011
-  Groundwater flow direction, inferred
-  Potentiometric surface contour, feet amsl, dashed where Inferred
-  Extent of Perched system
-  KAFB boundary
-  Surface drainage, arroyo
-  Tech Area boundary
-  Road, paved and unpaved

Note: Groundwater elevations from KAFB-0310, KAFB-0313, KAFB-0614, KAFB-0623, KAFB-2624, and KAFB-3391 are from November 2011.



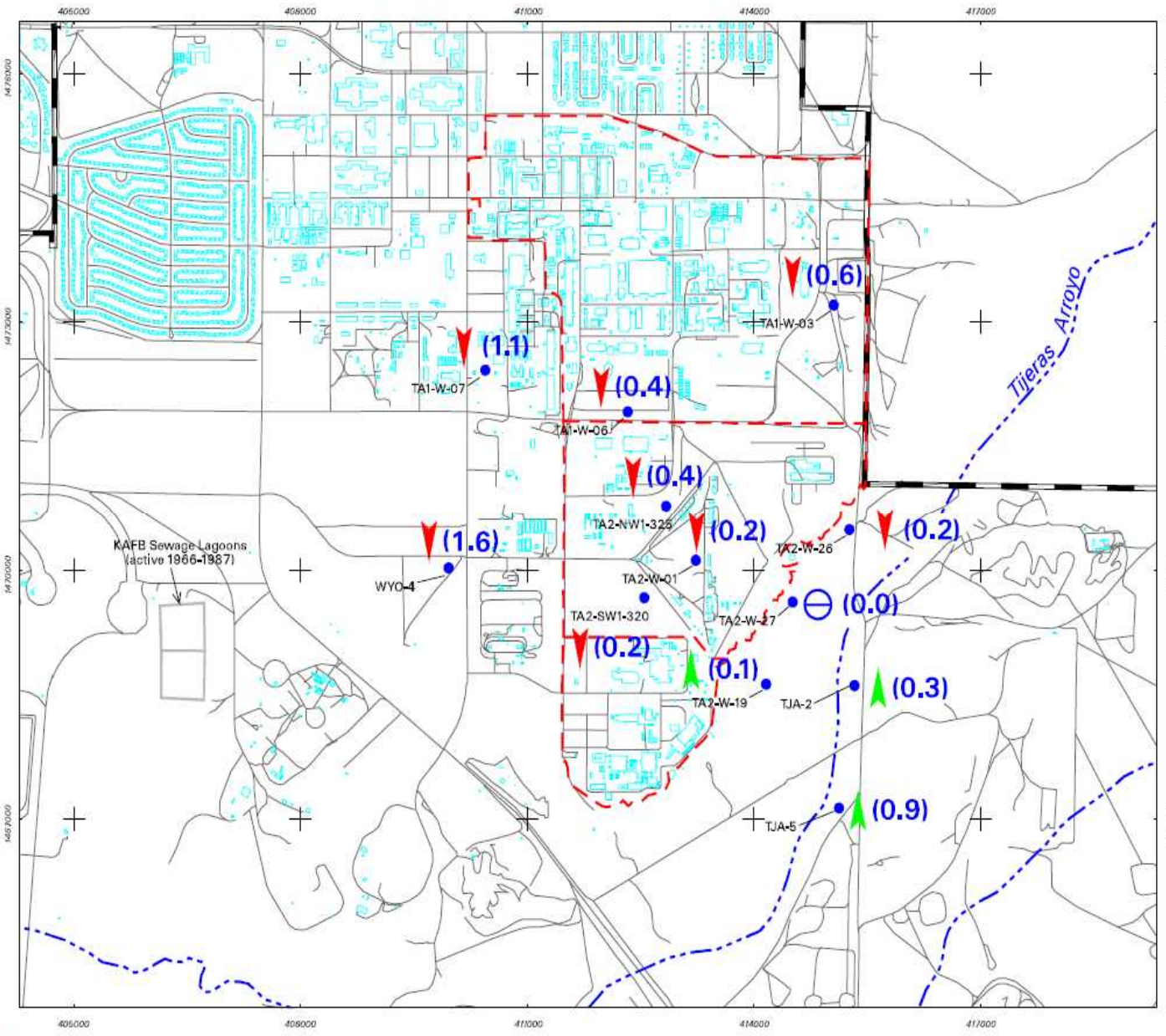
## Tijeras Arroyo Groundwater Investigation Potentiometric Surface Map for the Perched System (October 2011)



SNLEGIS ORG. 4142 MAPID=120060

Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1988 North American Vertical Datum.

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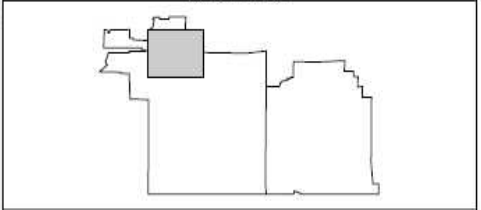
### Legend

- ▲ Groundwater Elevation Increasing (rate-ft/yr)
- ▼ Groundwater Elevation Decreasing (rate-ft/yr)
- ⊕ Groundwater Elevation Unchanged
- Monitoring Well
- Road
- Building
- - - Surface Drainage
- - - Technical Area
- KAFB Boundary

