



0080879

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

09-AMRC-0100

APR 23 2009

Mr. C. G. Spencer, President
Washington Closure Hanford LLC
2620 Fermi Avenue
Richland, Washington 99354

Dear Mr. Spencer:

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC06-05RL14655 – CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FOR
PROTECTION OF THE BAT COLONY AT 183-F CLEARWELL

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office is hereby providing Washington Closure Hanford LLC (WCH) the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection approved CX for preserving the bat habitat at 183-F. WCH shall use this CX in the course of performing the activities approved in letter 09-AMRC-0073, dated March 24, 2009.

If you have questions, please contact me or your staff may contact R. F. Guercia, Office of the Assistant Manager for the River Corridor, at (509) 376-5494.

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Wirkkala
Contracting Officer

AMRC:RFG

Attachment

cc w/attach:

R. L. Cathel, WCH
S. E. Dieterle, WCH
S. L. Feaster, WCH
T. A. Harris, WCH
D. H. Houston, WCH
D. L. Plung, WCH
B. D. Smith, WCH
C. P. Strand, WCH
Administrative Record, H6-08
(100-FR-1 Operable Unit)

RECEIVED
APR 28 2009

EDMC

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL AND FENCE INSTALLATION
AT THE 183-F CLEAR-WELL, 100-F AREA,
HANFORD SITE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) will be performing small-scale debris removal and fence installation at the 183-F Clear-well located in the 100-F Area of the Hanford Site. Debris removal and fence installation supports the protection of a significant roost site for Yuma myotis bats discovered utilizing the clear-well as a maternity colony during summer months. Associated with this site is a 700 foot long flume located adjacent to the clear-well that is used by the Yuma myotis bats as an associated roost site and entrance to the clear-well.

Location of Action

100-F Area, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (see attachment 1, 100-F Area map).

Description of Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) will be performing small-scale debris removal and fence installation at the 183-F Clear-well and associated flume located in the 100-F Area of the Hanford Site. This action supports the protection of a significant roost site for Yuma myotis bats discovered utilizing the clear-well and flume as a maternity colony during summer months.

Activities will include small-scale removal of some debris left in the area of the clear-well following interim safe stabilization of F Reactor in 2003. The debris primarily includes several telephone poles, concrete debris, and a pipe spool. Following debris removal, two separate sections of fence will be installed around the 183-F Clear-well and flume, respectively. The fence will be constructed of a T-post and two strand, slick wire configuration that will reduce the potential for accumulation of wind blown vegetation. Fencing will include access gates to allow for periodic area inspections and biological studies. Total estimated fence length to be installed around the two locations is approximately 1440 lineal feet (clear-well 1280 ft, flume 160 ft). A clear-well and flume site plan is provided as attachment 2.

Categorical Exclusions (CX's) to be Applied

The following CX is listed in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021, "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures," Subpart D, Appendix B, published in the Tuesday, July 9, 1996, 61 Federal Register 36222:

- B1.20 "Small-scale activities undertaken to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders or minor diversion channels), or fisheries."

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Since there are no extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, the proposed activity meets the eligibility criteria of 10 CFR 1021.410(b), as shown in the following table. The proposed activity is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)], or with cumulatively significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 10 CFR 1021.211.

The "Integral Elements" of 10 CFR 1021 are satisfied as discussed below.

| INTEGRAL ELEMENTS 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, APPENDIX B | |
|--|--|
| Would the Proposed Action: | Comment or explanation: |
| Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders? | No applicable laws, regulations, or orders would be violated by the proposed actions. |
| Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities (including incinerators)? The proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment actions. | Wastes generated during the proposed action would not require expansion/modification of existing waste management facilities. |
| Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases? | No. There would be no uncontrolled or unpermitted releases. |
| <p>Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat (iii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains (iv) Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries (v) Prime agricultural lands (vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region) (vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rainforests? | No environmentally sensitive resources will be adversely affected. Rather, the proposed action will serve to protect a sensitive species habitat area. |

CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEWS

Cultural and biological resource reviews (attachment 3) were conducted specifically for this project with the review number 09-ER-011 (letter from T. E. Marceau [WCH] to S.W. Erhart [WCH], CCN 14382, dated March 31, 2009).

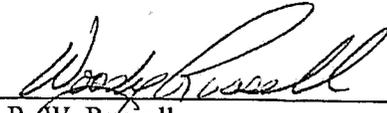
A cultural resources review (CRR) specifically for the project area was conducted (NPE # 2005-100-013a) in 2005 (CCN 120187). A review has determined that conditions have not changed and the original clearance remains valid.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), RL determined that this undertaking "does not have the potential to cause effects (NPE) on historic properties." The NPE documents that determination. The NPE also documents the site-specific field assessment conducted for the work location, which demonstrated that no historic properties were located within the areas of potential effect.

