

1821 7A 06

and environmental setting

Disposal

H. J. ...

Use HISTORY OF LASL NEAR-SURFACE LAND BURIAL FACILITIES  
FOR ~~SOLID~~ RADIOACTIVE WASTES  
(Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and T)

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Atomic Energy Commission's

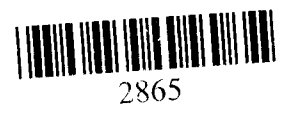
determination of

The (AEC) increased emphasis on ~~determining~~ the environmental impact of solid waste disposal led ~~them~~ to the ~~conclusion~~ a re-examination ~~should be made~~ of the ~~use~~ <sup>concept</sup> of land burial as a means of permanent disposal. An evaluation of site monitoring practices, both past and present, is in progress or planned for all major AEC sites. The United States Geological Survey under contract to the AEC is performing the evaluation in cooperation with AEC Contractors.

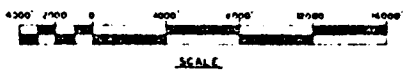
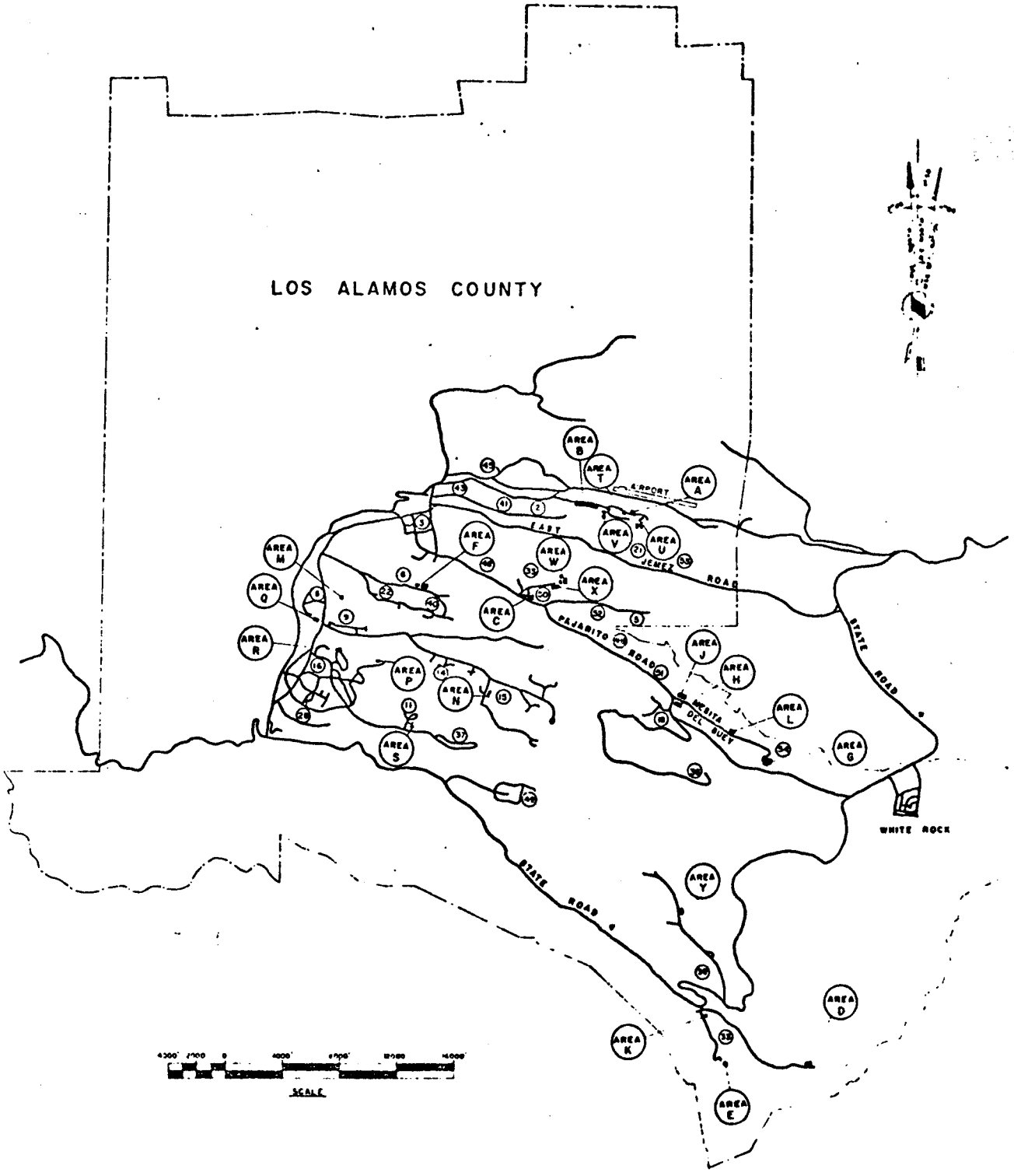
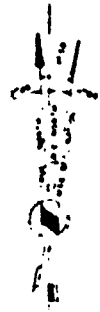
LASL's evaluation began in September, 1973, and included Materials Disposal Areas A, T, B, C, D, E, F, and G. (See Fig. 1) T. E. (Tim) Kelly of the U.S.G.S. Water Resources Division, Albuquerque and Margaret Anne Rogers are the investigators.

