

588SERBSF10,634

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Site Name (Subject): TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE/ATLAS MINE

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
100 ALABAMA STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3104

MAY 20 1998

RECEIVED

MAY 26 1998

SUPERFUND SECTION

4WD-ERRB

Mr. Jack Butler, Chief
Superfund Section
North Carolina Division of
Solid Waste Management
P.O. Box 27687
Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687

SUBJ: Tungsten Queen Mine Site
Tungsten, Vance Co., North Carolina

Dear Mr. Butler:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) conducted a site investigation for potential removal action eligibility under the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

The site is an abandoned mining facility located off State Road (S.R.) 1348 in the northern portion of Vance County, North Carolina. The site is divided into the Old Mine Area and the New Mine Area. Currently the site is in CERCLIS assigned a "No Further Action Planned" (NFRAP) status following a remedial site investigation in 1992. The site was assigned NFRAP status by the North Carolina Superfund Section's (NCSS) Federal PA/SI group in 1995. The site was then assigned to the NCSS Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch (IHSB).

In March 1997, the IHSB conducted a site investigation. During the investigation approximately thirty deteriorating drums containing brown mineral cuttings were discovered in a dilapidated warehouse at the Old Mine Area. The site was unrestricted as motorists were seen driving over sands in the tailing ponds. In May 1997, the IHSB returned to collect samples from the drums in the Old Mine Area and soil samples from the New Mine Area. The results indicated elevated levels of lead and arsenic that exceeded removal action levels. In turn, the state sent a letter to ERRB dated November 24, 1997, requesting a removal assessment. The ERRB reviewed the site file and assigned the site a low priority. The state re-submitted the file to ERRB for a re-evaluation in a letter dated March 18, 1998.

On April 16, 1998, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ted Walden of the EPA, along with a NCSS-IHSB official, arrived at the site to conduct an assessment. Six residences are located approximately 1/4

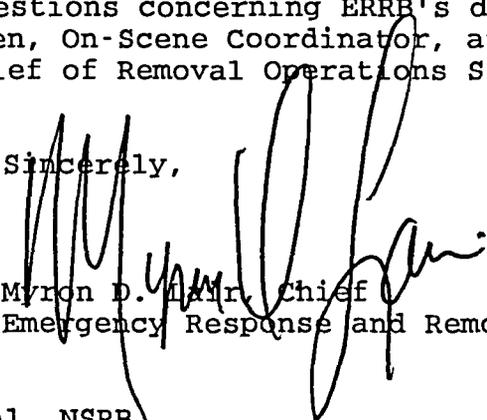
mile to the east of the Old Mine entrance. At the New Mine Area a stockpile of approximately fifty 30-gallon drums were observed next to a three story building. The drums contained a brown powdery substance. Surrounding the building were three 55-gallon drums containing what appeared to be an oily type substance. Also, a concrete pit (estimated dimensions: 15'x20'x5') containing a three to four inch layer of an oily substance was observed during the investigation.

At the Old Mine Area several deteriorating buildings were observed, the largest containing approximately thirty drums. Sampling data indicated the drums had elevated metal concentrations (Pb up to 18,00 ppm, As up to 910 ppm). Evidence of trespassing was noticeable. Three tailing ponds were evaluated last with soil sampling data revealing elevated metal concentrations (Pb up to 7,000 ppm, As up to 280 ppm, Cd up to 130 ppm and Sb up to 510 ppm).

The site reveals elevated levels of metals in drummed waste and surface soils that exceed removal action levels; however, due to the minimal potential for prolonged direct exposure, the site continues to meet the criteria for a low priority removal and no further action is planned by the ERRB at this time. This determination does not preclude any other investigation activities or response actions by other parties which may still be appropriate for this site. The ERRB has provided the Remedial Branch of the EPA with current information on the site for the potential assessment and conduct of a Non-Time Critical Removal Action. Should site conditions change or additional information become available, the ERRB will re-evaluate this site as necessary.

Should you have any questions concerning ERRB's determination, please contact Mr. Ted Walden, On-Scene Coordinator, at (404) 562-8752 or Mr. Mike Norman, Chief of Removal Operations Section, at (404) 562-8720.

Sincerely,


Myron D. Norman, Chief
Emergency Response and Removal Branch

cc: Phil Vorsatz, NC Remedial, NSRB

file

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT



JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

March 18, 1998

WAYNE McDEVITT
SECRETARY

Mr. Myron D. Lair, Chief
Emergency Response and Removal Branch
US EPA Region IV
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

WILLIAM L. MEYER
DIRECTOR

Subject: Immediate Removal Re-evaluation Request
Tungsten Queen Mine, NCD 082 362 989
Tungsten, Vance County, NC

Dear Mr. Lair:

The NC Superfund Section requests that the US EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) re-evaluate the Tungsten Queen Mine site for a removal action. A removal evaluation was requested November 24, 1997 to address 20-30, 30-gallon drums of mineral cuttings located in a dilapidated maintenance building in the Old Mine Area as shown on the attached maps. In December, we received notice that ERRB had assigned the site a low priority for removal. We request reconsideration of the site with respect to removal of the drums, in addition to other accessible areas of soil contamination on site.

The three primary areas of concern are listed below. All sample locations known to have contaminant levels above State soil remediation goals are shown on the attached site layout map.

- Primary Area of Concern: Drummed sands in the demolished maintenance building in the Old Mine Area on the east side of the property.
- Secondary Areas of Concern: East side of new tailings pond; former gravity separator area (near SS-05); and the two-acre tailings pond.
- Tertiary Areas of Concern: All areas exceeding 400 ppm lead, background levels for antimony, 23 ppm arsenic, or 39 ppm cadmium.

Lead levels exceeding 400 ppm have been measured in mineral cuttings in the drums (18,000 ppm), in the new tailings pond (3100J ppm), in the former gravity separator area (20,000 ppm) and in the two-acre pond (7,000 ppm). As noted on the attached site layout map, antimony, arsenic and cadmium were also measured in soils above their corresponding State soil remediation goals. Some of these areas of contamination are within 500 feet of residences.

Mr. Myron D. Lair
March 18, 1998
Page 2

Concerns about site accessibility and proximity to nearby homes are significant. The east side of the site is bounded by residential development and access to the site is not controlled along this side. Houses and one church are situated on SR 1348 between the Old Mine and the New Mine areas. Construction is occurring on the southwestern portion of the site near the old gravity separator, an area with high lead levels (20,000 ppm). Teenagers have been observed riding motorbikes on the tailings waste. Access is not controlled on the west side of the site near the tailings ponds. Also, attempts have been made to purchase part of the property for residential development.

Based on these concerns and the contaminant levels found at the site, we request ERRB re-evaluate the site for removal. Specifically, we would request reconsidering removal of the drums and removal of highly contaminated soils exceeding State soil remediation goals. Evaluation of the 3 tailings pond areas and the former gravity separator area using an XRF, could perhaps speed up the verification of these hot spots. State funds for this removal action are not available at this time. Please let us know if and when a field evaluation of this site can be conducted so we may coordinate your site visit with our staff. Additional information about the site is attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at (919) 733-2801, ext. 290.

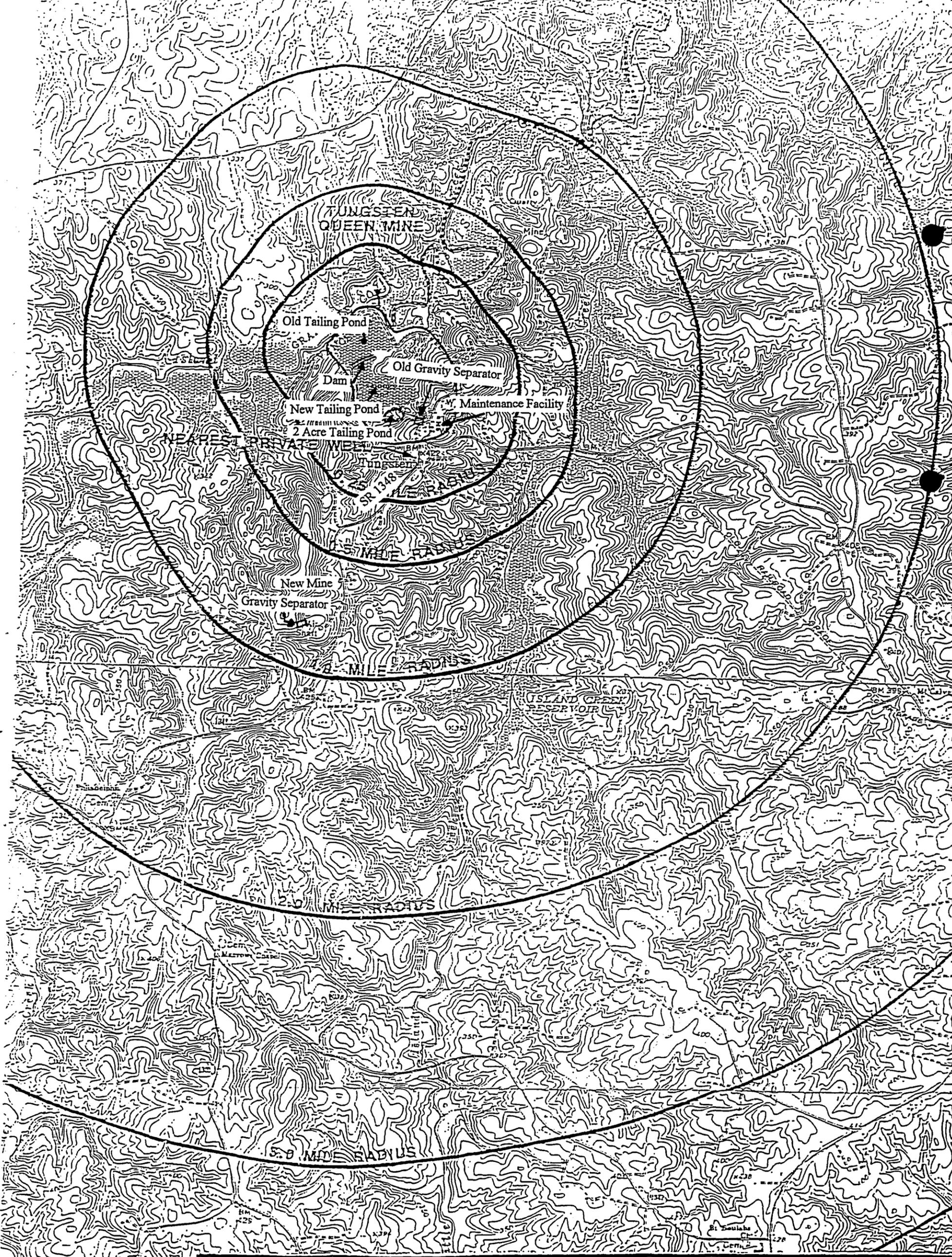
Sincerely,

Pat DeRosa, Head
Site Evaluation and Removal Branch
Superfund Section

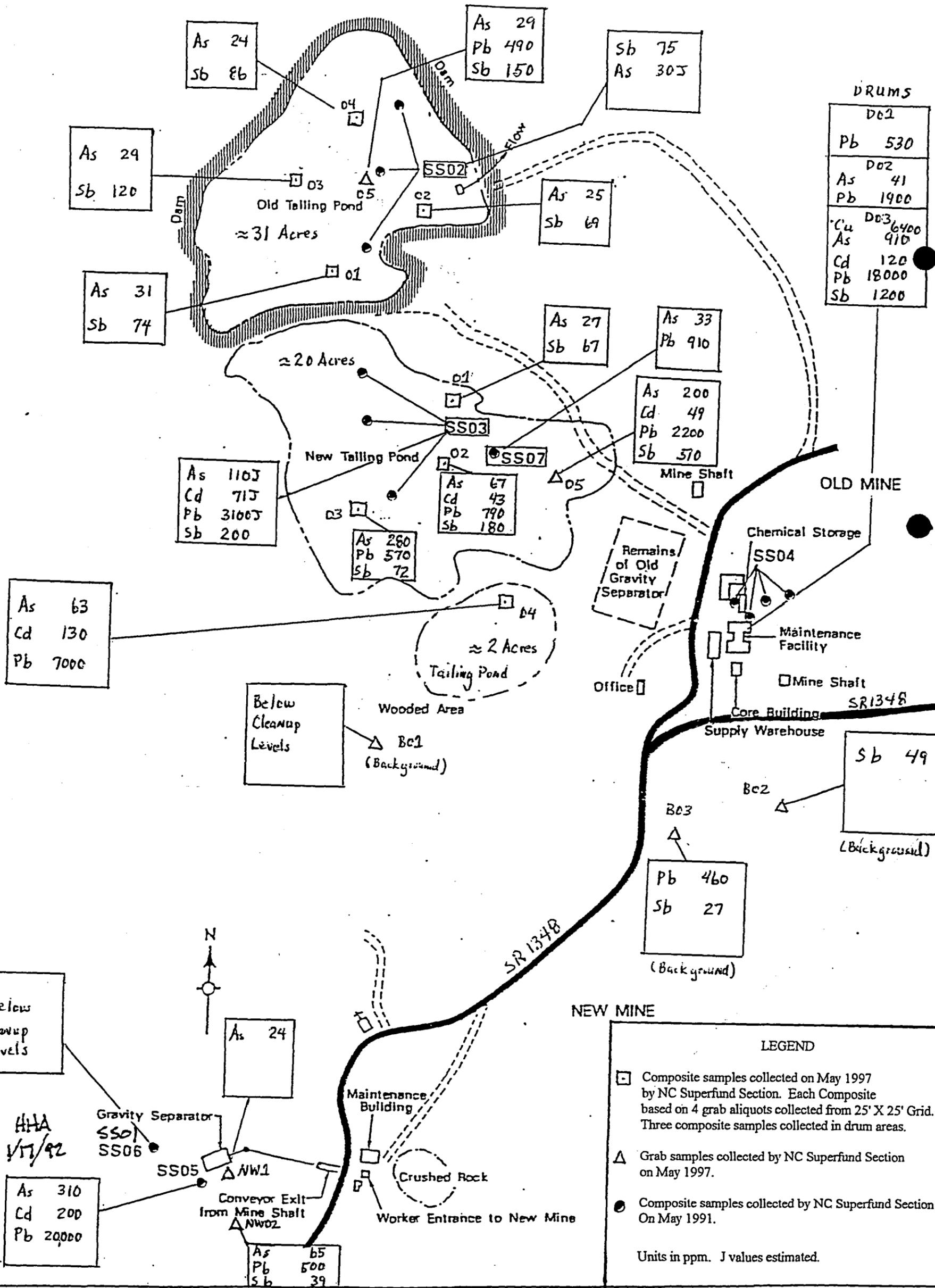
attachments

cc w/o attachments: Jack Butler, DWM
Mike Kelly, DWM
Doug Holyfield, DWM
Phil Prete, DWM
Pat Williamson, DWM
Charlotte Jesneck, DWM
Larry Perry, DWM

cc: Phil Vorsatz, US EPA
Mike Norman, US EPA
Mr. Mitchell, T. Arnold, Granville-Vance District Health Department