The findings of the ecological review noted there are naturally vegetated, and revegetated areas surrounding the clear-well and flume entrance. Impacts to these areas are to be avoided by prohibiting off-road driving and parking. Equipment and support vehicles will need to be parked on existing roadways. The review also indicated that personnel should be aware of the potential for nesting birds; making appropriate contact with Washington Closure Hanford natural resource staff should any be observed. With this caveat, no adverse impacts to species or other biological resources are expected to result from the proposed action.

Compliance Action: I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the referenced CX. Therefore, using the authority delegated to me by DOE Order 451.1B, Change 1, I have determined that the proposed activities may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Signature/Date:

 4/15/09
R. W. Russell
Hanford NEPA Compliance Officer

cc:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| R. L. Cathel, WCH | T. E. Marceau, WCH |
| K. A. Gano, WCH | A. L. Rodriguez, RL |
| R. F. Guercia, RL | C. P. Strand, WCH |
| M. T. Jansky, FH | R. S. Weeks, PNNL |
| C. T. Lindsey, WCH | |

The following checklist summarizes environmental impacts that were considered
IMPACT TO AIR

| | Would the proposed action: | YES | NO |
|----|---|-----|----|
| 1. | Result in more than minor and temporary gaseous discharges to the environment? | | X |
| 2. | Release other than nominal and temporary particulates or drops to the atmosphere? | X | |
| 3. | Result in more than minor thermal discharges? | | X |
| 4. | Increase offsite radiation dose to >0.1 mrem (40 CFR 61 Subpart H)? | | X |

IMPACT TO WATER

| | Would the proposed action: | YES | NO |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| 5. | Discharge any liquids to the environment? | X | |
| 6. | Discharge heat to surface or subsurface water? | | X |
| 7. | Release soluble solids to natural waters? | | X |
| 8. | Provide Interconnection between aquifers? | | X |
| 9. | Require installation of wells? | | X |
| 10. | Require a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan (40 CFR 112 and 761). | | X |
| 11. | Violate water quality standards (WAC 713-200, Table 1) | | X |

IMPACT TO LAND

| | Would the proposed action: | YES | NO |
|-----|---|-----|----|
| 12. | Conflict with existing zoning or land use? | | X |
| 13. | Involve hazardous, radioactive, PCB, or asbestos waste? | | X |
| 14. | Cause erosion? | | X |
| 15. | Require an excavation permit? | X | |
| 16. | Disturb an undeveloped area? | | X |