**NOTE: Groundwater Elevation Change per Well from Installation until May 2001.**

0 1400 2800  
Scale in Feet

0 336 672  
Scale in Meters

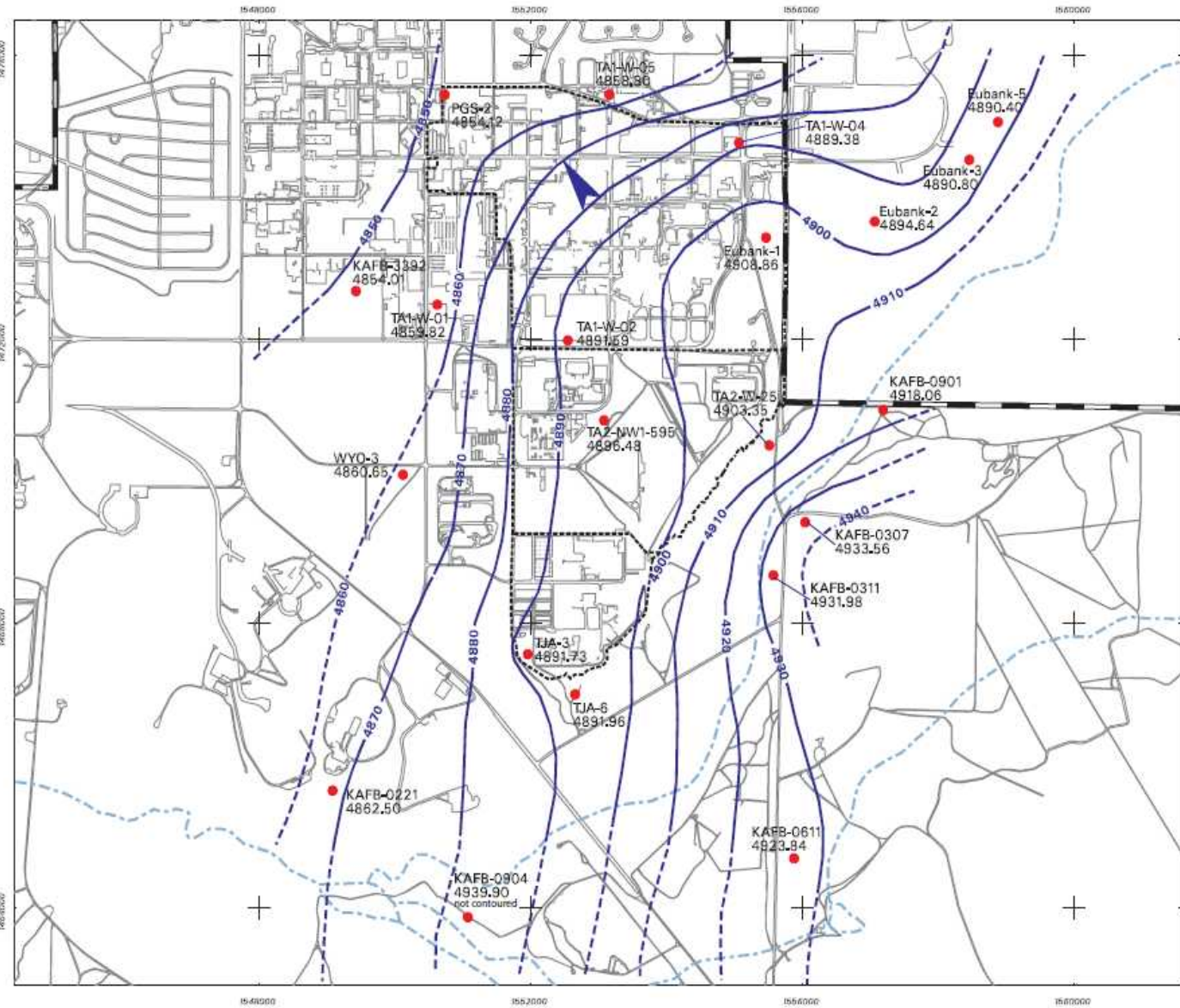


Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico  
Environmental Geographic Information System

**Figure 3.3.5-1**  
**Tijeras Arroyo Groundwater Investigation, Groundwater Elevation Change per Year Perched System Wells**

Database: Microsoft Proforma, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Vertical Datum, 1983 North American Vertical Datum

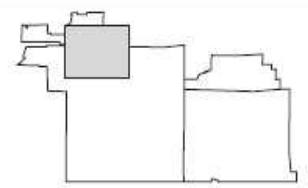
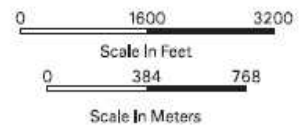
	MAPID= dh050489	
	Unclassified	SNL EGIS ORG, 6146
	D Rizer	dr010726.aml 08/17/05



### Legend

- Monitoring well, groundwater elevation, feet amsl, November 2011
- Groundwater flow direction, inferred
- Potentiometric surface contour feet amsl, dashed where inferred
- KAFB boundary
- Surface drainage, arroyo
- Tech Area boundary
- Road, paved and unpaved

Note: Groundwater elevations for Eubank-2, Eubank-3, Eubank-5, and all seven KAFB wells are from November 2011.



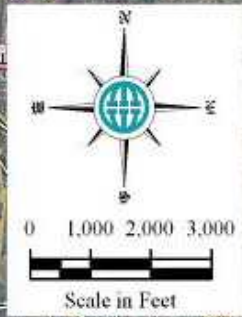
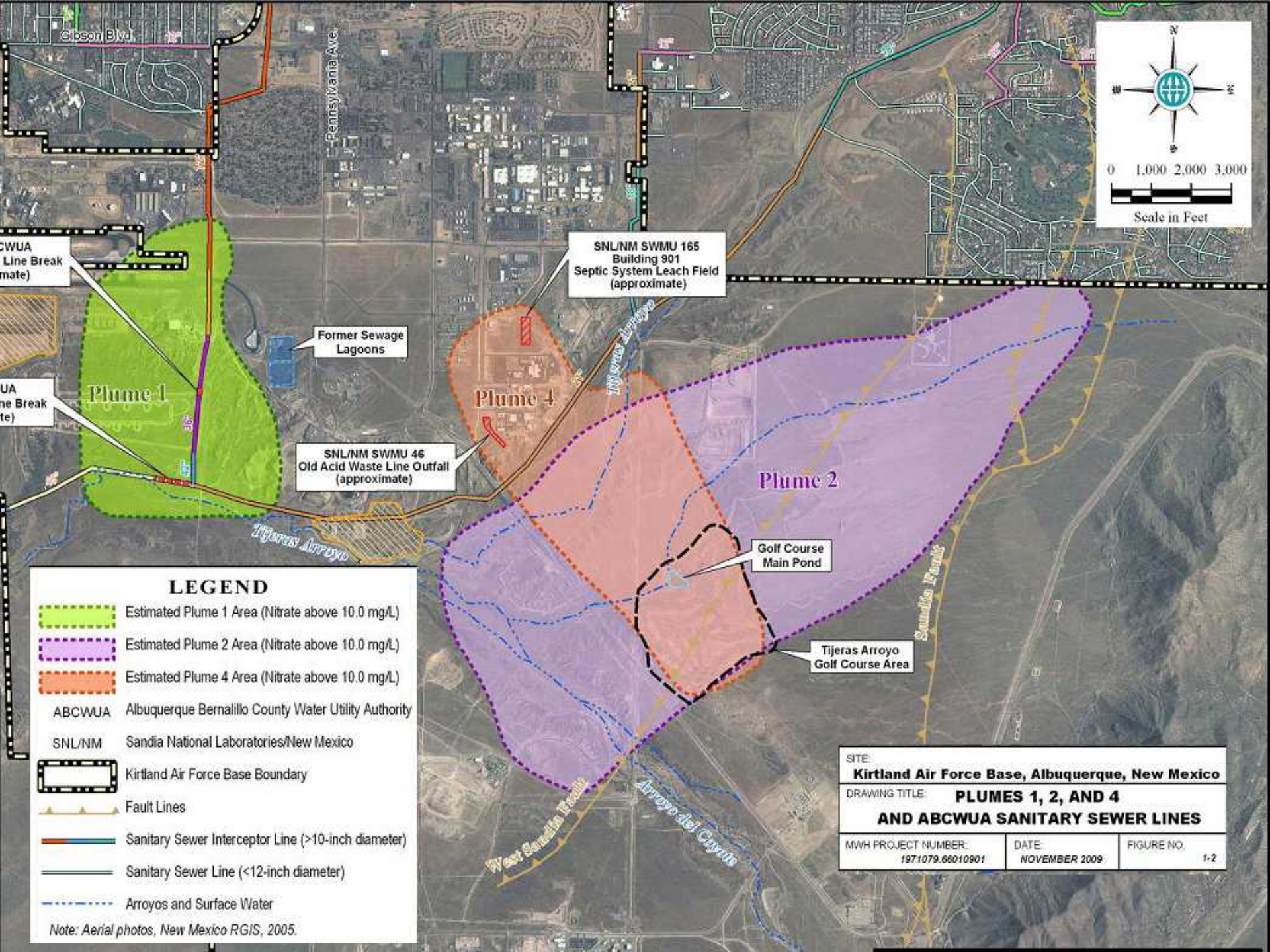
### Tijeras Arroyo Groundwater Investigation Potentiometric Surface Map for the Regional Aquifer (October 2011)



SNL EGIS ORG, 4142 MAPID=120059

Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1989 North American Vertical Datum

DH:rlh db:120059.dwg 02/02/12



SNL/NM SWMU 165  
Building 901  
Septic System Leach Field  
(approximate)

Former Sewage  
Lagoons

SNL/NM SWMU 46  
Old Acid Waste Line Outfall  
(approximate)

Plume 2

Golf Course  
Main Pond

Tijeras Arroyo  
Golf Course  
Area

**LEGEND**

- Estimated Plume 1 Area (Nitrate above 10.0 mg/L)
- Estimated Plume 2 Area (Nitrate above 10.0 mg/L)
- Estimated Plume 4 Area (Nitrate above 10.0 mg/L)
- ABCWUA Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
- SNL/NM Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico
- Kirtland Air Force Base Boundary
- Fault Lines
- Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Line (>10-inch diameter)
- Sanitary Sewer Line (<12-inch diameter)
- Arroyos and Surface Water

Note: Aerial photos, New Mexico RGIS, 2005.