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
NCD 082 362 989
SOURCE: USGS Topographic Maps; Tungsten, VA.-N.C. 1968 (photorevised 1974), Townsville, N.C. 1970,
Clarksville South, VA.-N.C. 1968 (photorevised 1981), Stovall, N.C. 1981



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE (TQM)

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2B

ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS
GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.
 9001 EDMONSTON ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
 (301) 962-2800
 ANNAPOLIS MD • ATLANTA GA • AURORA CO • BALTIMORE MD • CLARKE VA • DULUTH GA
 ESSEX PA • FARRAS VA • MANASSAS VA • RALEIGH NC • ROCKVILLE MD • TAMPA FL

SITE LAYOUT SAMPLING POINTS
 NCD 082 362 989





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
100 ALABAMA STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3104

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DEC 29 1997

SUPERFUND SECTION

December 15, 1997

Ms. Pat DeRosa, Head
Site Evaluation & Removal Branch
Superfund Section
North Carolina DEHNR
P.O. Box 29603
Raleigh, NC 27611-9603

RE: Tungsten Queen Mine, Tungsten, NC

Dear Ms. DeRosa:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Response & Removal Branch (ERRB) Removal Assessment Team (RAT) has reviewed the information regarding the above Site provided to ERRB by your letter dated November 24, 1997.

Based on a review of the file information, the RAT recommends this Site be categorized as a low priority. Hazardous substances, most notably lead and arsenic, were detected on-site; however, there seems to be a minimal potential for prolonged direct exposure to the highest concentrations areas (i.e drum area). Also, there were elevated levels of lead, some exceeding typical removal action levels, detected in the tailings areas and in background samples. Removal of the drums would remove only a small area of elevated metals concentrations for a site with heavy metal contamination effecting a significant portion of the facility.

The RAT recommends that NCDEHNR continue to pursue the current and past owners and operators to undertake appropriate actions. Should new information become available regarding the Site, the RAT will be glad to re-evaluate the Site.

Sincerely,

Steve Spurlin
Steve Spurlin, OSC

State of North Carolina
Department of Environment,
and Natural Resources
Division of Waste Management

James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor
Wayne McDevitt, Secretary
William L. Meyer, Director



November 24, 1997

Mr. Myron D. Lair, Chief
Emergency Response and Removal Branch
US EPA Region IV
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Immediate Removal Evaluation Request
Tungsten Queen Mine, NCD 082 362 989
Tungsten, Vance County, NC

Dear Mr. Lair:

The NC Superfund Section requests that the US EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) evaluate the Tungsten Queen Mine site for a removal action. The site is currently on CERCLIS but was assigned a "no further remedial action planned" (NFRAP) status in 1992 following completion of the site investigation. In March 1997, the Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch (IHSB), NC Superfund Section conducted on-site reconnaissance at the site. At that time, 20-30, 30-gallon drums containing brown to black and light brown mineral cuttings were discovered in the warehouse storage building located in the Old Mine area. The doors and most of the roof have been removed from this building and the drums are exposed to the elements. The drums are stacked and some are deteriorating and their contents are partially spilled out onto the ground. A site layout map and photographs are attached.

In May 1997, IHSB staff returned to the site and collected samples from three of the drums as well as samples of the tailings pond waste and background soil on site. The sample results from the drum samples and background soil are attached for your review. Antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, silver and zinc were detected at levels exceeding the IHSB soil remediation goals. The highest levels of these contaminants as compared to background and the health-based soil remediation goals are shown on the attached table.

To date, no action has been taken by the current or past site owners/operators to remove these drums or the spilled waste material around these drums. The current site owner, Mr. Warren Griffin, Louisburg Hardwood, (919) 496-0104 has been recently contacted by the State regarding these drums and should be contacted for site access. The property is partially fenced, however, it appears to be readily accessible to the public. It was noted that during one of our site visits teenagers on motorbikes were driving over the tailings waste.

Based on the levels of contaminants in the drums, their deteriorating condition, and the accessibility of the waste, we request that you evaluate the site for removal of the drums and spilled waste. State funds for this removal action are not available at this time. Please let us know if and when a field evaluation of this

Mr. Myron D. Lair
November 24, 1997
page 2

file
Removal file

site can be conducted so we may coordinate your site visit with our staff. Additional information about the site is attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at (919) 733-2801, ext. 290.

Sincerely,



Pat DeRosa, Head
Site Evaluation and Removal Branch
Superfund Section

attachments

cc w/o attachments: Jack Butler, DWM
Mike Kelly, DWM
Doug Holyfield, DWM
Phil Prete, DWM
Pat Williamson, DWM
Charlotte Jesneck, DWM
Larry Perry, DWM

cc: Phil Vorsatz, US EPA
Mike Norman, US EPA
Mr. Mitchell, T. Arnold, Granville-Vance District Health Department

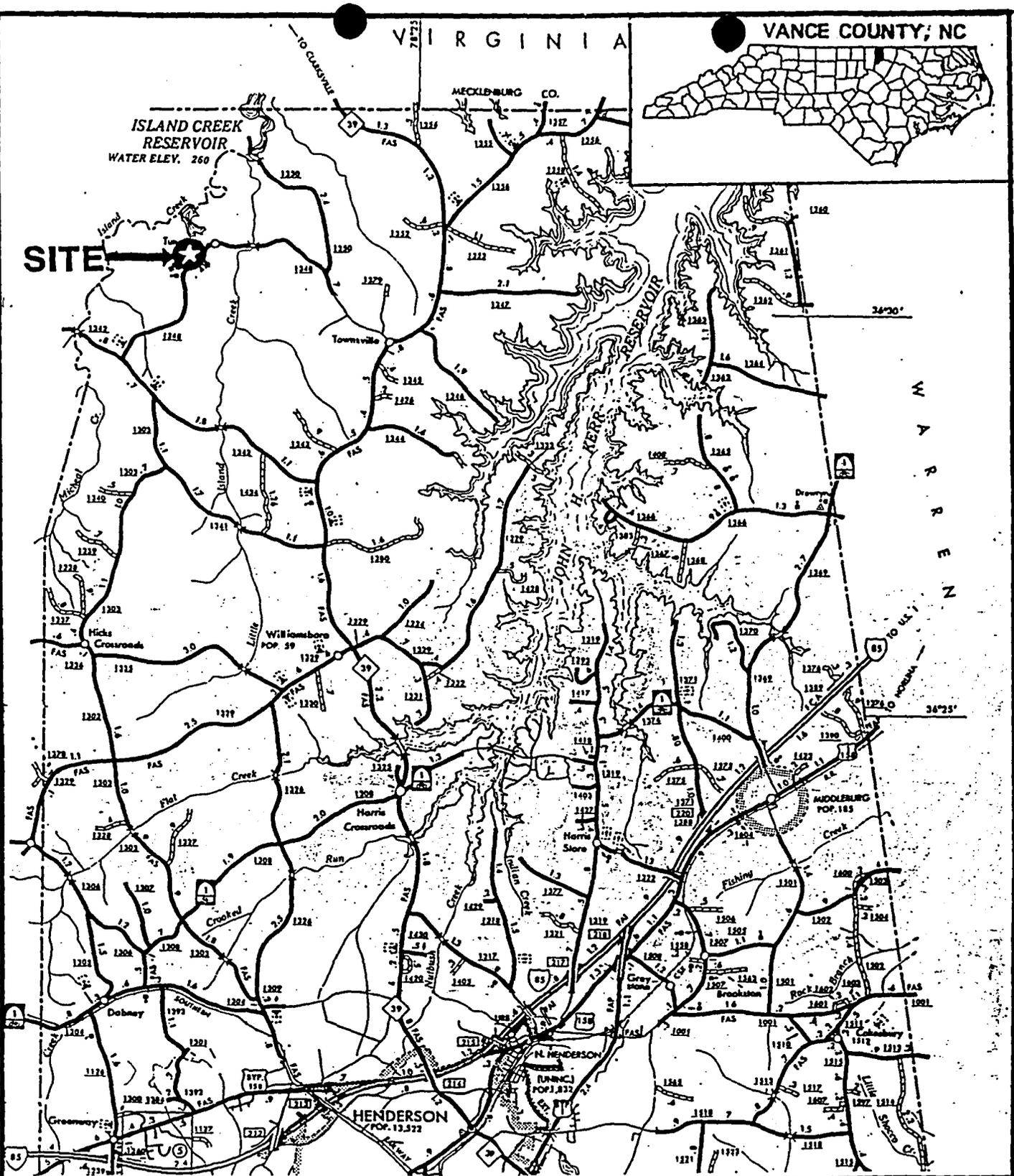
VIRGINIA

VANCE COUNTY, NC



ISLAND CREEK RESERVOIR
WATER ELEV. 260

SITE



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE

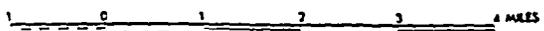


FIGURE 1



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS
GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.
9001 EDMONSTON ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
(301) 982-2800

SITE LOCATION
NCD 082 362 989

ANNAPOLIS MD • ATLANTA GA • AURORA CO • BALTIMORE MD • CHARLOTTE NC • CHICAGO IL
COLUMBIA SC • FARGO ND • GREENSBORO NC • HARTFORD CT • HENRICO VA • MEMPHIS TN • RICHMOND VA • ROCKVILLE MD • TAMPA FL

MECKLENBURG CO
GRANVILLE CO

VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROLINA

TUNGSTEN
QUEEN MINE

NEAREST PRIVATE WELL

0.25 MILE RADIUS

1 MILE RADIUS

4 MILE RADIUS

2.0 MILE RADIUS

5.0 MILE RADIUS

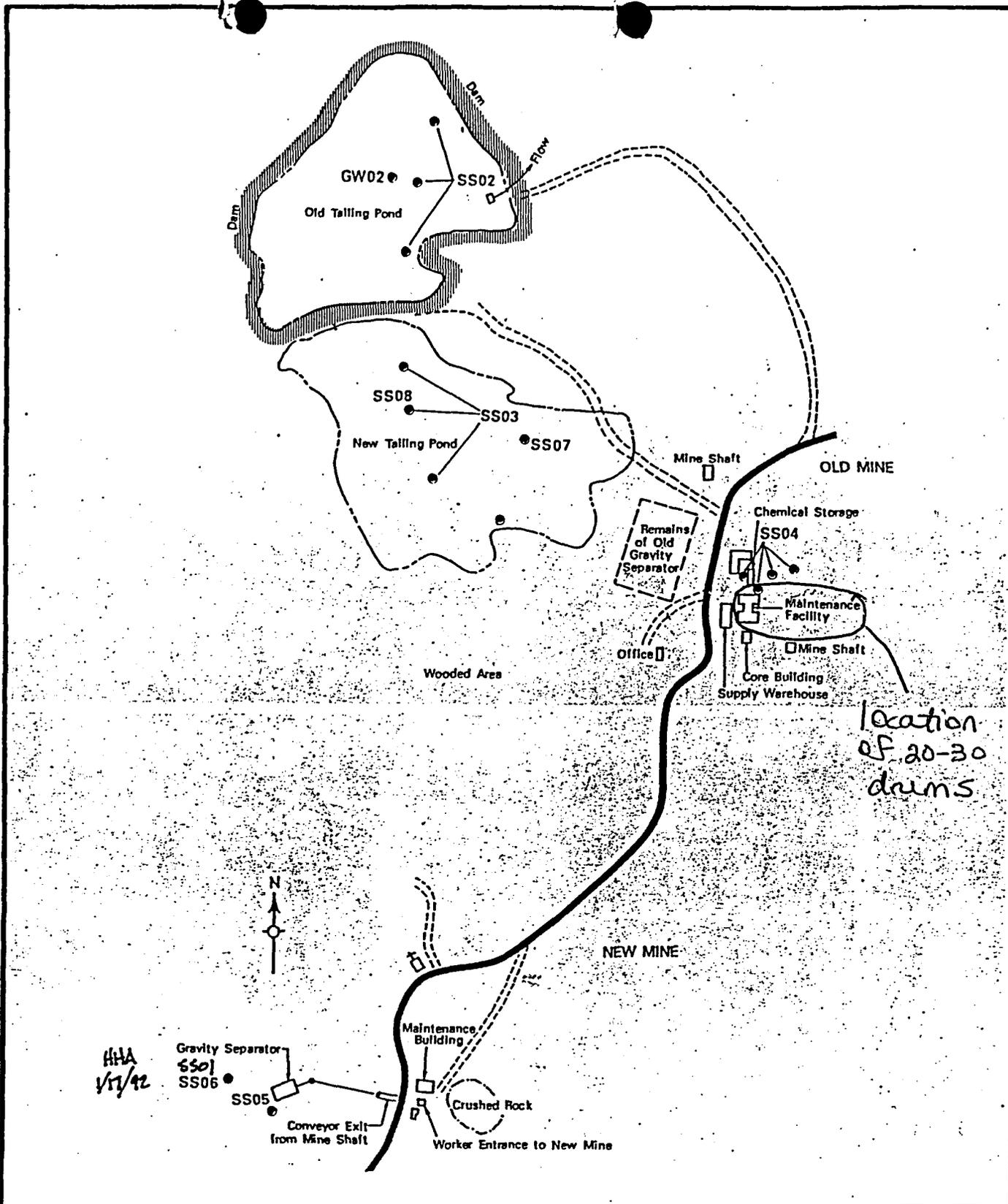
ISLAND CREEK
RESERVOIR

TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

NCD 082 362 989

SOURCE: USGS Topographic Maps; Tungsten, VA.-N.C. 1968 (photoinspected 1974), Townsville, N.C. 1970, Clarksville South, VA.-N.C. 1968 (photorevised 1981), Stovall, N.C. 1981



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2B



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS
GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.
 9001 EDMONSTON ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
 (301) 962-2800
 ANNAPOLIS MD • ATLANTA GA • AURORA CO • BALTIMORE MD • CLIFF PAPER VA • DALLAS TX
 ESPRIT PA • FARMAS VA • MANASSAS VA • RALEIGH NC • ROCKVILLE MD • TAMPA FL

**SITE LAYOUT
 SAMPLING POINTS**
 NCD 082 362 989



Old Mine location: Background sample location across
the street from the mine entrance. Call of the gate
to the power line entrance. The gate
to the power line entrance is located
at the mine entrance.