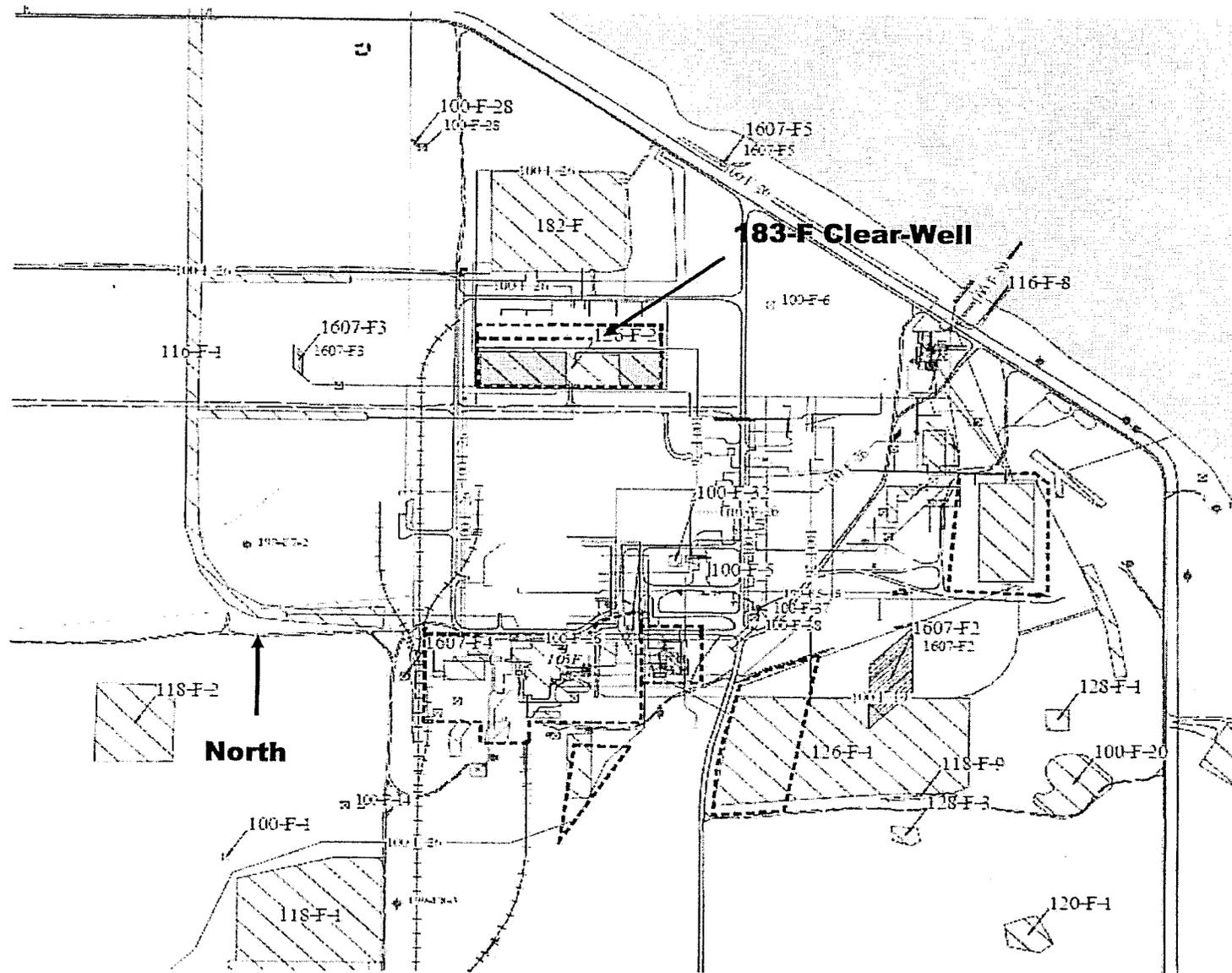
GENERAL

| | Would the proposed action: | YES | NO |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| 17. | Disturb Arid Lands Ecology or Wahluke Slope Reserves | | X |
| 18. | Cause other than a minor increase in noise level? | | X |
| 19. | Make a long-term commitment of large quantities of nonrenewable resources? | | X |
| 20. | Require new utilities or modifications to utilities? | | X |
| 21. | Use pesticides, carcinogens, or toxic chemicals? | | X |
| 22. | Require a radiation work permit? | | X |

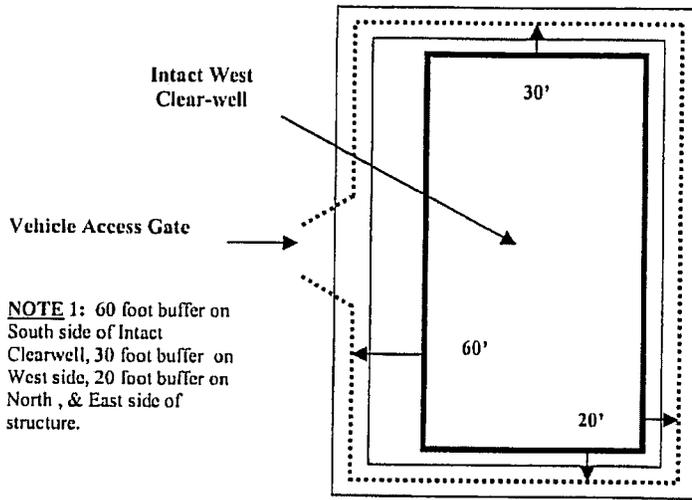
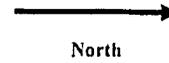
Items marked "yes" in the Environmental Impact Checklist located above, are addressed in the following paragraphs:

2. Removal of debris and installation of fence may result in minor particulate emission from equipment operation, dust associated with debris removal, and fumes resulting from torch cutting of metal pipe.
5. Water may be used for dust control if deemed necessary.
15. An excavation permit will be generated to address fence post installation, debris removal, and any final grading.

Attachment 1
100-F Area Map



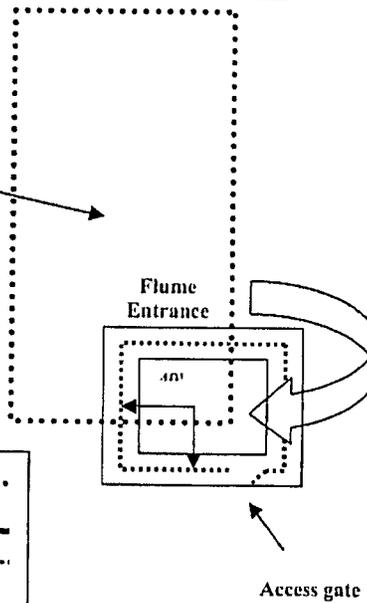
Attachment 2 183-F Clear-well and Flume Site Plan



NOTE 1: 60 foot buffer on South side of Intact Clearwell, 30 foot buffer on West side, 20 foot buffer on North, & East side of structure.