SITE: <b>Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico</b>		
DRAWING TITLE: <b>PLUMES 1, 2, AND 4 AND ABCWUA SANITARY SEWER LINES</b>		
MWH PROJECT NUMBER: 1971079.66010901	DATE: NOVEMBER 2009	FIGURE NO. 1-2

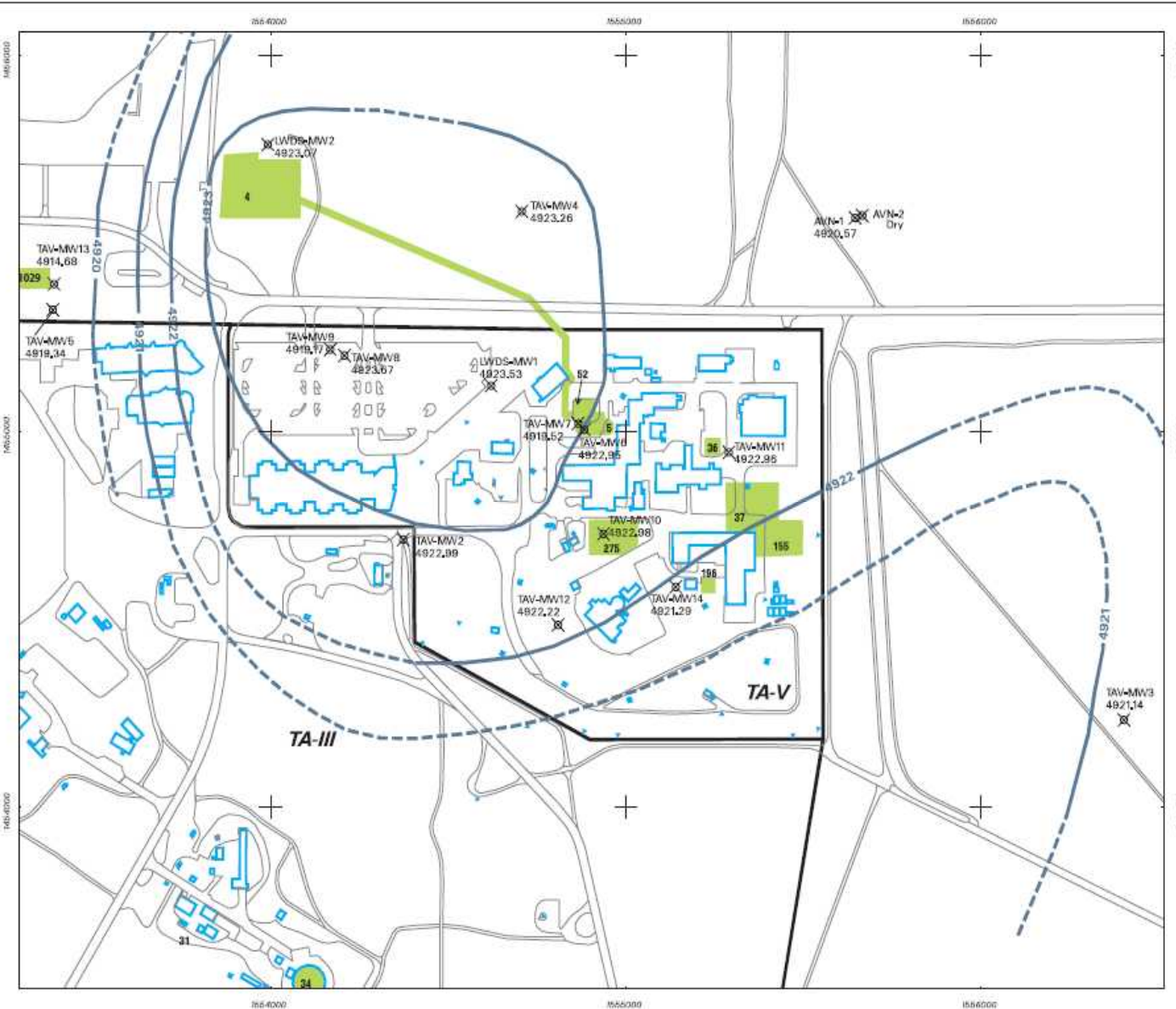


## Technical Area V Groundwater

---

- Groundwater monitored since 1992
- Groundwater occurs ~500 ft deep in unconsolidated sediments
- Contaminated with nitrate and TCE
  - Nitrate: 0 to 14 ppm (regulatory standard is 10 ppm)
  - TCE: 0 to 19 ppb (regulatory standard is 5 ppb)
- Suspected sources include high-volume waste-water disposal systems
- Small plume very far away from drinking-water supplies
- 16 groundwater monitoring wells sampled four times per year
- 3 soil-vapor monitoring wells sampled four times per year—  
low-level detections of TCE in vapor phase

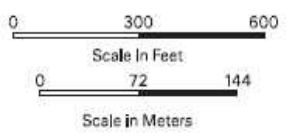




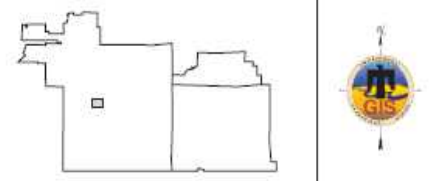
### Legend

- Monitoring well, groundwater Groundwater elevation, feet amsl, October 2011
- Potentiometric surface contour feet amsl, dashed where Inferred
- Road, paved and unpaved
- Impoundment boundary
- Solid waste management unit (SWMU)
- Tech Area boundary
- Building / structure