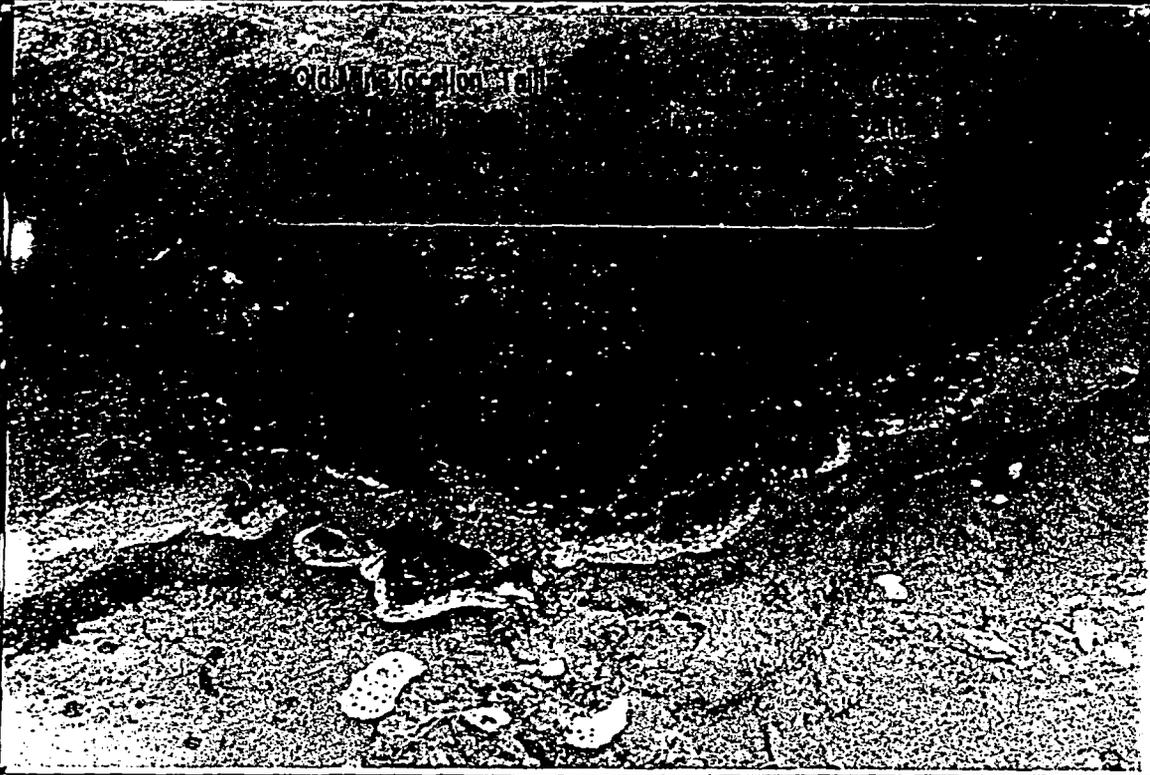
Old Mine location: Background sample
location from the mine entrance
to the power line entrance.



Old Mine location:
Tailings pond adjacent to Island Creek
Viewing sample location from southwest to northeast



Old Mine location Tailings



Old Mine location.
North edge of Tailings pond closest to Island Creek
Creek located behind tree line at background of photo.

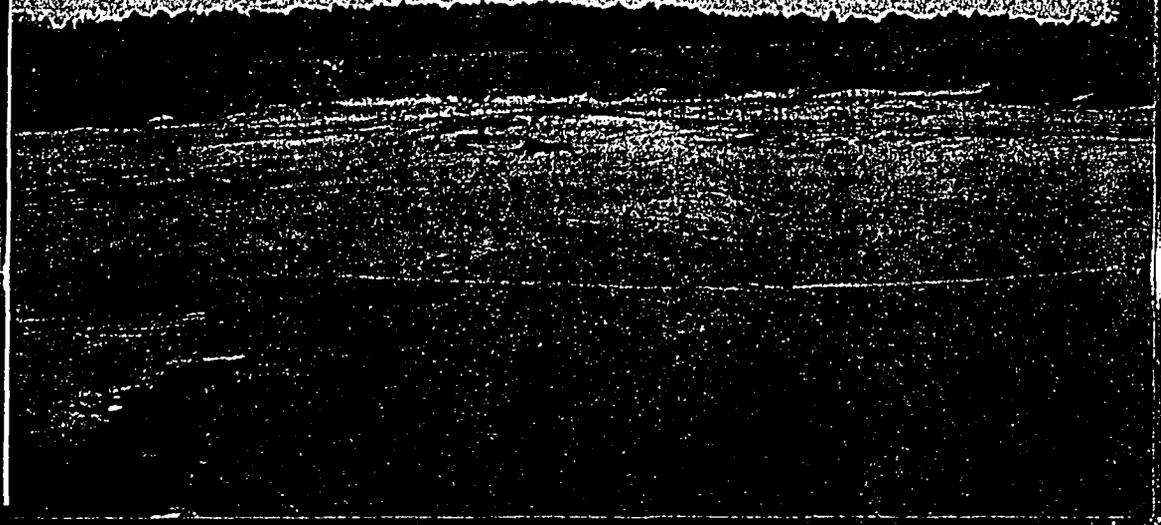
Old Mine location. Tailings pond adjacent to Island Creek
View of asphalt-like sludge fallings in pond near
Island Creek.

Old Mine location:
North edge of tailings pond closest to Island Creek.
Viewing NE.



Old Mine location: Photographed from pond closest to
gravity separation - white sands. Island Creek.
Viewing NE

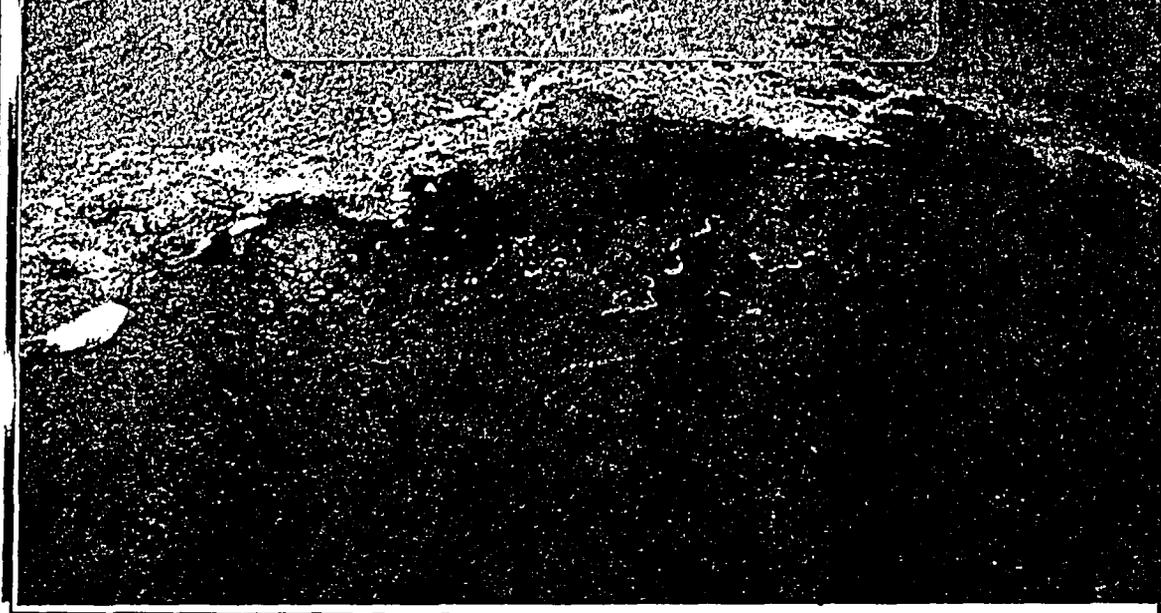
Old Mine location: Photograph from tailings pond
closest to Island Creek. Photo taken viewing south
towards (southern-most) pond and dam. The fence
outlines the US Army Corp Eng. property.
Viewing south at Northern-most pond.



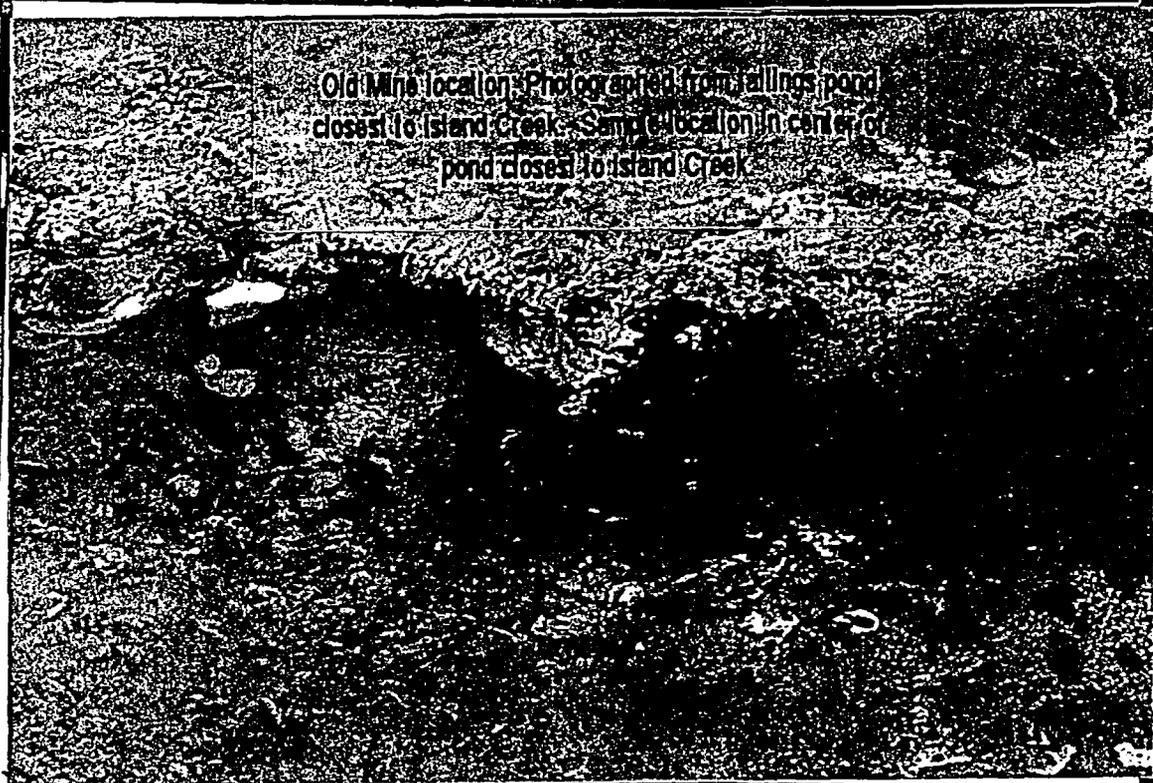
Old Mine location: Photograph from tailings pond
closest to Island Creek. Photo taken viewing south
towards (southern-most) pond and dam. The fence
outlines the US Army Corp Eng. property.
Viewing south at Northern-most pond.