Demolished East Clear-well

NOTE 2: 40 foot from center of Flume on all sides of demolished Clearwell structure.



| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Demolished Structure | |
| Intact Structure | ————— |
| New Fence | |
| Excavation Boundary | ————— |

ATTACHMENT 3

**Ecological and Cultural Resources Review
Installation of Fencing at the 183-F Clear-Well for
Retention as Bat Roosting Habitat (09-ER-011)**

Interoffice Memorandum

143820

TO: S. W. Erhart, X5-50

DATE: March 31, 2009

COPIES: M. E. Allen, X5-50
R. L. Cathel, X5-50
T. E. Marceau, H4-21
C. T. Lindsey, H4-21
D. D. Teel, H4-21
W. G. Wahler, X5-50
E. M. Weiss, H4-21
Records and Document Control H4-11

FROM: T. E. Marceau *Thomas E. Marceau*
Environmental Field Services
H4-21/375-4663

SUBJECT: **ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEWS INSTALLATION OF FENCING AT THE 183-F CLEARWELL FOR RETENTION AS BAT ROOSTING HABITAT (09-ER-011)**

This memo is in response to your March 24, 2009, request for Ecological and Cultural Resources Reviews for the project to perform miscellaneous restoration and construct fencing at the 183-F Clearwell facility, in the 100-F area. Assorted debris including concrete, rebar, telephone poles, and loose piping will be removed as house-keeping items. Fence construction will be established with warning signs, and the facility will be left in place. This project is expected to occur during early to mid-April of 2009.

Ecological Review

The protection of the 183-F West Clearwell is necessary to maintain the facility as a maternity roost for one of the largest colonies of bats in the state of Washington. Over 2000 Yuma myotis bats (*Myotis yumanensis*) use the facility each year, during the spring and summer, to give birth and raise their young. Activity continues into the winter, to some extent, at the facility as well. Because there is no time when these activities could be conducted that will have no potential to impact bats, work will be conducted at a time with the least potential to have adverse impacts on the bats present. Yuma myotis give birth sometime between May and June, and continue to raise and nurse their young through July. Young fledge during July and begin to emerge and return to the roost regularly by August. These are all sensitive times for these bats, and construction activities should not occur during these times. Any potentially overwintering bats would be out of their hibernation period by the early to mid-April timeframe, so this sensitive timeframe would also be avoided. Although this activity will occur during a time when the bats may be less sensitive to disturbance, all activities in the area must be performed to keep disturbance to an absolute minimum. This includes reducing the time when loud power-tools will be operated within close proximity to the facility.

Heavy equipment will need to be used to remove the telephone poles lying on the ground to the north of the facility. The equipment will access the poles from a road that is already established approximately 75 meters north of the facility. The machine will access the poles and return promptly

to the access road, to reduce impacts to the vegetation present and to reduce any noise related impacts to the bats within the clearwell. There are naturally vegetated, and revegetated areas surrounding the clearwell facilities and the east flume entrance. To avoid impacts to these vegetated areas, off-road driving/parking will not be permitted in the area. Equipment and support vehicles will need to be parked on existing roadways. No equipment staging areas will need to be constructed, and no road construction will be required to support this work.

There is always a potential for ground nesting migratory birds, such as killdeer and nighthawks, to construct nests in vegetated or graveled areas. These birds and their active nests are protected from disturbance by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If any nesting activity (e.g. refusing to leave an area after being disturbed) is observed in the project area, please contact Cole Lindsey (372-9295).

Because of the sensitive resources present in the project area, natural resources personnel may be present during these activities, or may provide information during walkdowns, to help reduce impacts to the bats and vegetation present.

If there are any changes in the scope of these activities that could result in disturbances outside the current description of this project, contact Cole Lindsey for additional Ecological Review.