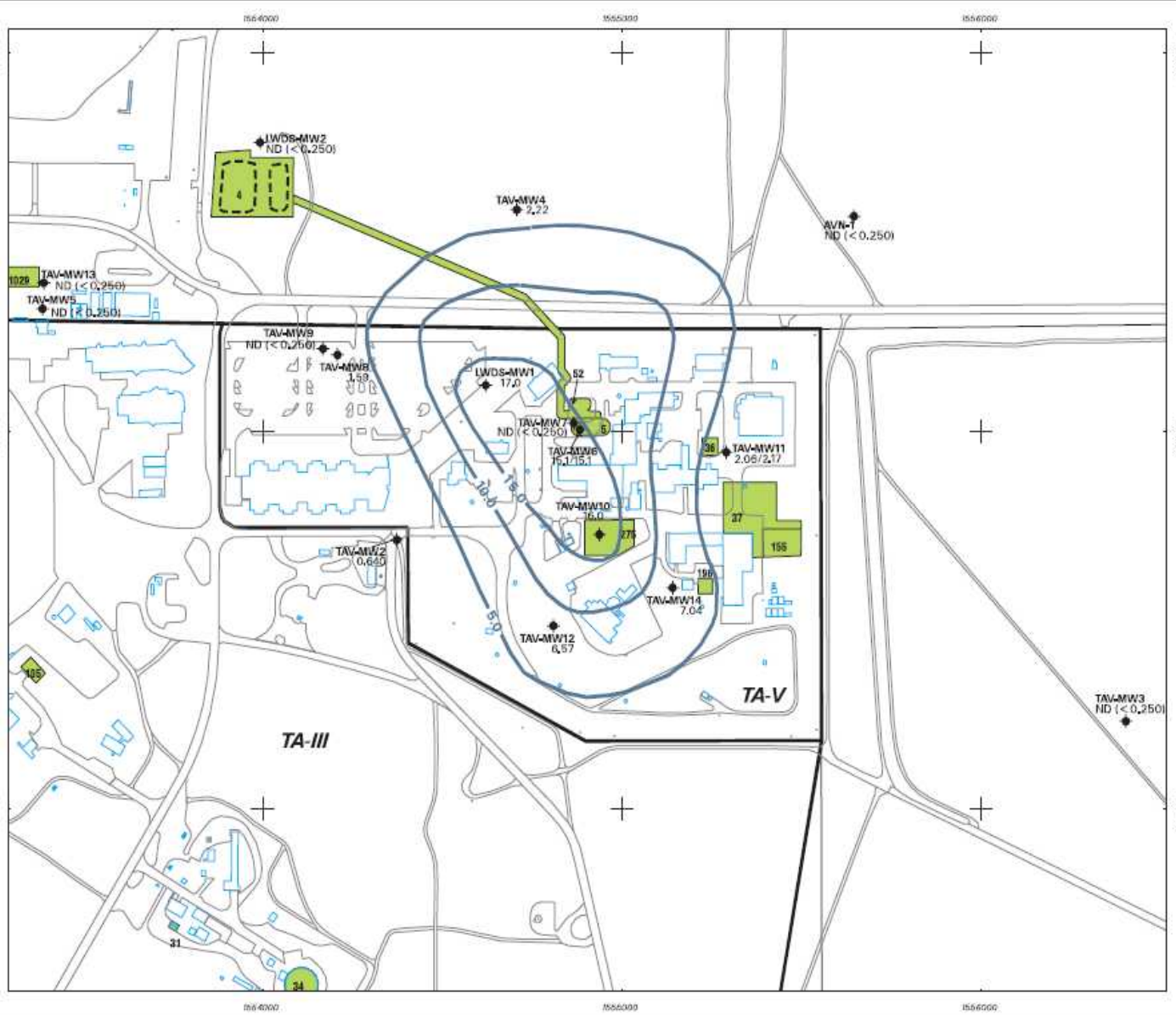
Notes:  
 1) Wells AVN-1, TAV-MW7, and TAV-MW9 are completed below the water table, and were not contoured



Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1988 North American Vertical Datum



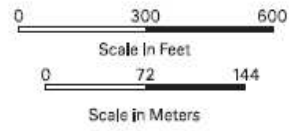
SNL GIS ORG. 4142 MAPID=120045  
 Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico  
 Environmental Geographic Information System



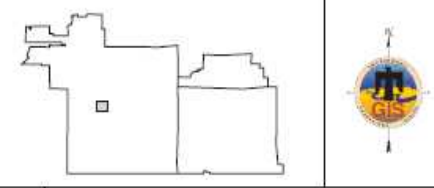
### Legend

- Monitoring well, with November 2011 Trichloroethene concentrations (µg/L)
- Concentration contour (µg/L)
- Road, paved and unpaved
- - - Impoundment boundary
- Solid waste management unit (SWMU)
- ▭ Tech Area boundary
- Building

Notes:  
 1) Wells TAV-MW7, TAV-MW9 and TAV-MW13 are completed below the water table, and were not used for contouring.  
 2) Higher concentration from duplicate sample analytical results used for contouring.  
 3) ND = not detected; method detection limit indicated in parentheses.



Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1988 North American Vertical Datum



SNL GIS ORG. 4142    53600    MAPID=120049  
 Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico  
 Environmental Geographic Information System  
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# Technical Area V Groundwater