Old Mine location: Photographed from tailings pond
closest to Island Creek



Old Mine location: Photographed from tailings pond
closest to Island Creek. Sample location in center of
pond closest to Island Creek





25 April 1997; Site Reconnaissance



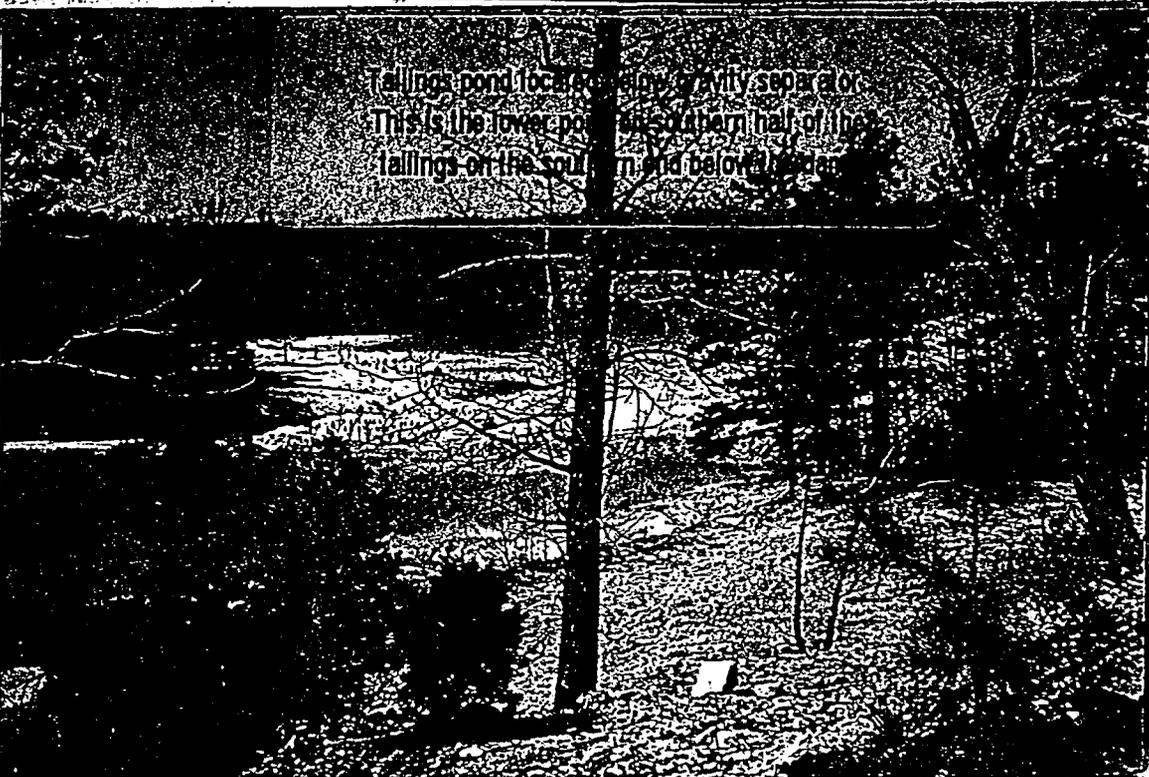
Remnants of a fence post and a
ruined USAF property. Fence has been pushed
downward and is in a state of disrepair.

USA
15 0000
CR

Motorcyclists driving over sands in upper pond



Gravel and sand fields in fallings

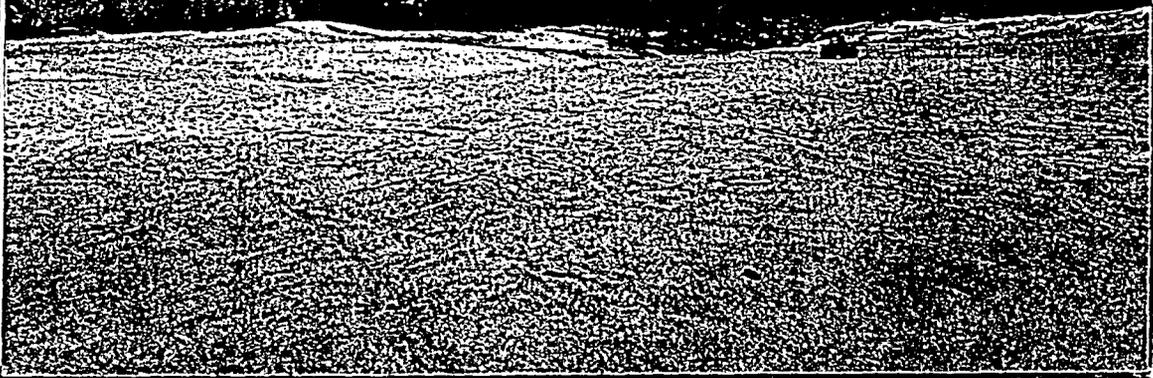


Fallings pond located along gravity separator
This is the lower pond on the southern half of the
fallings on the southern end below the dam

Callings from a rugged mountain. This is a photo of a
mountain in the Alps, and it is a photo of a
mountain in the Alps. The photo is a
photo of a mountain in the Alps. (Note: Not a photo of USACE photo)

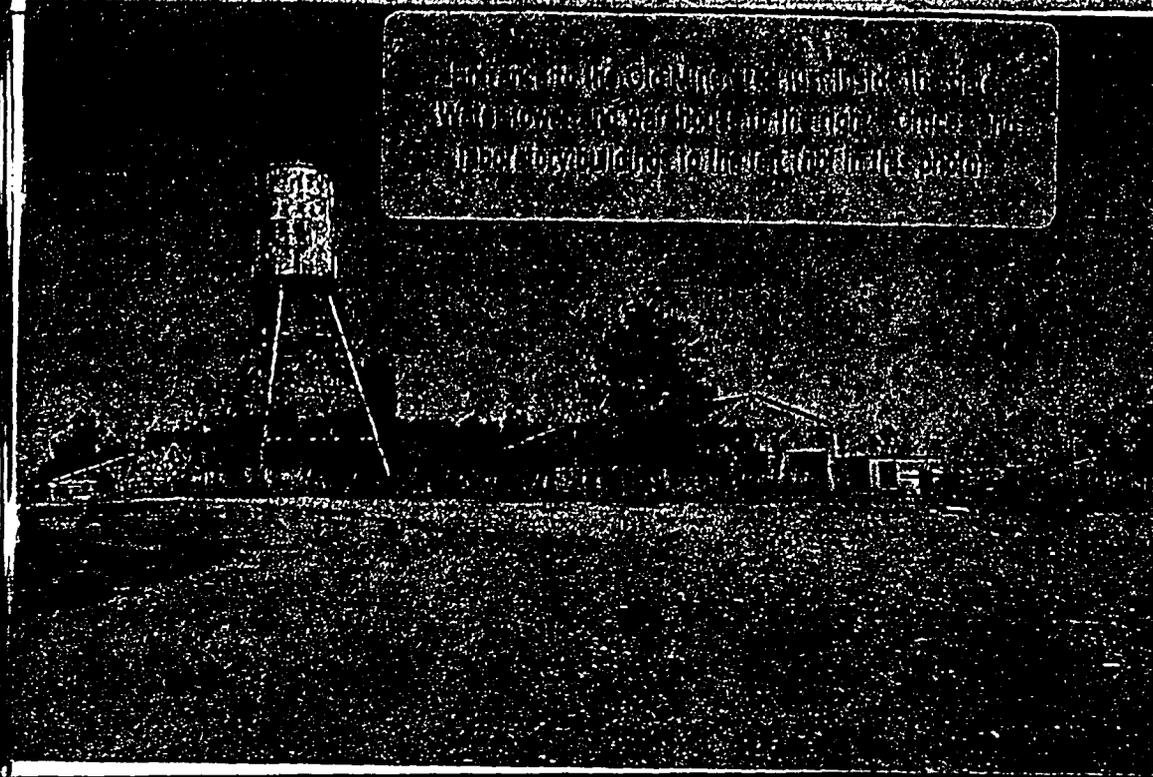


Callings from a rugged mountain. This is a photo of a
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photo of a mountain in the Alps. (Note: Not a photo of USACE photo)



SA
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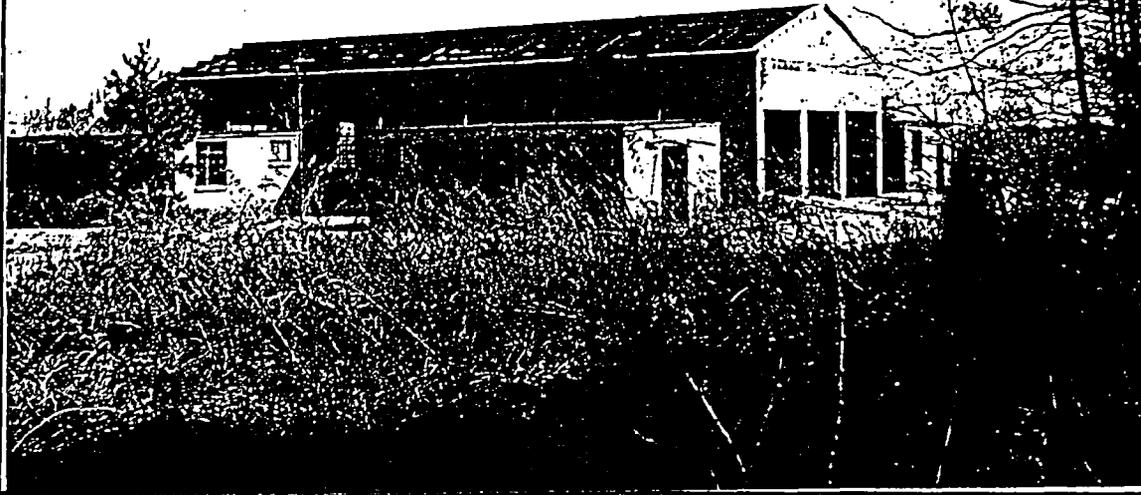
Photograph of the building at the site of
the first house built at the site of the
first house built at the site of the first house



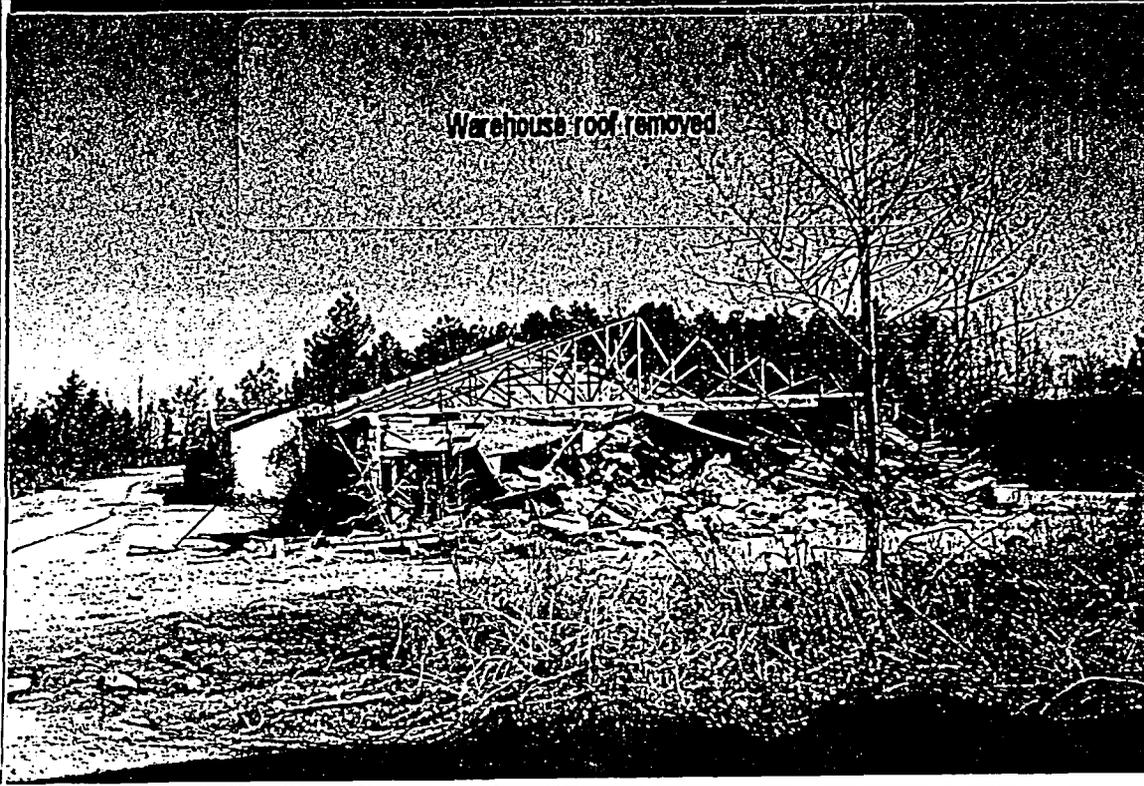
Photograph of the building at the site of the
first house built at the site of the first house



Warehouse located past water tower. Note late photos of drums (believed to contain pyrite from ore processor).



Warehouse roof removed



USA
CS 60000

SCUR

Entrance past warehouses.



Residential property located
east of the warehouse.

