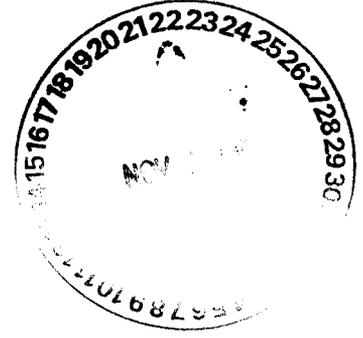




Department of Energy
 Carlsbad Field Office
 P. O. Box 3090
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

NOV 18 2011



Mr. John Kieling, Acting Chief
 Hazardous Waste Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Comments on the September 29, 2011, Class II Permit Modification Request: "Update Ventilation Language, Addition of a Shielded Container, and Revise the WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan"

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with comments on the Class II Permit Modification Request: "Update Ventilation Language, Addition of a Shielded Container, and Revise the WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan" submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department on September 29, 2011.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and the enclosure were prepared under our direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on our inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. We are aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Susan McCauslin at 575-234-7349.

Sincerely,

George T. Bassilvas for
 Edward Ziemianski, Interim Manager
 Department of Energy

M. F. Sharif
 M. F. Sharif, General Manager
 Washington TRU Solutions LLC

Enclosures (5)

cc: w/enclosure
 T. Hall, NMED * ED
 CBFO M&RC
 *ED denotes electronic distribution

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Comments on the September 29, 2011, Class II Permit Modification Request

Enclosure 1

Permittees' Comments on the Class 2 PMRs, "Update Ventilation Language, Addition of a Shielded Container, and Revise the WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan" Submitted to the NMED on September 29, 2011

Update Ventilation Language

1. The Permittees wish to include a definition for a Filled Room.

"1.5.19 Filled Room

"Filled Room" means a room in an Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit as specified in Permit Part 4 that will no longer receive waste for emplacement."

2. The Permittees seek to clarify that the language proposed in this modification establishes minimum ventilation rates for any active disposal room that is receiving CH TRU waste and any active disposal room that is adjacent to a filled room only. Ventilation rates for other rooms (active RH TRU waste disposal rooms not adjacent to a filled room) are not subject to the same minimum ventilation rates. However, such rooms are subject to the general requirements in the Permit that invoke the ventilation standards of the Mine Health and Safety Administration (MSHA). This is protective of human health because the MSHA requirements are based on the amount of air needed to accommodate the types and quantity of equipment that is operating in an area of a mine. Furthermore, RH TRU active disposal rooms are only subject to negligible quantities of hazardous emissions from containers of emplaced waste. An analysis demonstrating that these emissions are negligible was included as Supplement 3 to the 2002 RH TRU Waste Permit Modification Request.
3. The Permittees wish to include a definition for an Active Disposal Room.

"1.5.20 Active Disposal Room

"Active Disposal Room" means a room in an Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit as specified in Permit Part 4 that contains emplaced TRU waste and is not a filled room."

Shielded Containers

4. In order to clarify that RH TRU waste managed in the shielded container is not subject to some of the same management conditions for RH TRU waste managed in canisters, several modifications to the text are necessary. These are in Attachment A1, Section

A1-1c(1), Page A1-9 of 80, lines 26 to 30 and Page A1-10 of 80 lines 25 to 27. The following changes are proposed as part of the shielded container modification.

RH TRU Mixed Waste

~~The RH TRU mixed waste is handled and stored in the~~ The RH Complex of the WHB Unit which comprises the following locations: RH Bay (12,552 ft² (1,166 m²)), the Cask Unloading Room (382 ft² (36 m²)), the Hot Cell (1,841 ft² (171 m²)), the Transfer Cell (1,003 ft² (93 m²)) (Figures A1-17a, b and c), and the Facility Cask Loading Room (1,625 ft² (151 m²)) (Figure A1-17d). Shielded containers are not stored in the RH Complex of the WHB. Shielded containers will be stored in the CH Bay of the WHB Unit.

~~The~~ Following is a description of major pieces of equipment that are used to manage RH TRU mixed waste not in shielded containers in the WHB Unit. A summary of the equipment capacities, as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC, is included in Table A1-3.