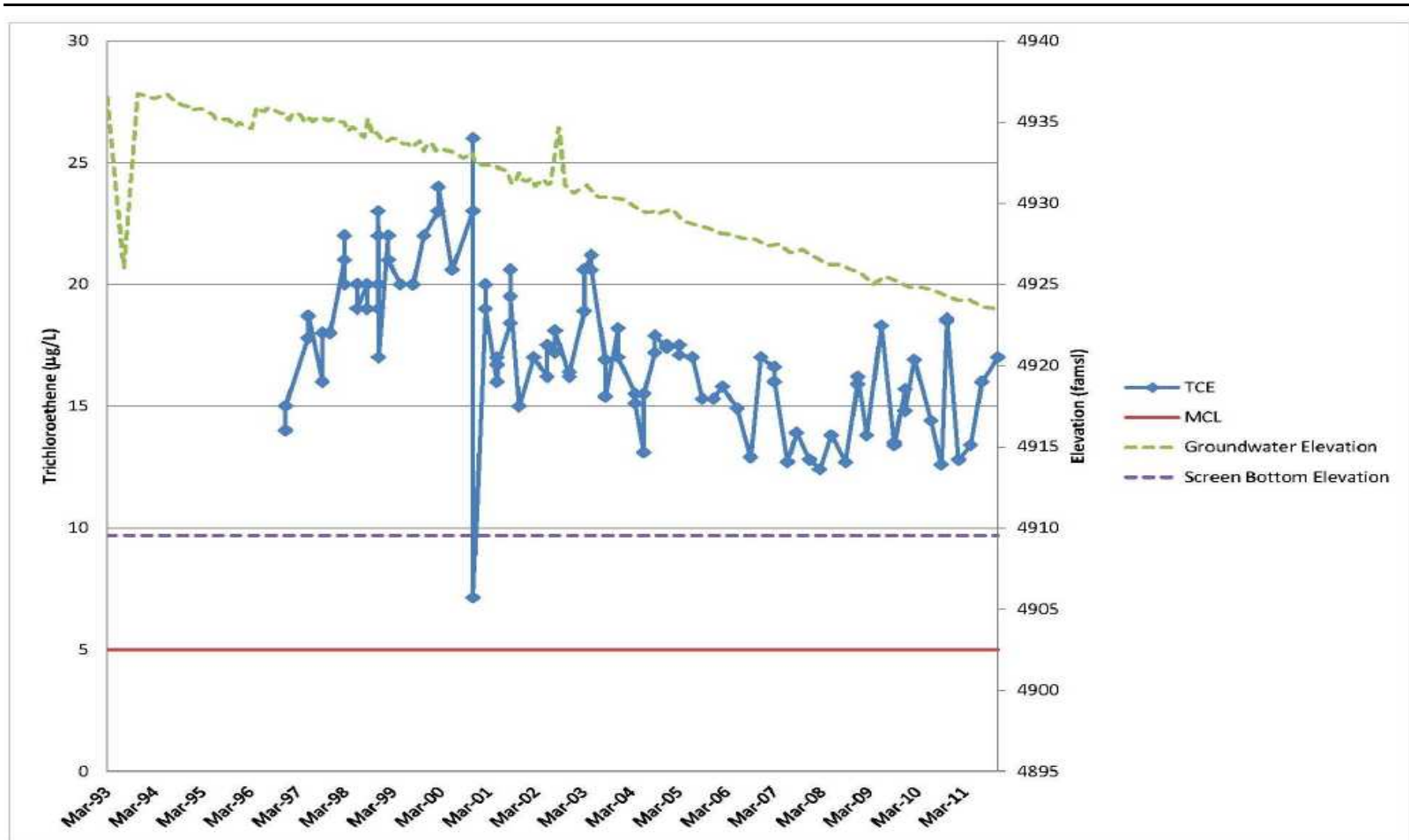


Figure 5B-3. Trichloroethene Concentrations, LWDS-MW1

# Technical Area V Groundwater

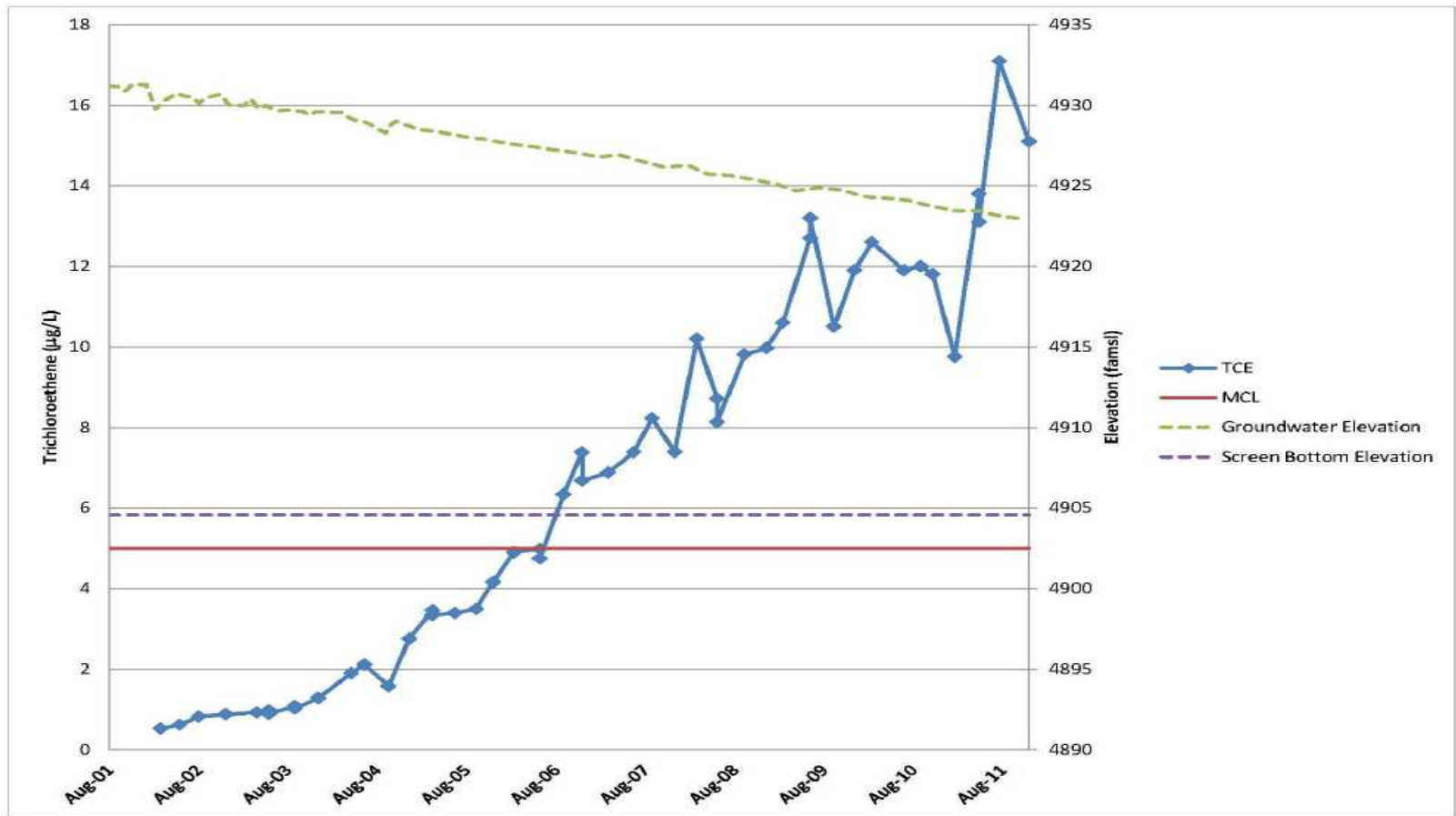
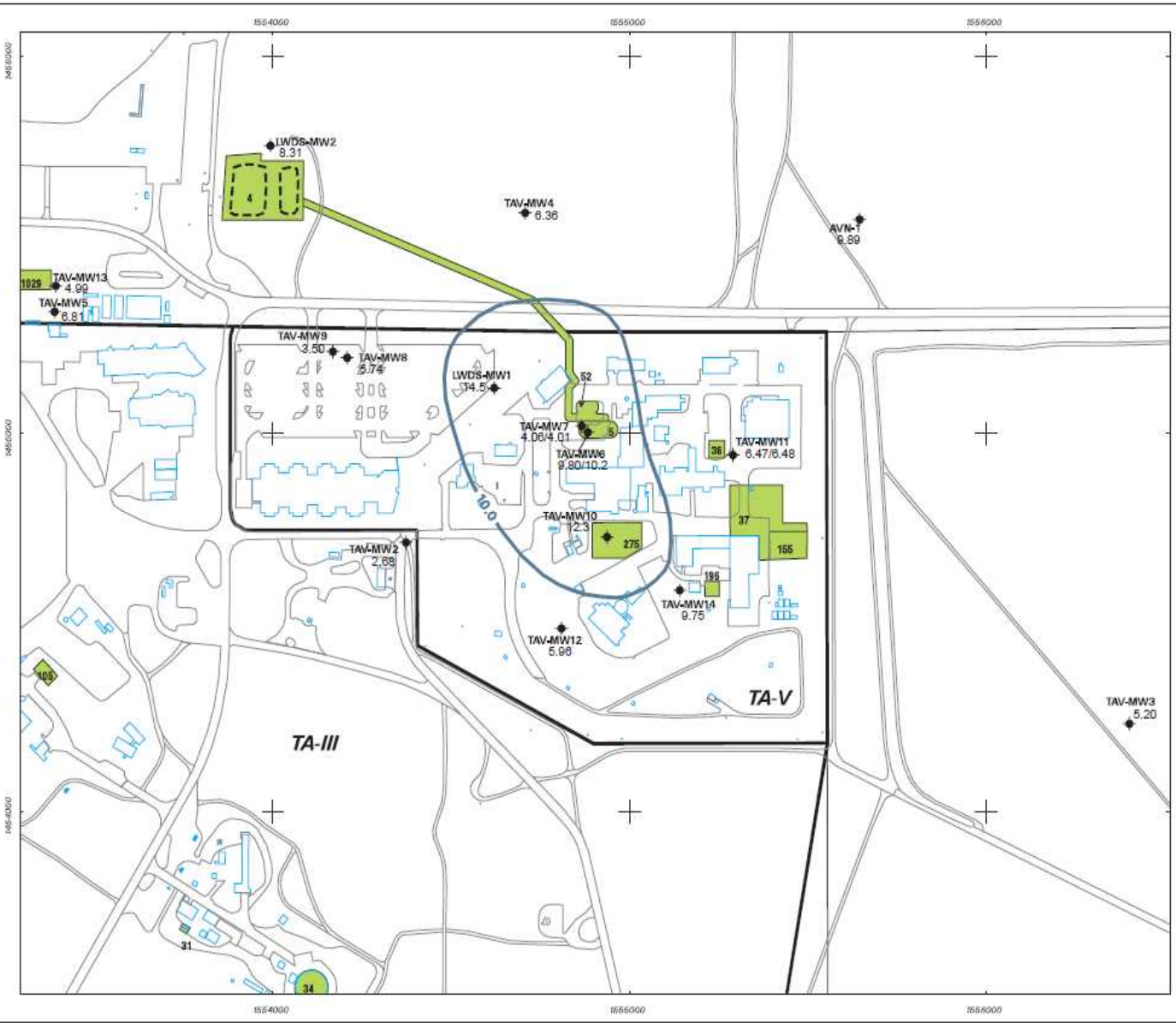