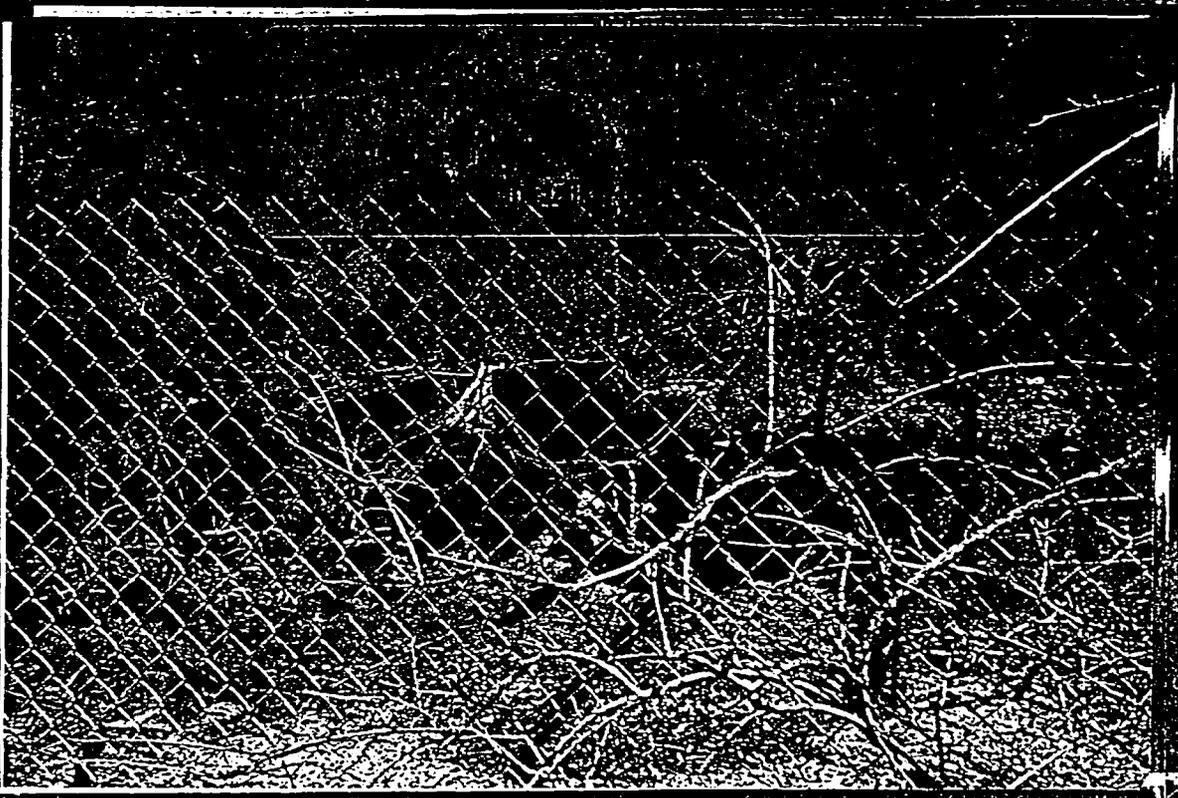




warehouse area
and laboratories

100

start, the
of the



USA
NOIS 60090



ESCUR

Tungsten Queen Mine (11-14-97)

Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch											
INORGANIC PARAMETERS		Soil Remediation Goal			Highest Background Results in ppm			Highest Results In Drum Area			
Antimony			6.2 ppm			22 ppm				1200 ppm	
Arsenic			4.6 ppm			< 9.8 ppm				910 ppm	
Cadmium			7.8 ppm			92 ppm				270 ppm	
Copper			620 ppm			120 ppm				6400 ppm	
Lead			400 ppm			460 ppm				18,000 ppm	
Silver			78 ppm			12 ppm				340 ppm	
Zinc			4600 ppm			88 ppm				6600 ppm	

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 1997

TO: Pat DeRosa, Head
Site Evaluation and Removal Branch

FROM: Keith Snavely, Hydrogeologist *RKS*
Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch

RE: Tungsten Queen Mine - Removal
Tungsten, Vance County
NCD #082 362 989

A summary of telephone conversations with past owners of the above referenced site and laboratory analytical data from soil samples collected from on-site drums located at the referenced site is enclosed for review of possible removal action at the site.

Following a NFRAP by Federal PA/SI Group in 1995, the Tungsten Queen Mine site was evaluated for assessment under the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program. On March 27, 1997 Charlotte Jesneck and I conducted an on-site reconnaissance of the Old and New Mine areas of the Tungsten Queen Mine (attached memo and site map). We noted tailing pond areas at the old mine area and building structures left on the old and new mine areas. In addition to the estimated 3,000,000 tons of tailings that needed to be sampled to supplement data collected during Federal Branch Phase II Site Screening report in 1992, Charlotte and I noted several drums of tailing waste located in warehouses at the old Mine area. The warehouses and other building structures on the old mine area have most of their roofs removed and the drums are not located in confined space storage. There are approximately 20 to 30 drums each about 30-gallons containing brown to black and light brown mineral cuttings. We planned to return to sample the drums and tailing areas in May 1997 after I had made some phone conversations with previous mine owners and current owners Louisburg Hardwood, about the on-site drums (Old Mine area only). No drums, nor tailings were noted at the New Mine area.

I called Sean Szompathy with Atlas Mine and Mill, P.O. Box 11703, Spokane, Washington 99211, PH# (208)726-9356 to get information on the pyrite tailings stored in the 30-gallon drums located in the warehouse storage areas of the old mine areas. He did not know if the drums contained anything but pyrite cuttings from the mill process. He noted that Ranchers and Hecla, previous site owners may have left the drums on the site. He confirmed that the current owners at the site are Louisburg Lumber.

I also contacted Mr. Gary Gamble of Hecla Mining Company about information as to why the drums were not removed from the site during a removal of materials from an on-site lab during an independent removal in 1994 by Hecla Mining. I mentioned to Gary that I noted

approximately 20 drums of a black to brown powder(some metallic) stacked in a warehouse at the site and I was trying to determine their origin. He said that Hecla and Atlas had an agreement during the sale of the property that Hecla was only required to remove the chemicals from the lab it had left on site prior to ownership of the mine by Atlas Mining and Mill. The current owners of the property, Louisburg Hardwood own the property only for its timber and knew nothing about the drums. Gary did not know the origin of the drums.

I also contacted Harvey Allen at Allen and Associates to get further information about the 30-gallon drummed waste of pyrite tailing from the site. He did some of the sampling at the site when he worked for the Federal NC Superfund during the Site Screening Investigation in 1992. He did not know what the drums contained beside pyrite tailings. He also confirmed that when Hecla and Atlas completed the removal of the chemicals from the site these drums were never sampled. They weren't part of the removal proposal by Hecla and Atlas.

In summary of the four telephone calls, listed are the contacts:

Current owners of the Site:	Louisburg Hardwood P.O. Box 951 Louisburg, North Carolina 27549 Ph# (919) 496-0104 Contact: Wayne Hutson Owner: Warren Griffin
Most recent past owner:	Atlas Mine and Mill Spokane, Washington 99211 Ph# (208) 726-9356 Contact: Sean Szompathy
Owner prior to Atlas:	Hecla Mining Company Idaho Ph# (208) 769-4154 Contact: Gary Gamble Environmental Supervisor
Owners prior to Hecla:	Ranchers Exploration no address (out of business)
Previous Superfund Site Samplers:	Harvey , Allen H. Allen & Associates 134 Wheat Way Fayetteville, NC 28314 Ph# (919) 867-8383

Directions to Tungsten New and Old Mine Site from Raleigh:

Leave Raleigh by Highway 50 to Creedmoor. Take Highway 50 to Highway 15 North through Oxford. Stay on Highway 15 from Oxford through Stovall to the crossroad at Bullock. Turn right onto State Road 1445 (Faucette Road) at the crossroad. Take SR 1445 east and cross Island Creek into Vance County. Come to sign marked Tungsten and turn left off SR 1445 onto SR 1348 or Mine Road. Take Mine Road approximately 1.25 miles to first of the mine entrances. This entrance is to the New Mine area. This entrance is noted by an abandoned building and fenced area on the right and left side of the road. The fenced area is locked west of the SR 1348 and open on the east side of the road. North of this entrance is a church located on the west side of the New Mine area. Continue on SR 1348 for 1 to 1.5 miles to the main entrance at a sharp curve. The entrance to the main mine (Old Mine area) is located to the left. Several abandoned buildings and a water tower are evident from the gate entrance.

Following these telephone calls a Site sampling trip was scheduled for May 12, 1997 to the Old and New Mine areas of Tungsten Queen mine. John Walch and I from the Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch sampled the New Mine site and Old Mine Site on May 12, 1997 (attached memo). Two soil samples were collected from the New Mine Site and sixteen from the Old Mine Site. Three grab samples were collected from the drum areas in the warehouse of the Old Mine Site, one from each drum area (see attached lab data - only included background ^{silver} samples and samples from drums). Elevated levels antimony, arsenic, cadmium, ~~chromium~~, lead, zinc and copper of metals were detected above Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch Remediation goals from the grabs samples collected from the drums. These drums area located in a warehouse that is accessible to the public. Although the Tungsten Queen Mine front entrance to the Old Mine area is fenced in some areas, the site is accessible to the public. This was noted during a site reconnaissance where teenagers on motorbikes were noted driving over the tailing waste. These drums should be removed and access to the site limited.

MEMO

DATE: April 4, 1997

TO: File

FROM: Keith Snavelly *Keith Snavelly*
Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch
NC Superfund Section

RE: Site reconnaissance
Tungsten Queen Mine Site
Tungsten, Vance Co.
NCD #082 362 989

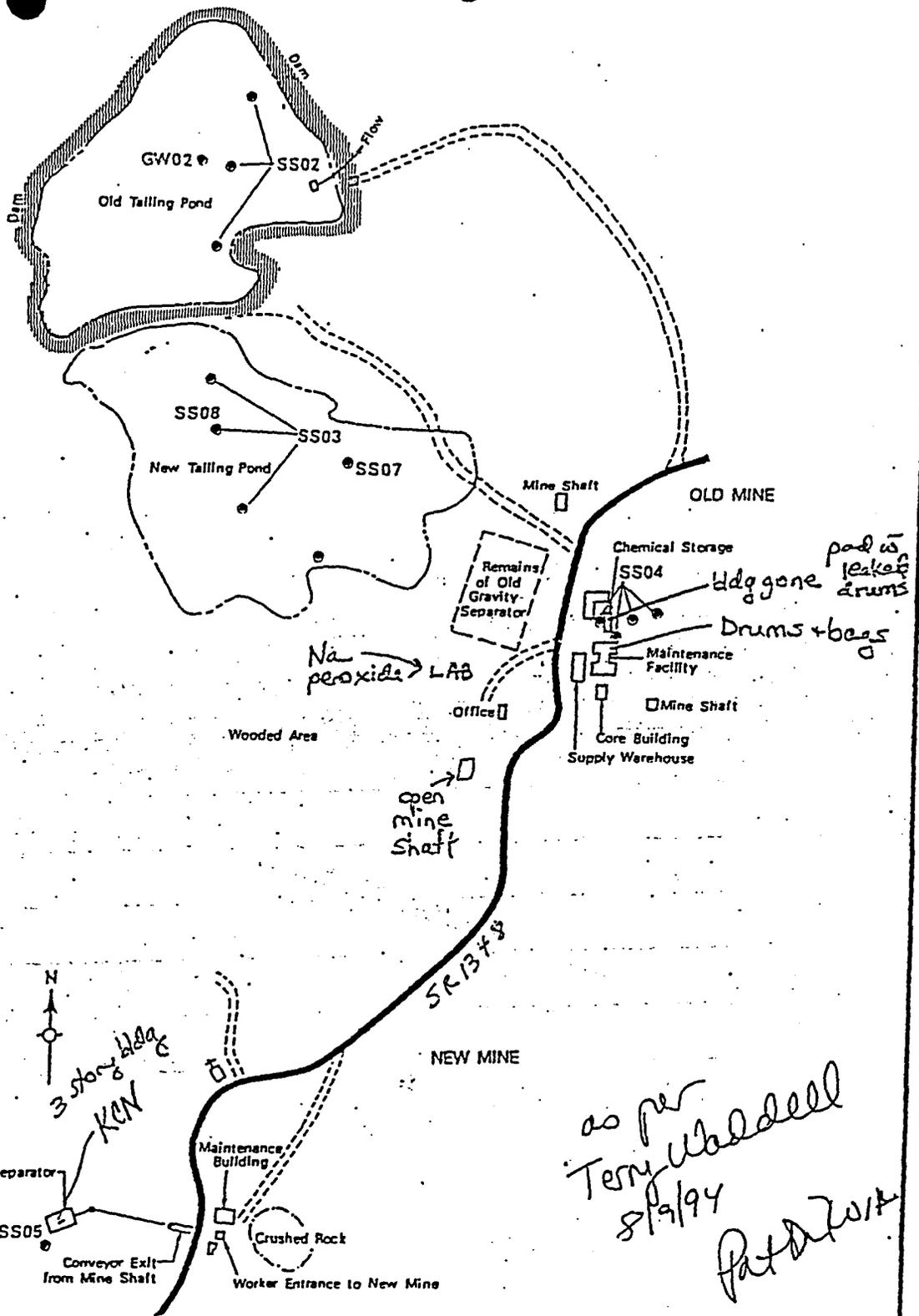
On March 27, 1997, Charlotte Jesneck and I conducted a site reconnaissance at the referenced site. We met Wayne Hudson, an employee of Louisburg Lumber (current owners of the mine site) in Stovall and followed him to the site at about 9:00 AM. The directions from Raleigh office to mine site are as follows. Leave Raleigh by Highway 50 to Creedmoor. Take Highway 50 to Highway 15 North through Oxford. Stay on Highway 15 from Oxford through Stovall to the crossroad at Bullock. Turn right onto State Road 1445 ("Faucette Road"). Take SR 1445 east crossing Island Creek and into Vance County. Come to sign marked Tungsten and turn left off SR 1445 onto SR 1348 or "Mine Road". Take Mine Road approximately 1.25 miles to first of the mine entrances. This entrance is to the new mine area. This entrance is noted by an abandoned building and fenced area on the right and left side of the road. The fenced area is locked west of the road and open on the east side of the road. The east side of the road is noted with an abandoned building and an area of crushed rock. North of this location is a church on SR 1348. Continue on SR 1348 for 1 to 1.5 miles to the main entrance at a sharp curve. The entrance to the main mine (old mine area) is located to the left. Several abandoned buildings and a water tower are evident from the gate entrance.

Charlotte and I initially did not stop at the new mine entrance, but later returned to the new mine area when we left the old mine site. Wayne drove us from the entrance of the old mine area past several buildings to the two tailings ponds. We returned to the main entrance and He left us to continued our site reconnaissance. Charlotte and I surveyed the buildings located at the main entrance. To the left inside the main gate is an office, an abandoned lab and a road running parallel to the gate to the left of the entrance leading to a mine shaft. Other buildings to the right of the entrance road are abandoned warehouses, storage buildings and mine shaft. One of the storage buildings contains drums of what appears to be crushed metal powder. However, several drums are not labeled. A removal of chemicals from on site labs was conducted at the site in August 1994, but NC Superfund Section does not have a copy of this report. It is unclear as to whether the materials in the drums have been tested. I plan to call about this later today or by next week (April 7th to 11th, 1997).