5. A question was raised by a stakeholder regarding the overpacking of shielded containers should the container integrity be such that overpacking is necessary upon arrival at the WIPP facility. Shielded containers which require overpacking will be managed as any other CH TRU waste requiring overpacking. Overpacking of Shielded Containers is addressed in Permit Attachment A, Section A1-1d(4), Handling RH TRU Mixed Waste in Shielded Containers.

Revise the WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan

6. Revised Table L-5, Page B-68, to correct table values so they match the values in the figures. Some editorial changes, such as rounding of numbers, were also made. Corrections are highlighted in yellow.
7. Editorial correction to delete the word "Suggested" from the title of Table L-6 in the Table of Contents, PMR page B-12, as it is not in the title of the associated table.
8. Editorial change to Figure L-4, *Generalized Stratigraphic Cross Section Above Bell Canyon Formation at WIPP Site*, to apply the correct color of sand and sandstone to the surficial deposits on the illustration.
9. Editorial change to Figure L-5, *Culebra Freshwater-Head Potentiometric Surface*, to add a legend item to identify the green dots on the potentiometric map as observation wells.
10. Editorial change to delete the acronym "WQSP" from the title of Figure L-6, *Detection Monitoring Well Locations*.

Comments on the September 29, 2011, Class II Permit Modification Request

Enclosure 2

**Table L-5
Details of Construction for the Six Culebra Detection Monitoring Wells**

NAME (Figure)	DATE DRILLED	TOTAL DEPTH feet (meters) bgs	DEPTH INTO LOS MEDANOS feet (meters)	DRILLING DEPTHS		CASING		PACKING		CULEBRA INTERVAL feet (meters) bgs
				WITH AIR feet (meters) bgs	CORING bgs	DEPTH FOR 5 In. CASING feet (meters) bgs	INTERVAL FOR SLOTTED SCREEN feet (meters) bgs	SAND PACK INTERVAL feet (meters) bgs	BRADY GRAVEL PACK INTERVAL feet (meters) bgs	
WOSP-1 Figure L-7	September 13 and through 16, 1994	737 (225)	15 (5)	695.63 (2124)	695.6 to 737 (2124 to 224.6)	737 (224.6)	702 to 727 (214 to 222)	640 to 651 (195 to 198)	651 to 737 (198 to 224.6)	699 to 722 (213 to 221)
WOSP-2 Figure L-8	September 6 and through 12, 1994	846 (257.9)	12.3 (3.7)	800 (244)	800 to 846 (244 to 258)	846 (258)	811 to 836 (247 to 255)	790 to 793 (241 to 242)	793 to 846 (242 to 258)	810.4 to 834 833.7 (247 to 254)
WOSP-3 Figure L-9	October 204 and through 26, 1994	880 (268)	10 (3.1)	833.89 (25 468)	833 to 879 (254 to 268)	880 (268)	844 to 869 (257 to 265)	827 to 830 (252 to 253)	830 to 880 (253 to 268)	844 to 870 (257 to 265)
WOSP-4 Figure L-10	October 5 and through 10, 1994	800 (244)	9.2 (2.8)	740 (226)	740.5 to 798 (226.7 to 243)	800 (244)	764 to 789 (233 to 241)	752 to 755 (229 to 230)	755 to 800 (230 to 244)	766 to 791 790.8 (233 to 241)
WOSP-5 Figure L-11	October 12 and through 189, 1994	681 (208)	6.6 (7.2)	648.76 (19 6296)	648 to 676 (196.8 to 206)	681 (208)	648 to 671 (197 to 205)	623 to 626 (190 to 191)	626 to 681 (191 to 208)	648 to 674.4 (198 to 205.6)
WOSP-6 Figure L-12	September 26 through and October 3, 1994	616.6 617 (18 7.9)	9.7 (10.3)	367 (11734 12)	367.568 to 616 617 (442.173 to 188)	616.6617 (188)	581 to 606 (177 to 185)	567 to 570 (173 to 173.7)	570 to 616.6 617 (174 to 188)	582 to 607 606.9 (177 to 185)