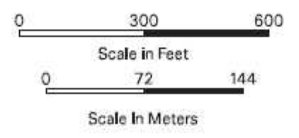
Figure 5B-5. Trichloroethene Concentrations, TAV-MW6



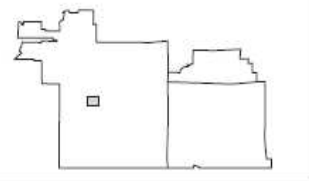
### Legend

- Monitoring well, with November 2011 Nitrate plus Nitrite concentrations (mg/L)
- Concentration contour (mg/L)
- Road, paved and unpaved
- Impoundment boundary
- Solid waste management unit (SWMU)
- Tech Area boundary
- Building

Notes:  
 1) Wells TAV-MW7, TAV-MW9 and TAV-MW13 are completed below the water table, and were not used for contouring.  
 2) Higher concentration from duplicate sample analytical results used for contouring.



Transverse Mercator Projection, New Mexico State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone, 1983 North American Horizontal Datum, 1988 North American Vertical Datum

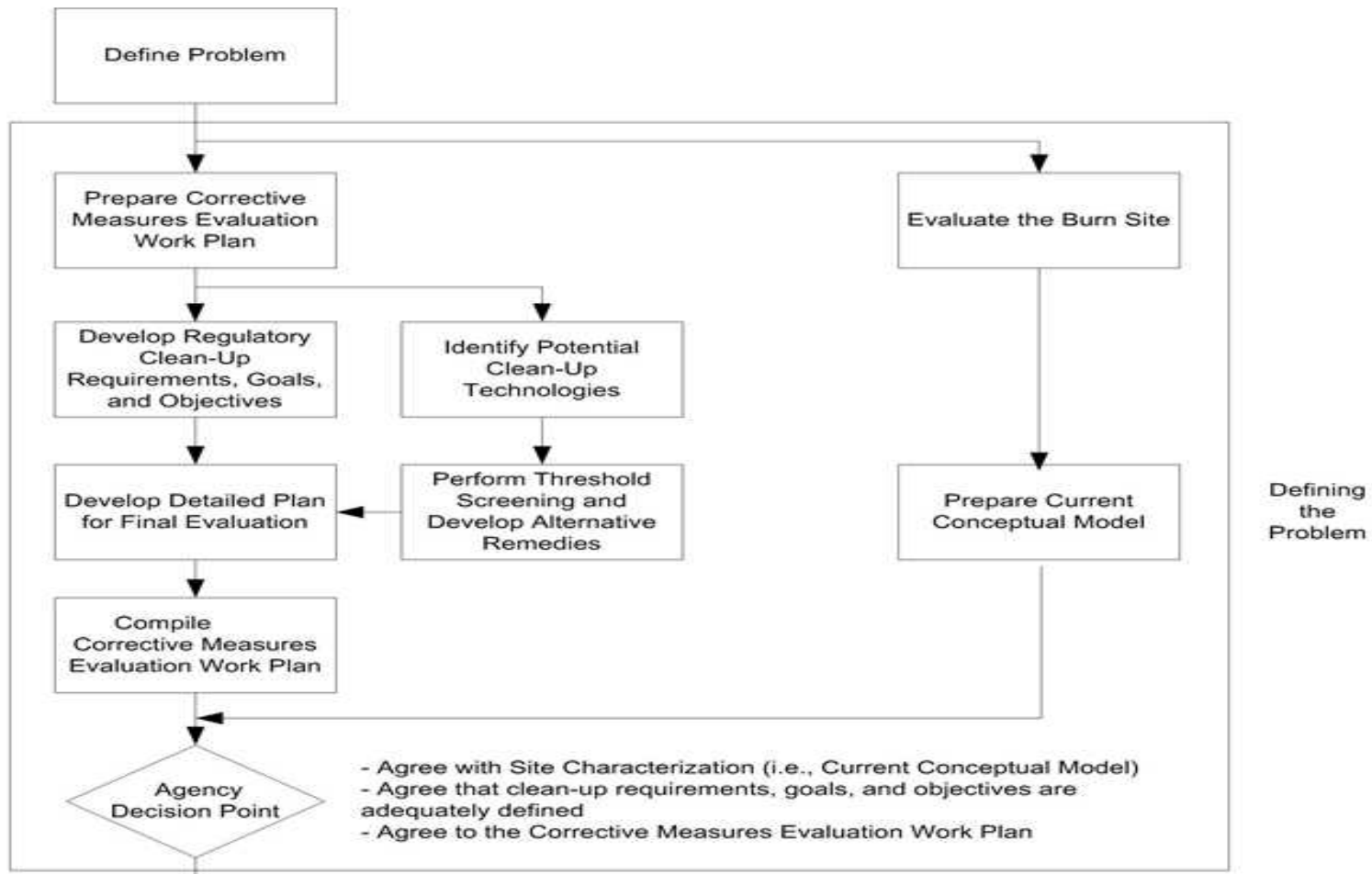


SNL GIS ORG. 4142 1:3500 MAPID=120115

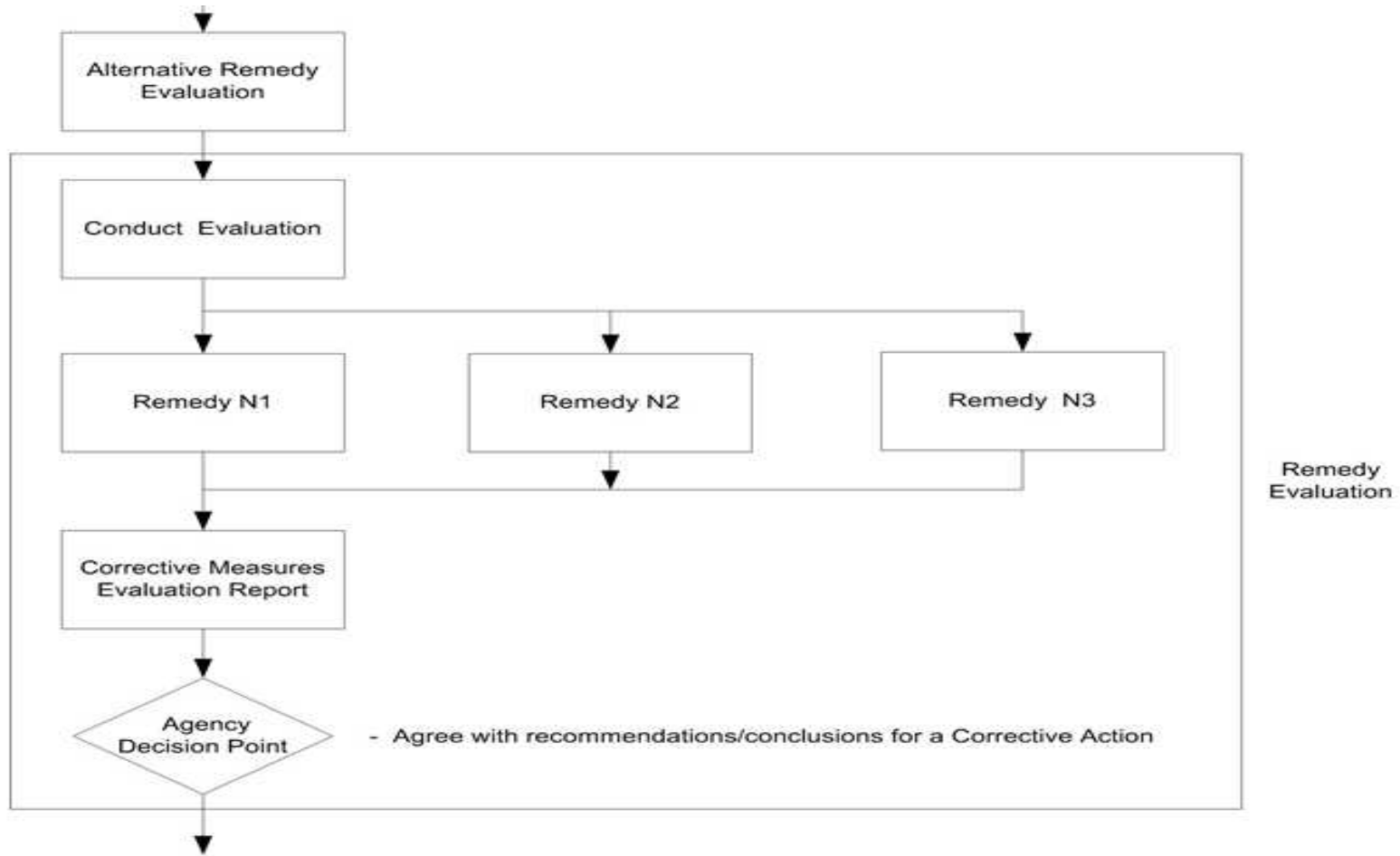
Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico  
 Environmental Geographic Information System