Charlotte and I continued the reconnaissance from the buildings north to the tailings ponds. Left of the road towards the tailings pond the large remains of the old gravity separator are present. This separator overlooks an estimated 15- 20 acres of a lower tailings pond and then another 15 to 20 acres of tailings pond adjacent to Island Creek. The gravity separator area contains several levels of concrete structures. A large UST was noted on-site laying out on the concrete structure. Its location and position of manhole of the UST made it difficult to note if any material was present inside the UST. The sands from tailings pond adjacent to the gravity separator are white and gray with the western end adjacent to a Dam covered by several feet of water. The upper pond area adjacent to Island Creek is partly owned by the US Army Corp of Engineers and noted by a fence line with the Corps symbol. However, the fence line is flat in some areas and easily accessible by foot. While Charlotte and I were walking around the tailings sands, two guys on dirt motor bikes came riding down the dam and across both tailings ponds. According to a previous SSI assessment, the ponds had signs stating "hazardous levels of lead posted", these are no longer posted. In addition, the bikes had no problem driving across the Corps property even though "restricted federal property " signs were noted hanging from the fence. The sands in some areas were gray to green possibly from oxidation of the coppers and sulfides from the Tungsten ore.

Prior to observing the tailings ponds and storage areas, a large drainage ditch and dump area is located east of the storage buildings near the gate entrance to the old mine area. This drainage area flows towards several residents located east of the mine. The drainage area contained paper, bottles, machinery from appliances and various other trash material. We did not note any hazardous materials or drummed waste in this ditch. We left the site about 1:00 PM. Upon leaving the old mine area we observed a map prepared by Green Horne and O'mara during the SSI conducted at the site. It was a little confusing as to the location of the new mine area. After leaving the site we drove down SR 1348 and noted the new mine area. This location made the map more understandable as to the locations of both mine areas. We stopped at the new mine area, however the location of the gravity separator at the new mine was fenced and locked. The maintenance building located east of the SR 1348 was accessible. We briefly walked this site and noted the abandoned building and mine shaft secured. We left the mine site at about 1:30 PM. After stopping for lunch in Oxford we returned to Raleigh by 3:30PM.

A sketch of the site was completed by Charlotte and I added some text about our site recon. In addition to our reconnaissance, there was an inspection of the facility conducted by Terry Waddell completed prior to the chemical removal conducted in August 1994. See attachments for site locations. The one building Charlotte and I were not able to inspect was a three story building at the new mine area. There was supposed to have been a cleanup conducted at this building during the August 1994 cleanup.



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE

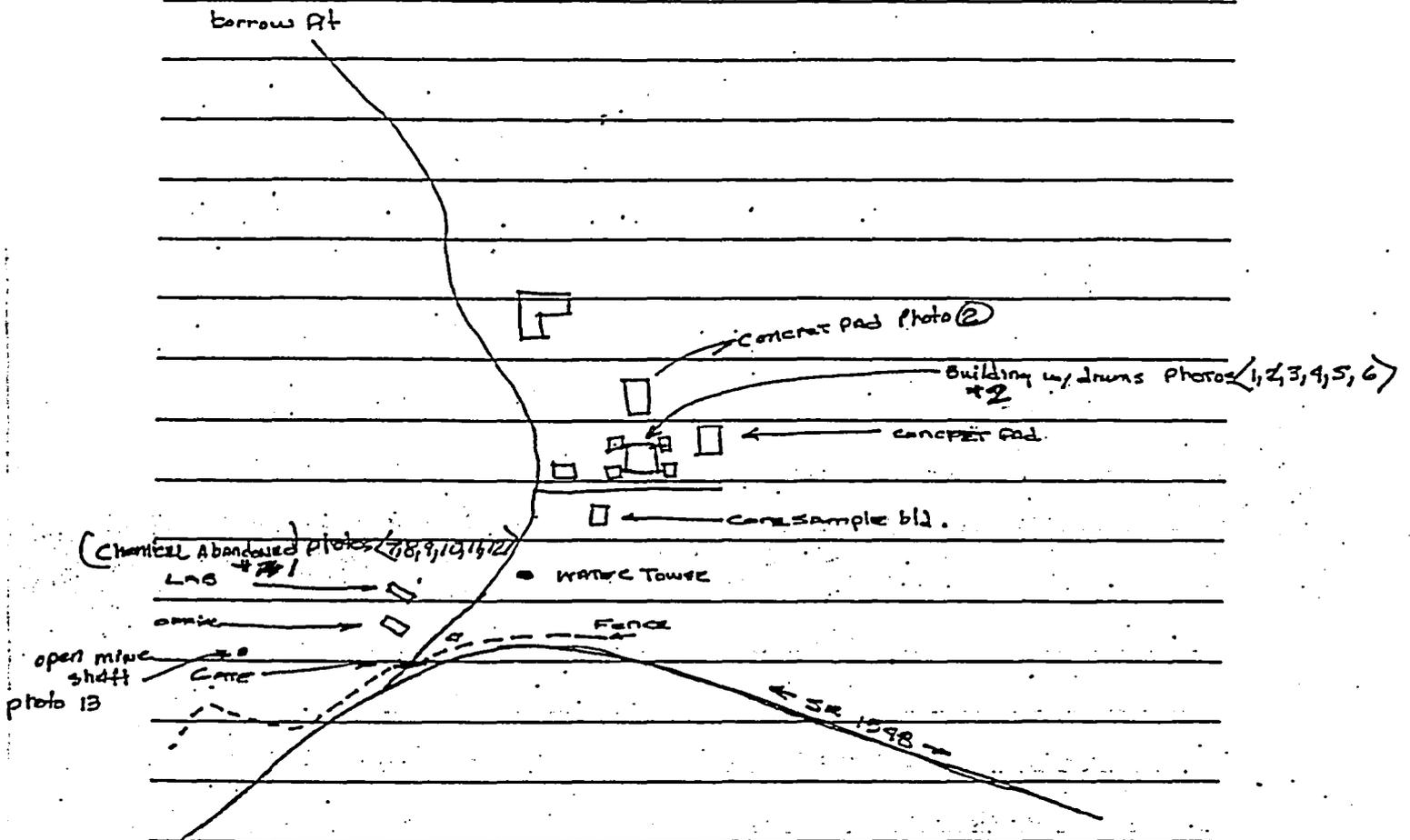
NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2B



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS
GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.
 9001 EDMONSTON ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
 (301) 962-2800
 ALPHARETTA GA • ATLANTA GA • ALBUQUERQUE NM • BALTIMORE MD • CHARLOTTE NC • CHICAGO IL
 COLUMBIA SC • DENVER CO • HOUSTON TX • MEMPHIS TN • NEW YORK NY • RICHMOND VA • TAMPA FL

SITE LAYOUT
SAMPLING POINTS
 NCD 082 362 989



Building #2 (photos 1, 3, 4, 5, 6) houses several drums of and unknown material. It appears to be some type of metallic powder. Most of the drums are in good shape, but some have completely rusted out. Concrete pad (was a building) (photo #2) held a few drums, most empty. (There was a heavy sulfur smell at that location.)

Building #1 (photos 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) was a LAB. Inside there are several containers of chemicals, some of the chemicals are; (photo 7) mini drums of sulfuric acid; (photo 8) Table top numerous containers (note empty container of perchloric acid); Bench bottom shelf (photo 9) numerous containers (note broken bottles); Bench top (photo 10) several containers, one of which is Arsenic trioxide.

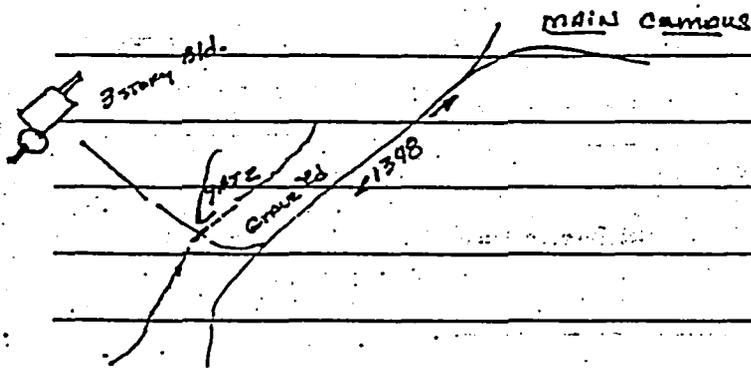
(LAB CONT.)

Bench Top < photo 11 > broken box with containers of Sodium Peroxide (NOTE white crystal from Leaking container)

Bench Top < photo 12 > numerous containers of chemicals.

This building is NOT secure and is accessible by any curious person.

The other Mines site Location of Concern is down SE 1348 approx 1/2 mile from MAIN Campus.



ON second floor of this location is a LAB with various small container of chemicals & reagents. One container in particular is potassium cyanide.

- Most of the sites consist of large mining equip & machinery. There is obvious signs of intruder damage from fire arms and vandalism.
- Near entrance to main campus, there exist an OPEN mine shaft unsecured photo < 13 >
- In conclusion I believe emergency or imminent hazard exist (Owner are Atlas Mine, Spokane WA.) Recommend is owner is NOT ABLE to remediate the imminent hazard, the STATE should do so.

MEMO

DATE: May 20, 1997

TO: File

FROM: Keith Snavely, Hydrogeologist *RK*
Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch
NC Superfund Section

RE: Tungsten Queen Mine
Tungsten, Vance Co
NCD 082 362 989

John Walch and I from the IHS Branch of NC Superfund arrived at the Tungsten Queen Mine site on May 12, 1997 at 8:45 AM to conduct a site reconnaissance and soil sampling of the New Mine area and extensive sampling of drummed waste and tailings from waste ponds of the Old Mine area of the Tungsten Queen Mine site. We met Mrs. Pearl ~~Farrington~~ *tharrington*, owner of a portion of the property of the New Mine area located west of SR 1348 or Mine Road. This part of the New Mine was locked and enclosed by a chain-linked fence and we had to contact the ~~Farringtons~~ *tharringtons* for site access. The other half of the New Mine (or eastern part) of the New Mine is located east of SR 1348 and contains a one-story building and an abandoned mine shaft that has been sealed and enclosed by a fence. Charlotte Jesneck and I conducted a site reconnaissance of the eastern part of the Mine on March 27, 1997. No tailings or drummed material was noted at the eastern part of the New Mine and this part of the mine was not locked although it was surrounded by a fence.

Two composite soil samples (TQMNM C01) and (TQMNM C02) were collected from ground surface to a depth of 6 inches at the New Mine. One was collected from soils adjacent to a razed building (once 3-stories) at the New Mine and the second was collected from an area 50 feet south of the building structure. These composite soil samples were analyzed for arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc (Hazardous substance list metals). The site reconnaissance indicated two on-site drums, one (55-gallon) that contained a mixture of water and petroleum substances and a second (30-gallon) partially filled with water and petroleum. A black stain of petroleum on the concrete floor of the building structure was noted adjacent to the 55-gallon drum. Each composite sample contained sandy soils and gravel fill. Each composite sample consisted of grab samples from 4 different locations composited in 25 foot squares. A GPS location (File # R051213A) was collected at the corner of the building structure at the New Mine. Sampling was completed from the ~~Farrington~~ *tharrington* property by 10:00 pm and John and I left the site and continued to the Old Mine site located approximately 0.5 miles north of the New Mine. Mrs. Pearl ~~Farrington~~ *tharrington* returned home.

John and I arrived at the Old Mine area at around 10:00 AM. It is located approximately 0.5 miles north of the New Mine. We parked along the main road entrance adjacent to the abandoned warehouses and began to sample the cuttings and the pyrite tailings waste stored in numerous 30-gallon drums. We sampled waste material from three of the drums for metals from the warehouse (TQMD01, TQMD02 and TQMD03). One sample was collected from drums that were near complete deterioration (possibly from the drying agents (noted in print on the drums)), a second sample was collected from black metallic powder (possibly iron) and a third was collected from brown soils that were a fine powder. No odors were noted from the sampling of any of the drums, which many were uncovered. The drums in the eastern half of the warehouse were stacked two to three layers high and sealed. A GPS location (File # R051214A) was recorded at the warehouse. The sampling and GPS location was completed at 11:00 AM. We collected 3 grab background samples (TQMB01, TQMB02 and TQMB03) after the collection of the grab samples from the drums. One of the background samples was collected in the wooded area west of the Office inside the fence of the Old Mine site. The other two were collected outside of the gate east of SR 1348 below the power lines. These samples were 50 to 75 feet apart from each other and collected in clayey sandy soils. There was a GPS location collected for each background sample. We completed the collection of the background samples by 11:30 AM and broke for lunch for one hour.

Sampling was resumed by 12:30 PM in the tailing ponds located northwest of the warehouses and west of the gravity separator. We collected 4 composite samples from 50 foot square grids from each pond (Upper - adjacent to Island creek (TQMU01- TQMU04; and Lower- adjacent to gravity separator (TQMLP01-TQMLP04). Each composite sample consisted of 4 grab aliquots. In addition, two grab samples (TQM G01LP and TQM G01U) were collected from two hand-auger samples, one in each of the tailing ponds to a depth of 1 foot below ground surface. These samples were limited in depth because of groundwater encountered at 1 to 2 feet below ground surface in both tailing ponds. GPS locations (R51216A - 19C) were collected at each composite location (in the middle of the square grid of each set of 4 grabs or aliquots) and at each hand-auger hole. A total of 15 GPS locations and 18 soil samples were collected. John and I completed our sampling of the Old Mine by 3:45 and left both mine areas by 4:00 PM and returned to the Raleigh Office by 5:30 PM.