Cultural Review (NPE # 2005-100-013a)

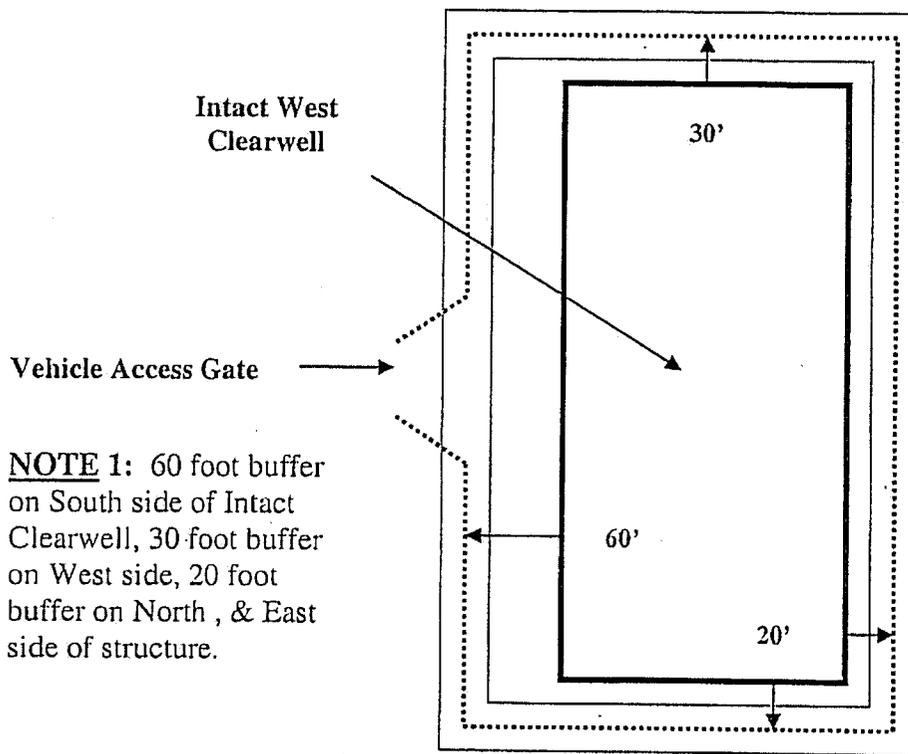
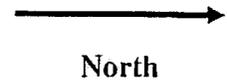
This project activity location is within an area previously reviewed and cleared for cultural resources under NPE# 2005-100-013 (05-ER-001, CCN 120187). The RL project manager concurred with these findings on February 1, 2005. Conditions have not changed at these sites so prior clearance is still valid. All project related activities are within the F-Area perimeter road. The fence installation and debris removal will take place within the area previously disturbed by the construction and operations of the 183-F Clearwells (126-F-2). Given the previous ground disturbance, we believe that this project is not the type with the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

Although no cultural resources are anticipated, all workers must be directed to watch for cultural materials (e.g., bones, stone tools, mussel shell) during all work activities. If any cultural materials are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery must stop until a Cultural Resources Specialist has been notified, the significance of the find assessed, appropriate Tribes notified, and if necessary, arrangements made for mitigation of the find. In the event of any discoveries, please contact Tom Marceau (375-4663).

CTL/TEM:

Attachment(s): Map

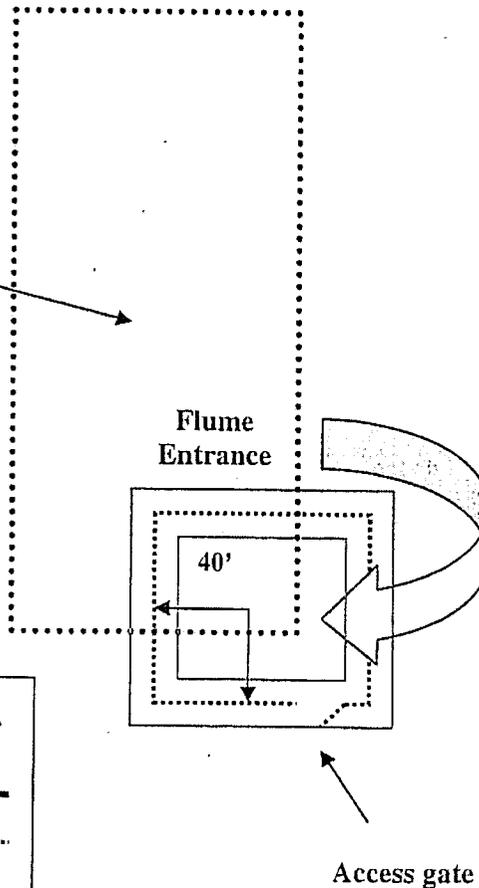
183-F Clearwells



NOTE 1: 60 foot buffer on South side of Intact Clearwell, 30-foot buffer on West side, 20 foot buffer on North, & East side of structure.

Demolished East Clearwell

NOTE 2: 40 foot from center of Flume on all sides of demolished Clearwell structure.



KEY

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Demolished Structure | |
| Intact Structure | ————— |
| New Fence | |
| Excavation Boundary | ————— |