DHefflich dh120115.sml 04/26/12

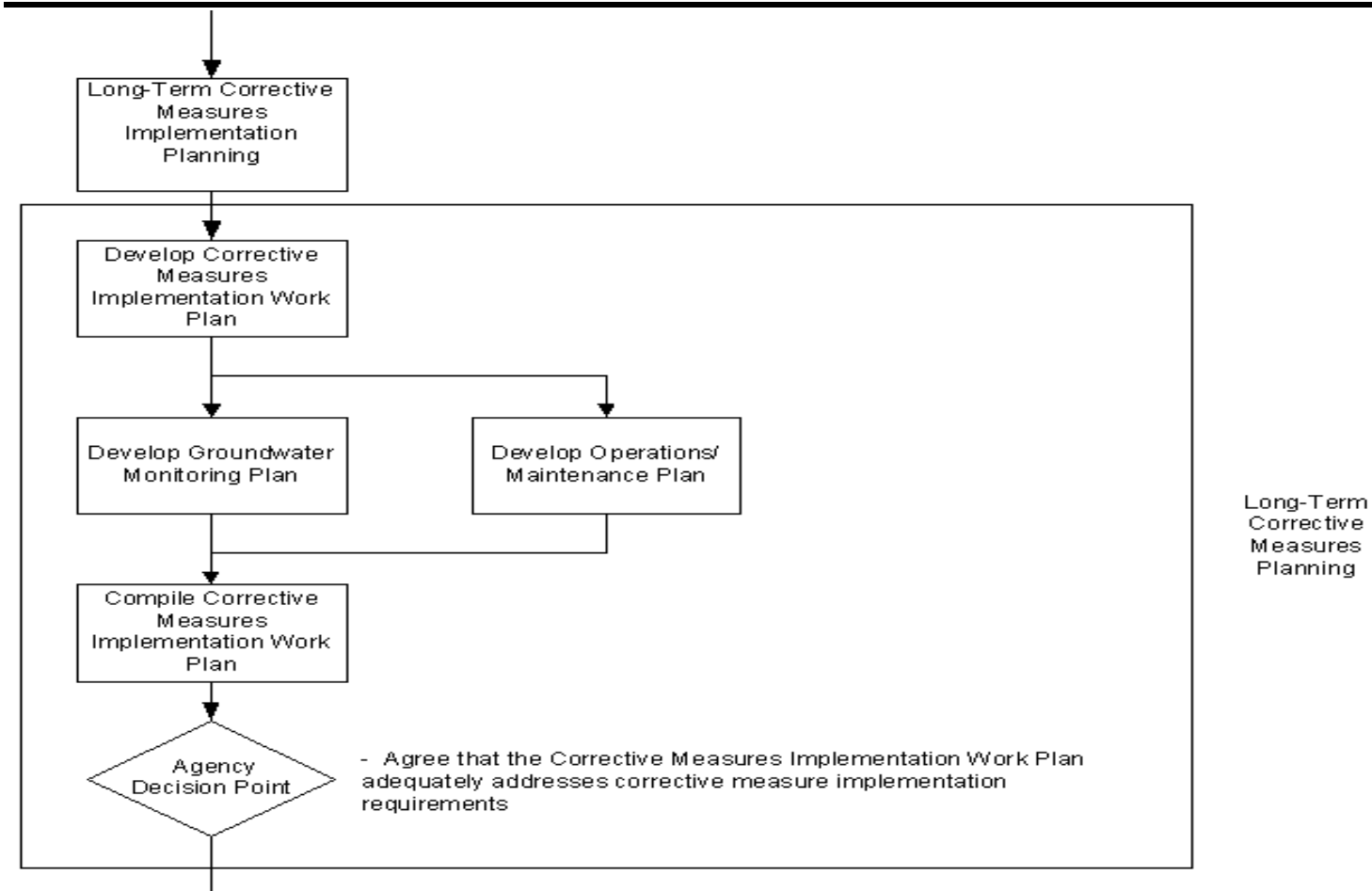
# Corrective Measures Evaluation Process for BSG, TAG, and TAV