Site Number NCD 082 362 989 Field Sample Number 017183

Name of Site Tungsten Quech Mine Site Location Tungsten, Vance County - SR 1348

Collected By RKS/JW ID# - Date Collected 5-12-97 Time 11:15
Kenn Stanley

Agency: Hazardous Waste Solid Waste Superfund

Sample Type

<u>Environmental</u>	<u>Concentrate</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground water (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid (5)	<u>Background soil sample collected</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface water (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Liquid (6)	<u>in water area with large amount</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil (3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sludge (7)	<u>of kaf covering - TQM B&I - ...</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (8)	<u>Background sample #1 - within site fenced area</u>

TCLP Compounds

Inorganic Compounds	Results(mg/l)
<input type="checkbox"/> Arsenic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barium	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cadmium	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chromium	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lead	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mercury	
<input type="checkbox"/> Selenium	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	

Organic Chemistry

Inorganic Chemistry

Parameter	Results(mg/l)
<input type="checkbox"/> P&T:GC/MS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acid:B/N Ext.	
<input type="checkbox"/> MTBE	

Parameter	Results(mg/kg)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arsenic	<u>3.9</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Barium	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cadmium	<u><9.8</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Chloride	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chromium	<u>92</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copper	<u>20</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fluoride	
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lead	<u>57</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Manganese	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mercury	<u><0.1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Nitrate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selenium	<u><2</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Silver	<u><9.8</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sulfates	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zinc	<u>88</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pH	<u>4.0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Conductivity	
<input type="checkbox"/> TDS	
<input type="checkbox"/> TOC	

Organic Compounds	Results(mg/l)
<input type="checkbox"/> benzene	
<input type="checkbox"/> carbon tetrachloride	
<input type="checkbox"/> chlordane	
<input type="checkbox"/> chlorobenzene	
<input type="checkbox"/> chloroform	
<input type="checkbox"/> o-cresol	
<input type="checkbox"/> m-cresol	
<input type="checkbox"/> p-cresol	
<input type="checkbox"/> cresol	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1,4-dichlorobenzene	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1,2-dichloroethane	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1,1-dichloroethylene	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2,4-dinitrotoluene	
<input type="checkbox"/> heptachlor	
<input type="checkbox"/> hexachlorobenzene	
<input type="checkbox"/> hexachlorobutadiene	
<input type="checkbox"/> hexachloroethane	
<input type="checkbox"/> methyl ethyl ketone	
<input type="checkbox"/> nitrobenzene	
<input type="checkbox"/> pentachlorophenol	
<input type="checkbox"/> pyridine	
<input type="checkbox"/> tetrachloroethylene	
<input type="checkbox"/> trichloroethylene	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2,4,5-trichlorophenol	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2,4,6-trichlorophenol	
<input type="checkbox"/> vinyl chloride	
<input type="checkbox"/> endrin	
<input type="checkbox"/> lindane	
<input type="checkbox"/> methoxychlor	
<input type="checkbox"/> toxaphene	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2,4-D	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	

Radiochemistry

Parameter	Results (PCI/l)
<input type="checkbox"/> Gross Alpha	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gross Beta	

Microbiology

Parameter	Results (Col/100ml)

Parameter	Results(mg/kg)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beryllium	<u><2.0</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nickel	<u><9.8</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thallium	<u><2.0</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antimony	<u><3.9</u>

Date Received _____ Reported by _____

Date Extracted _____ Date Reported _____

Date Analyzed _____ Lab Number _____

006634 MAY 14 1997

August 12, 1994

TO: File

FROM: Pat DeRosa, CERCLA Branch Head
NC Superfund Section 

SUBJECT: Tungsten Queen Mine
NCD082362989
Townsville, Vance County, NC

On August 10, 1994, I spoke by telephone with Ken Deeder, Sales Manager, Atlas Mine and Mill (509) 535-2039 about the subject site. He told me that he did not know anything about the site and that I needed to talk to Shawn Szombathy, the company president, about the site. He said that Mr. Szombathy was out of the country and could not be reached and that he would not be back until Monday (August 15, 1994). He said that he had received a call from EPA and that he was sure the company would take care of the problem. I asked him if they had any plans for visiting the site in the near future and he said no.

On August 11, 1994, I spoke again by telephone with Mr. Deeder. He said that the previous owners, Hecla Mining Company, were working on removing the chemicals and that I should contact Dave Holland at (208) 769-4100.

I then spoke with Terry Waddell who was at the site earlier that day. He said that Shawn Szombathy was at the site and that he had spoken with him. Mr. Szombathy had been in Canada. Mr. Szombathy confirmed that Hecla Mining Company, a previous owner of the site, was planning to remove the chemicals and that we should contact them about the status. He thought that the removal contractor was AETC and that Harvey Allen with Allen and Associates was the oversight contractor for Hecla.

On August 12, 1994, I spoke by telephone with Harvey Allen (910) 485-3413 who confirmed that he had been contracted by Hecla to oversee the removal. He said the removal was scheduled to begin on August 22, 1994 and that he would contact Gary Gamble with Hecla and ask him to contact me to confirm the date.

I then received a call from Gary Gamble Environmental Supervisor, Hecla Mining Company in Idaho (208) 769-4154. Mr. Gamble confirmed that the removal contract had been awarded to Advanced Environmental Technology Corporation (AETC) in Creedmore,

Memo to file
August 12, 1994
page 2

NC (919) 528-3996 and the contact there was Ms. Stacy Goodwin. He said they were scheduled to begin work on August 22, 1994 and that AETC was responsible for obtaining all the necessary permits. I told him I would relay this information to Terry Waddell and EPA. I mentioned to him that the site was not secure and that there was a hole in the fence and evidence of children getting in there and also evidence of vandalism. He said that Atlas, the current owner, was responsible for site security.

I then spoke by telephone again with Terry Waddell and informed him that the removal was scheduled to begin on August 22, 1994 as per Mr. Gamble. Terry said that during his discussion with Mr. Howard Compton and Mr. Szombathy he suggested that they put up hazard tape at all entrances or holes in the fence where children could enter. He also pointed out areas where mine shafts were accessible. Terry said that Mr. Compton said he would put up the tape and Mr. Szombathy said he would take care of securing the mine shafts.

cc: Bill Steiner, US EPA
Terry Waddell, Hazardous Waste Section
Bruce Nicholson
Jack Butler

August 9, 1994

TO: File

FROM: Pat DeRosa, CERCLA Branch Head *Pat DeRosa*
NC Superfund Section

SUBJECT: Tungsten Queen Mine
NCD082362989
Townsville, Vance County, NC

On August 9, 1994, I spoke with Terry Waddell, Hazardous Waste Section, Raleigh Regional Office (919) 571-4700 regarding his discovery of drums, bags, and assorted bottles of discarded chemicals in and around buildings at the subject site. A copy of his report is attached. Based on the apparent presence of at least some reactive and non-compatible species in the buildings on site, the accessibility of materials and evidence of children playing and possibly vagrants living on site, Terry requested that we contact the US EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) to request emergency action.

I then called Bill Steiner, US EPA ERRB, (404) 347-3931 ext. 6124, to request that EPA evaluate this site for an emergency removal. I told him of our concerns regarding the chemicals present and accessibility of the site as well as the presence of open mine shafts. I told him that company representatives were supposed to be visiting the site on August 11, 1994 and that that might be a good opportunity for an OSC to meet with the company contacts since they were based in Spokane, Washington. I gave him the following contacts names:

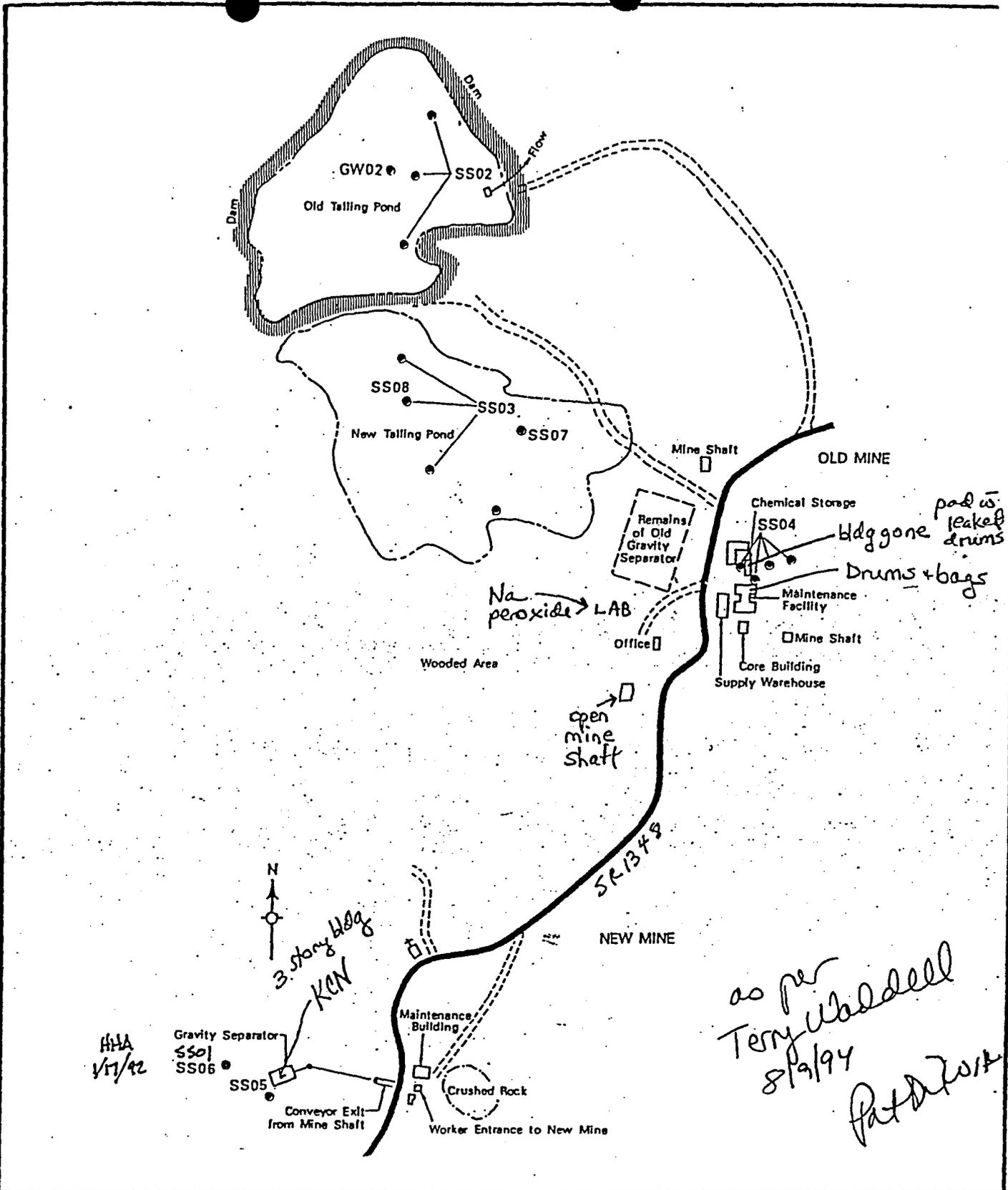
Owner: Atlas Mines (aka Mine Supply, Inc.)
Contact Shan Szombathy or Ken Deeder, (509) 535-2039

Key available with Howard Compton locally at (919) 492-5531

I also told him that if US EPA was going to visit the site, they should contact Terry Waddell by pager 1-800-412-9660 since Terry was most familiar with site conditions. Bill Steiner said that he needed to discuss this site with Shane Hitchcock and others in ERRB and that he would get back to me this afternoon or tomorrow with a response.

attachments

cc: Bruce Nicholson (with attachments)
Jack Butler



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2B



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS

GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.

9001 EDMONSTON ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
(301) 982-2800

ANNAPOLIS MD • ATLANTA GA • AURORA CO • BALTIMORE MD • CLAYTON VA • DULUTH GA
ESPLAN PA • FARMER VA • MANASSAS VA • RALEIGH NC • ROCKVILLE MD • TAMPA FL

**SITE LAYOUT
SAMPLING POINTS**

NCD 082 362 989

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH and NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
 HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION
 ACTIVITY REPORT

Subject Investigation of Report of Abandoned Chemicals

Location Tungsten Mines

Date 8-1-94

Address SR 1348

Time spent 8 hr.

City Tungsten

State N.C.

Zip _____

By whom Terry W. Waddell - HWS, Ben Barnes - SWM.

Persons contacted EUGENE JAYNES - High School Student.

(Owner, agent, tenant, manager, other)

Reason for visit REPORTED ABANDONED CHEMICALS

Copies to _____

REPORT:

8-1-94, Site visit to the Tungsten Mine property on SR 1348, Tungsten N.C. in Northern Vance Co. revealed the following information.

- Site is secured by a chain link fence but areas of accessibility are available. While entering the facility a high school student, Eugene Jaynes, drove by and asked what we were doing. After we ID. ourselves & our purpose, he (Eugene) offered to show us the facility. Eugene said that he has explored the site all of his life, including hunting & swimming. Eugene, when asked, said he knew of drums of material and chemicals in 2 different labs.