Comments on the September 29, 2011, Class II Permit Modification Request

Enclosure 3

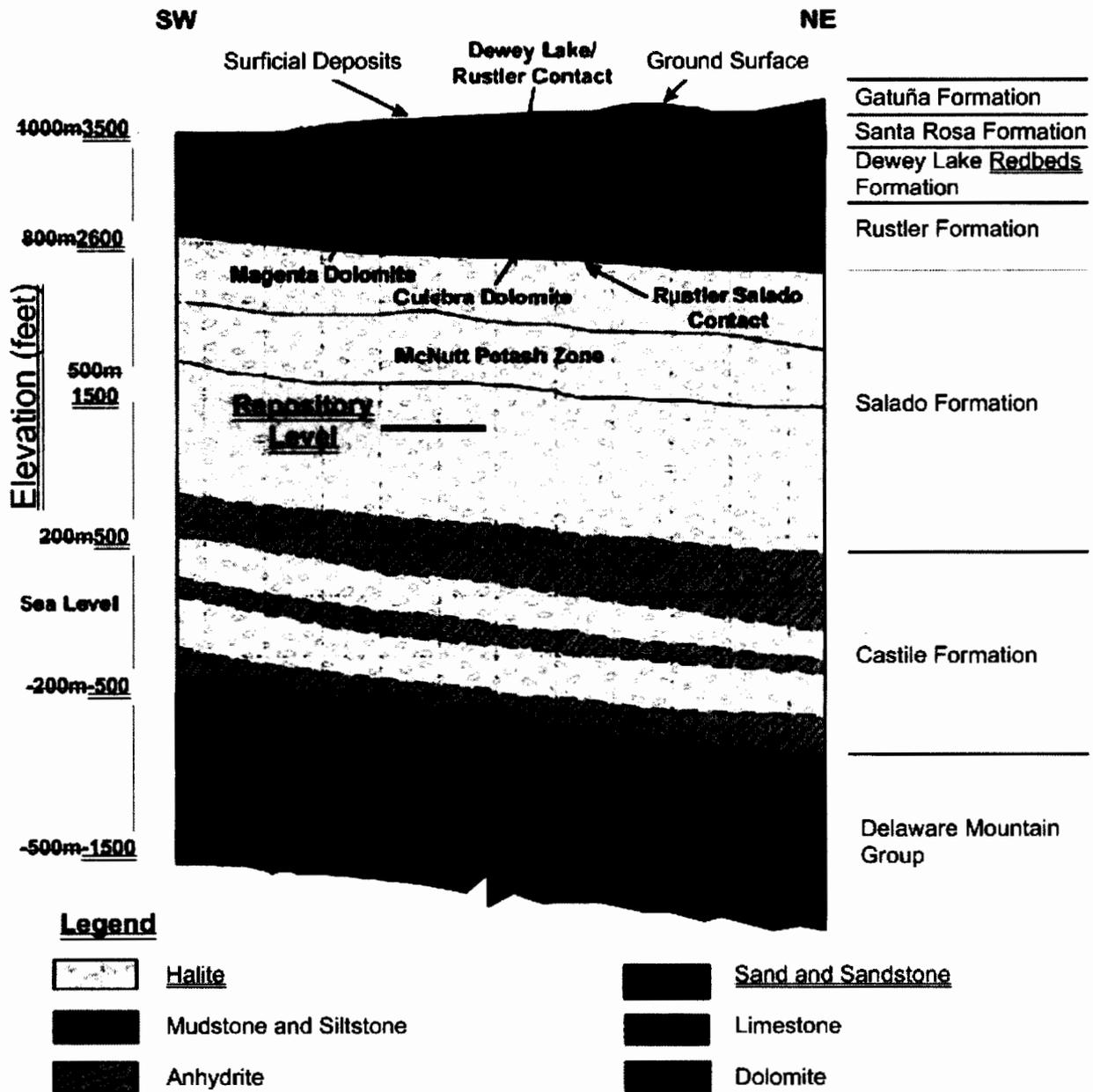


Figure L-4

Generalized Stratigraphic Cross Section Above Bell Canyon Formation at WIPP Site