During the Fall of 1973 as the data were collected for the evaluation, it became apparent through discussion with LASL personnel that LASL had a need for a report which would parallel the one done by Kelly for the AEC but would include much more detail <sup>a</sup> than Kelly's report would be expected to have.

This report is designed to be a readily available source of accurate, in-depth information for LASL employees.



LOS ALAMOS COUNTY



LA 54-AC-355-2-A

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## ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

This report is as comprehensive as time and information sources allowed. In many cases, the report may offer the reader more than he may want to know about a particular subject. The report was not designed to be an easily read summary but to be a source document.

In compiling the information presented in this report, conclusions as to the accuracy of any particular source were avoided. That is to say that all sources on any subject are presented even when this leads to obvious contradictions. The reader is asked to draw his own conclusions as to which source or sources may have the greater validity. By presenting all sources bias is prevented.

The reader should not consider this report as final. Publication may produce additional sources of information which will make revision (in order to provide clarification) possible.

General information on Areas A, T, B, C, D, E, F, and G can be found in the Summary; comprehensive information can be found under each individual area title.

HISTORY OF LOS ALAMOS

From 1918 until late 1942<sup>163</sup> Los Alamos was the site of a boys ranch school. Because of its isolated location it was acquired by the Army, November 25, 1942, for the Manhattan

Engineer District. As a patriotic gesture<sup>163</sup> the University of California accepted the contract to operate the new laboratory January 1, 1943. After the war Los Alamos continued as a site of government sponsored scientific research operated by the University.

Location

Los Alamos and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory are located on the Pajarito Plateau, which flanks the eastern side of the volcanic Jemez Mountains in north-central New Mexico. The plateau is 16-24 km (10-15 miles) wide and more than 48 km (30 miles) long. It is bounded on the west by the Sierra de los Valles, on the east by the Rio Grande, on the northeast by the Puye Escarpment, and on the southwest by Cañada de Cochiti. (See fig. 2)

Fig 2

The plateau slopes eastward from an elevation of 7800 feet abutting the Sierra de los Valles to an elevation of 6200 feet adjacent to the Rio Grande. It is cut <sup>(61-122 m)</sup> [200-400 feet deep] by numerous southeast trending intermittent streams. The dissected eastern margin of the plateau rises 300-1000 feet above the Rio Grande.

Los Alamos is 38.6 km (23 miles) northwest of Santa Fe and 92.8 km (58 miles) north-northeast of Albuquerque.