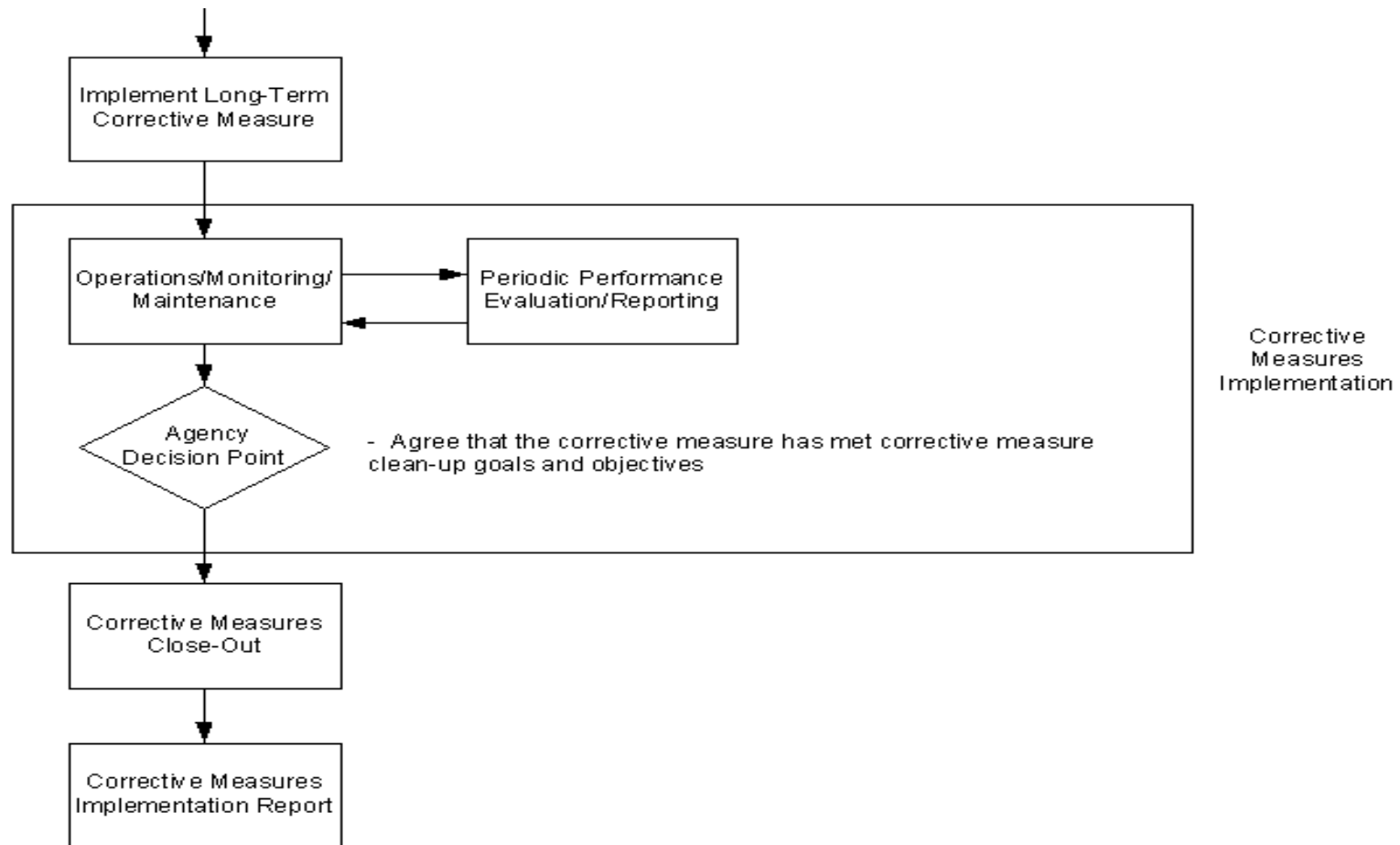
# Corrective Measures Evaluation Process for BSG, TAG, and TAV



# Corrective Measures Evaluation Process for BSG, TAG, and TAV



# Corrective Measures Evaluation Process for BSG, TAG, and TAV





## Corrective Measures Evaluation Process for BSG, TAG, and TAV

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### Possible remedial alternatives identified in CME Work Plans:

- Groundwater Monitoring
- Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)
- *In Situ* Bioremediation (ISB) followed by Groundwater Monitoring
- ISB followed by MNA
- Pump and Treat followed by Groundwater Monitoring
- Pump and Treat followed by MNA

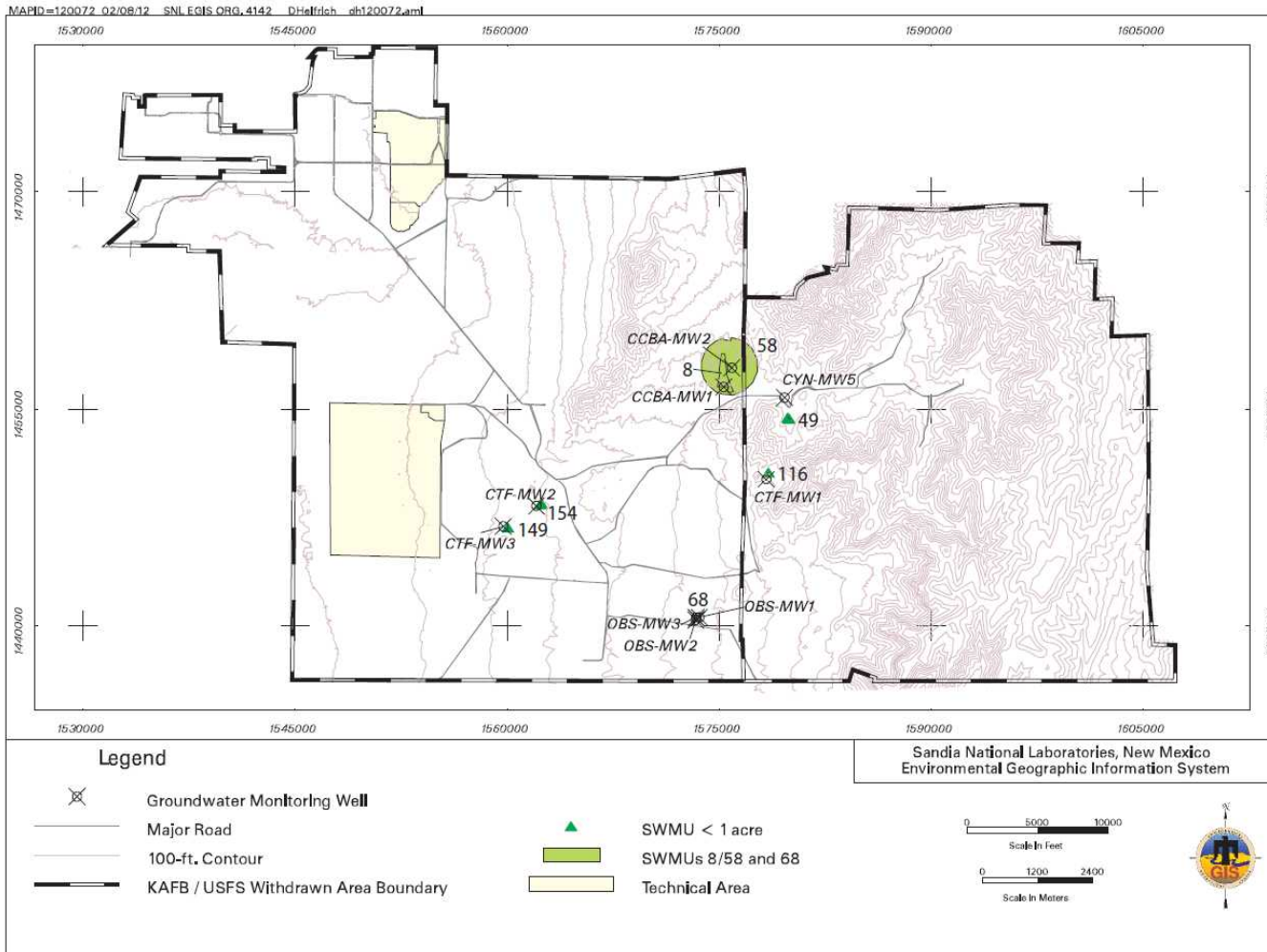


# Miscellaneous Solid Waste Management Units

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- No groundwater contamination detected above regulatory standards, except as noted
- **SWMU 8&58**—Explosives test area, two wells. Fluoride above drinking water standard in one well is naturally occurring
- **SWMU 49**—Septic system drain field, one well
- **SWMU 68**—Former burn site, three wells
- **SWMU 116**—Septic system drain field, one well
- **SWMU 149**—Septic system drain field, one well
- **SWMU 154**—Septic system drain field, one well. Trace concentration (less than one part per billion) of an explosive, RDX (no regulatory standard); and arsenic up 0.0774 ppm (regulatory standard is 0.01 ppm)

# Miscellaneous Solid Waste Management Units





## Key Points

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- **Contamination levels are typically low (below or just above regulatory standards), and contaminants are most commonly nitrate and TCE**
- **Sites are well characterized and are not a threat to the Albuquerque water supply aquifer**
- **Groundwater Protection Program and Environmental Restoration Operations will continue to characterize and monitor groundwater by following NMED requirements**