Comments on the September 29, 2011, Class II Permit Modification Request

Enclosure 4

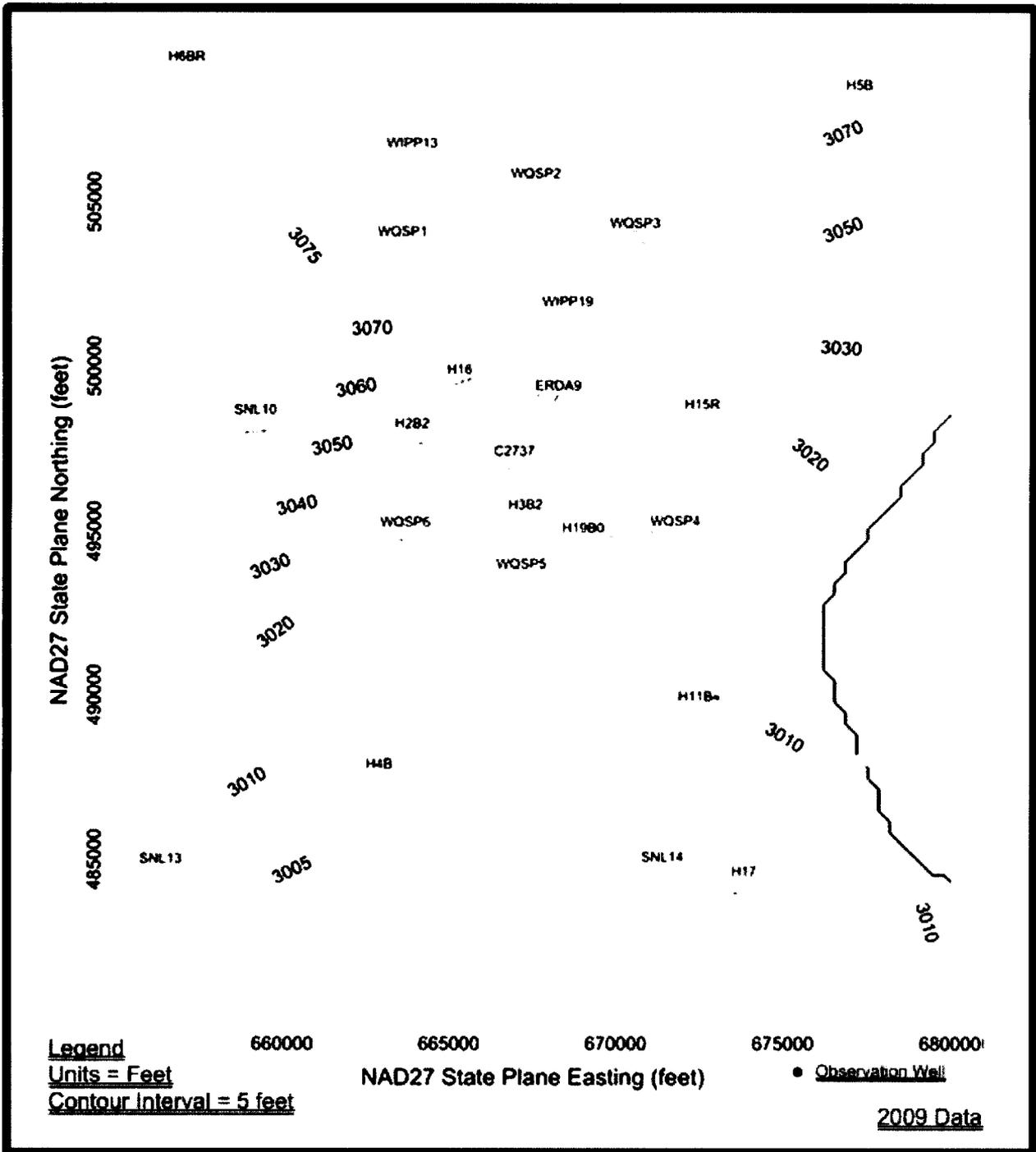
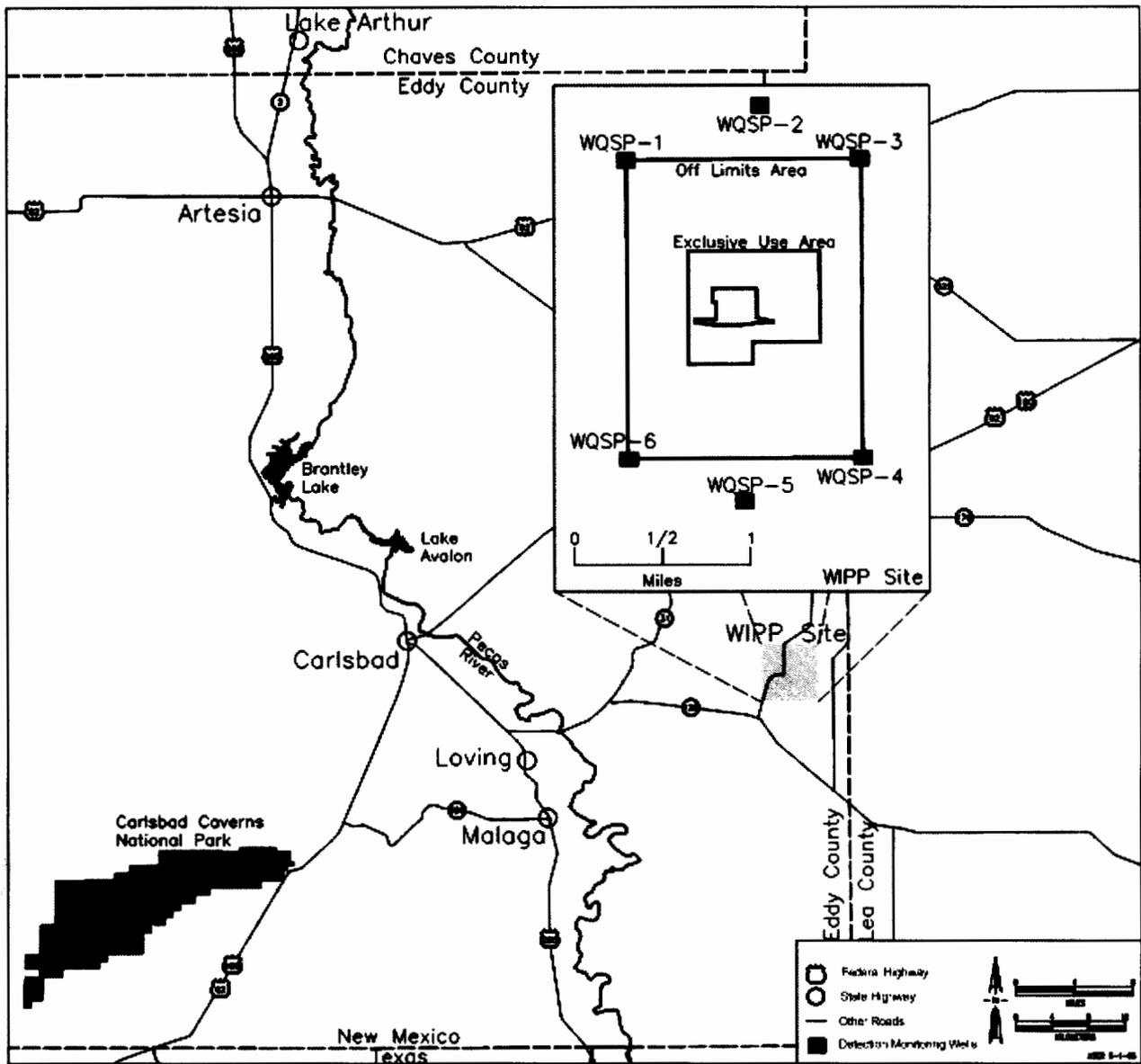


Figure L-5
Culebra Freshwater-Head Potentiometric Surface

Comments on the September 29, 2011, Class II Permit Modification Request

Enclosure 5



NOTE: Point of compliance is defined in Part 5.3.1.

Figure L-6
Detection Monitoring Well Locations