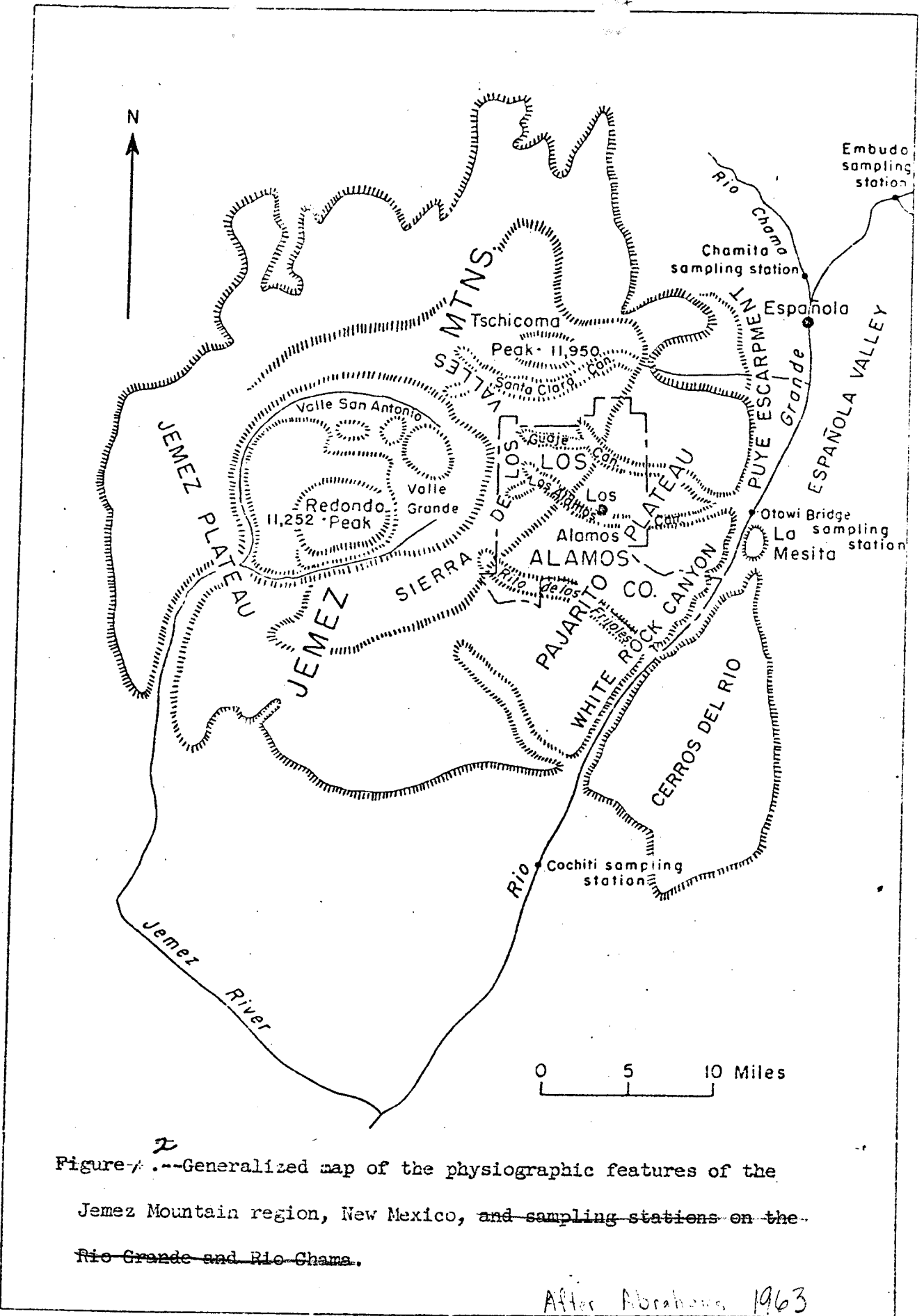


Figure 2. Generalized map of the physiographic features of the Jemez Mountain region, New Mexico, and ~~sampling stations on the Rio Grande and Rio Chama.~~

After Abrahams, 1963

From: "Geologic and hydrologic environment of radioactive waste disposal sites at Los Alamos, N.M." by John H. Abrahams, Jr. USGS rept. for AEC