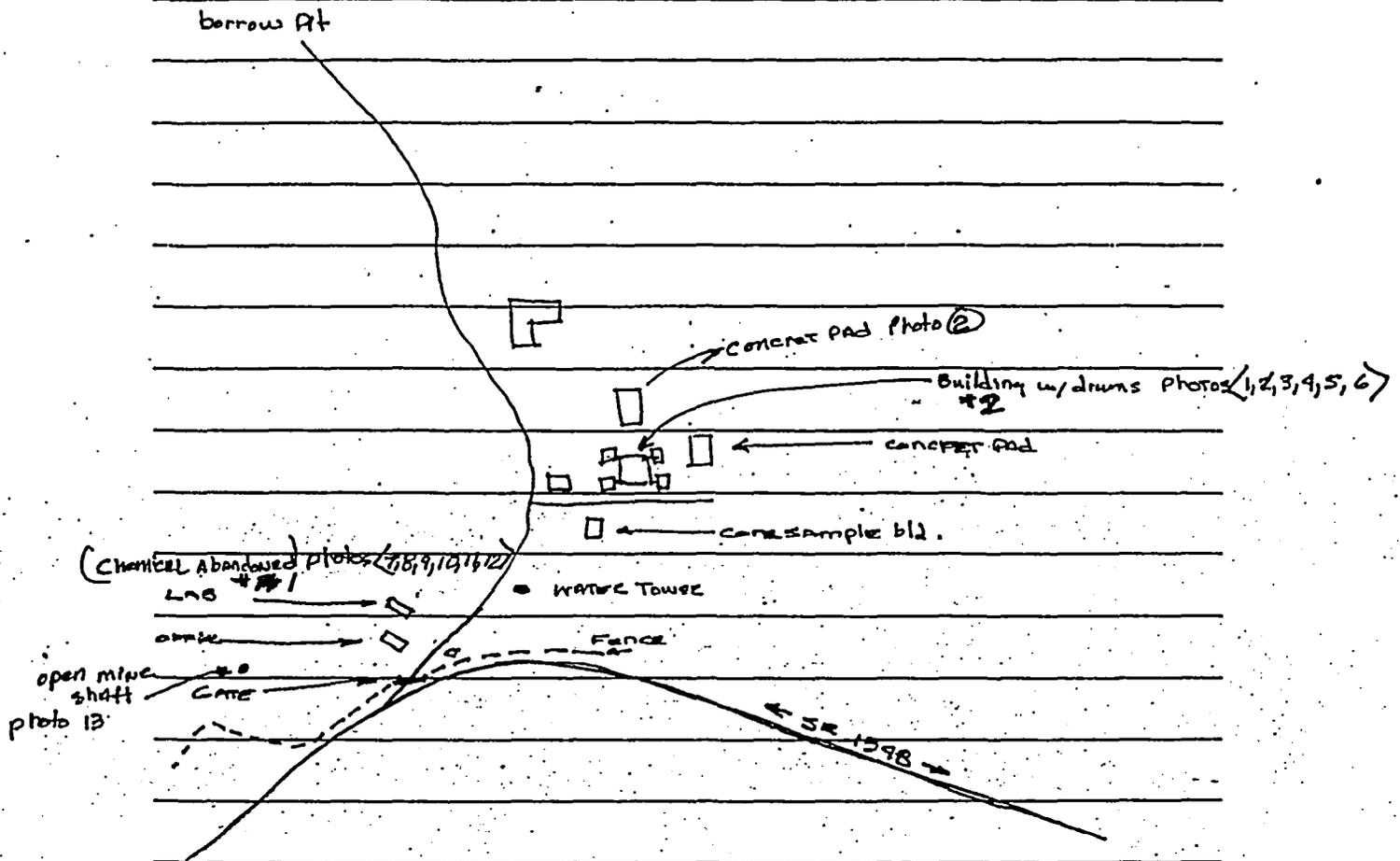
- The facility (main campus) was closed in mid 1970's due to cheaper Chinese imports of Tungsten. Other locations exist

down the road. Site consist of several abandon buildings, conveyers, crushers, ~~barrow~~ barrow pit, water towers & mine shaft.

Activity Type:

Check Most Appropriate

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Complaint | <u>X</u> | 5. Presentation | _____ |
| 2. Emergency Response | _____ | 6. Training | _____ |
| 3. Technical Assistance | _____ | 7. Meeting | _____ |
| 4. Remedial Action
(other than WPCA) | _____ | 8. Other | _____ |



Building #2 (photos 1, 3, 4, 5, 6) houses several drums of an unknown material. It appears to be some type of metallic powder. Most of the drums are in good shape, but some have completely rusted out. Concrete pad (was a building) (photo #2) held a few drums, most empty. (There was a heavy sulfur smell at that location.)

Building #1 (photos 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) was a lab. Inside there is several containers of chemicals, some of the chemicals are; (photo 7) mini drums of sulfuric acid; (photo 8) table top numerous containers (note empty container of perchloric acid); Bench bottom shelf (photo 9) numerous containers (note broken bottles); Bench top (photo 10) several containers, one of which is Arsenic trioxide.

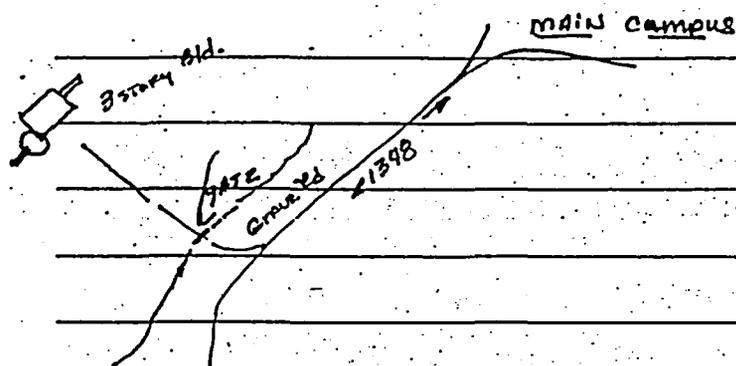
(LAB cont.)

Bench Top < photo 11 > broken box with containers of Sodium Peroxide (NOTE white crystal from leaking container)

Bench Top < photo 12 > numerous containers of chemicals.

This building is NOT secure and is accessible by any curious person.

The other Mines site location of concern is down SR 1398 approx 1/2 mile from MAIN campus.



ON second floor of this location is A LAB with various small containers of chemicals & reagents. One container in particular is Potassium cyanide.

- Most of the sites consist of large mining equip bld & machinery. There is obvious signs of intruder damage from firearms and vandalism.
- Near entrance to main campus, there exist an OPEN mine shaft unsecured photo < 13 >
- In conclusion I believe emergency or imminent hazard exist. (Owner are ATLAS Mine, Spokane WA.) Recommend its owner is NOT ABLE to remediate the imminent hazard, the STATE should do so.

Owners of the site.; Mine Supply Inc. (Atlas Mines)

P.O. Box 11703

Spokane, WA 99211

Contact Howard Compton (919) 492 5531

11:00 AM EST

CONTACTED ATLAS MINE @ (509) 535-2039 ON 8-4-94 alerted

receptionist of problem and ask responsible person to

call or page me ASAP. She indicate that SHAN Szombathy

would have knowledge of site. Attempt to call @ 2:18 EST - Mr.

Szombathy was NOT IN. Attempted to call 8-5-94, Receptionist

told me to speak to Ken Deeder.

I explained situation to Deeder & asked when

a rep from his company planned to be at the site. Mr.

Deeder did not know. Mr. Deeder indicated I needed

to speak to SHAN Szombathy.

①



8-1-94 Bld #2 ENTRANCE Tungsten Mine J.M.H.

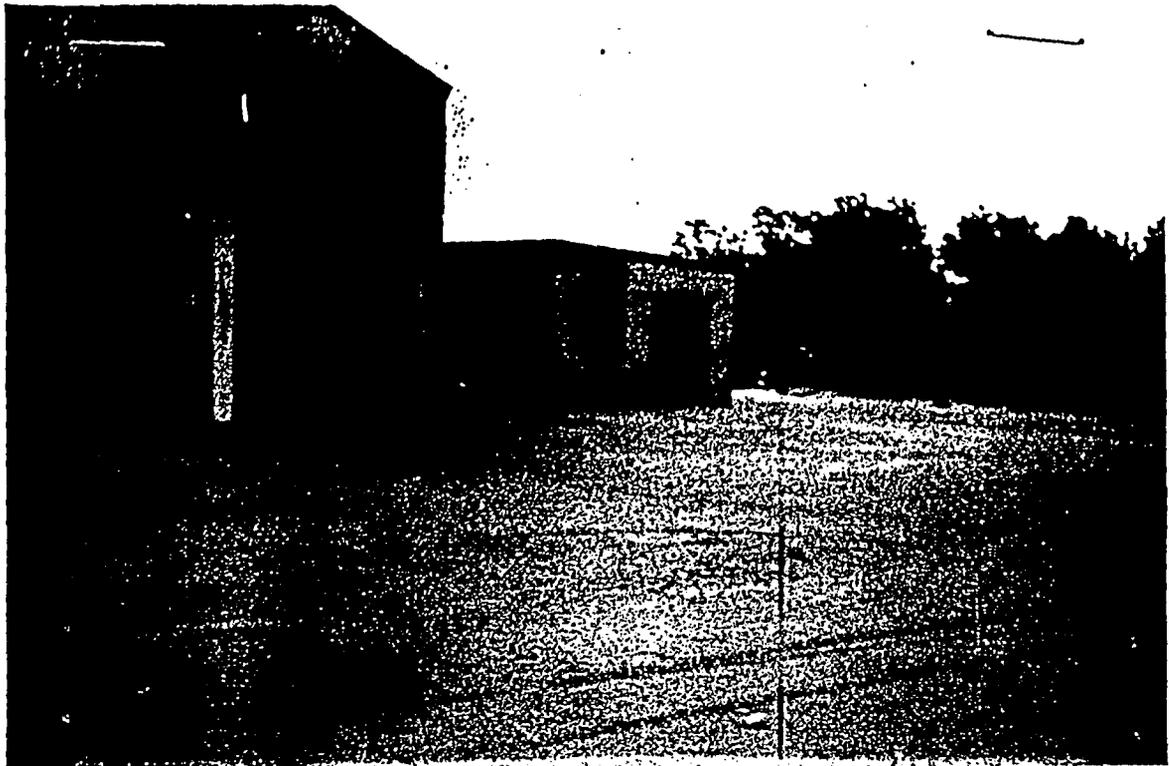
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Pad Behind Bld #2 Tungsten Mine

8-1-94

①



8-1-94 Bld #C Entrance Tungsten Mine JMM

②



PAD Behind Bld #C Tungsten Mine
8-1-94



2-1-74
APR
Topster, White
156 12
Bavetto & i

③

④

2-1-74
APR
156 12
Bavetto & i



5



Interior of the workshop showing various equipment and materials.

6



Two cylindrical containers, possibly cans or drums, showing their contents.

7



2-1-77 Lab #1 246 Thompson Mine - sulfuric acid

8



2-1-77 Lab #1 246 Thompson Mine - empty cust. of sulfuric acid



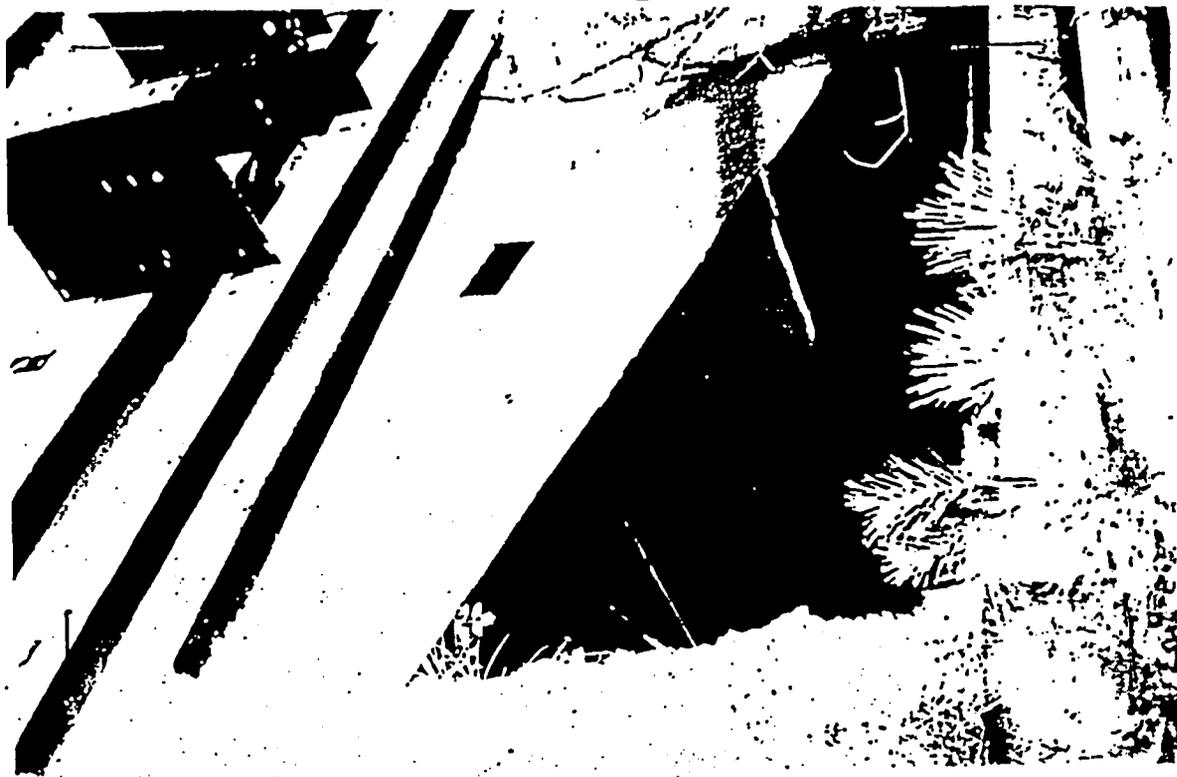
8-1-77
Lab
Tungsten Mine
Abandoned Mine

(10)



8-1-77
Lab
Tungsten Mine
Abandoned Mine

13



8-1-77 ... min shaft @ Tinset, Minn.

August 9, 1994

TO: File

FROM: Pat DeRosa, CERCLA Branch Head *Pat*
NC Superfund Section

SUBJECT: Tungsten Queen Mine
NCD082362989
Townsville, Vance County, NC

On August 9, 1994, I spoke with Terry Waddell, Hazardous Waste Section, Raleigh Regional Office (919) 571-4700 regarding his discovery of drums, bags, and assorted bottles of discarded chemicals in and around buildings at the subject site. A copy of his report is attached. Based on the apparent presence of at least some reactive and non-compatible species in the buildings on site, the accessibility of materials and evidence of children playing and possibly vagrants living on site, Terry requested that we contact the US EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) to request emergency action.

I then called Bill Steiner, US EPA ERRB, (404) 347-3931 ext. 6124, to request that EPA evaluate this site for an emergency removal. I told him of our concerns regarding the chemicals present and accessibility of the site as well as the presence of open mine shafts. I told him that company representatives were supposed to be visiting the site on August 11, 1994 and that that might be a good opportunity for an OSC to meet with the company contacts since they were based in Spokane, Washington. I gave him the following contacts names:

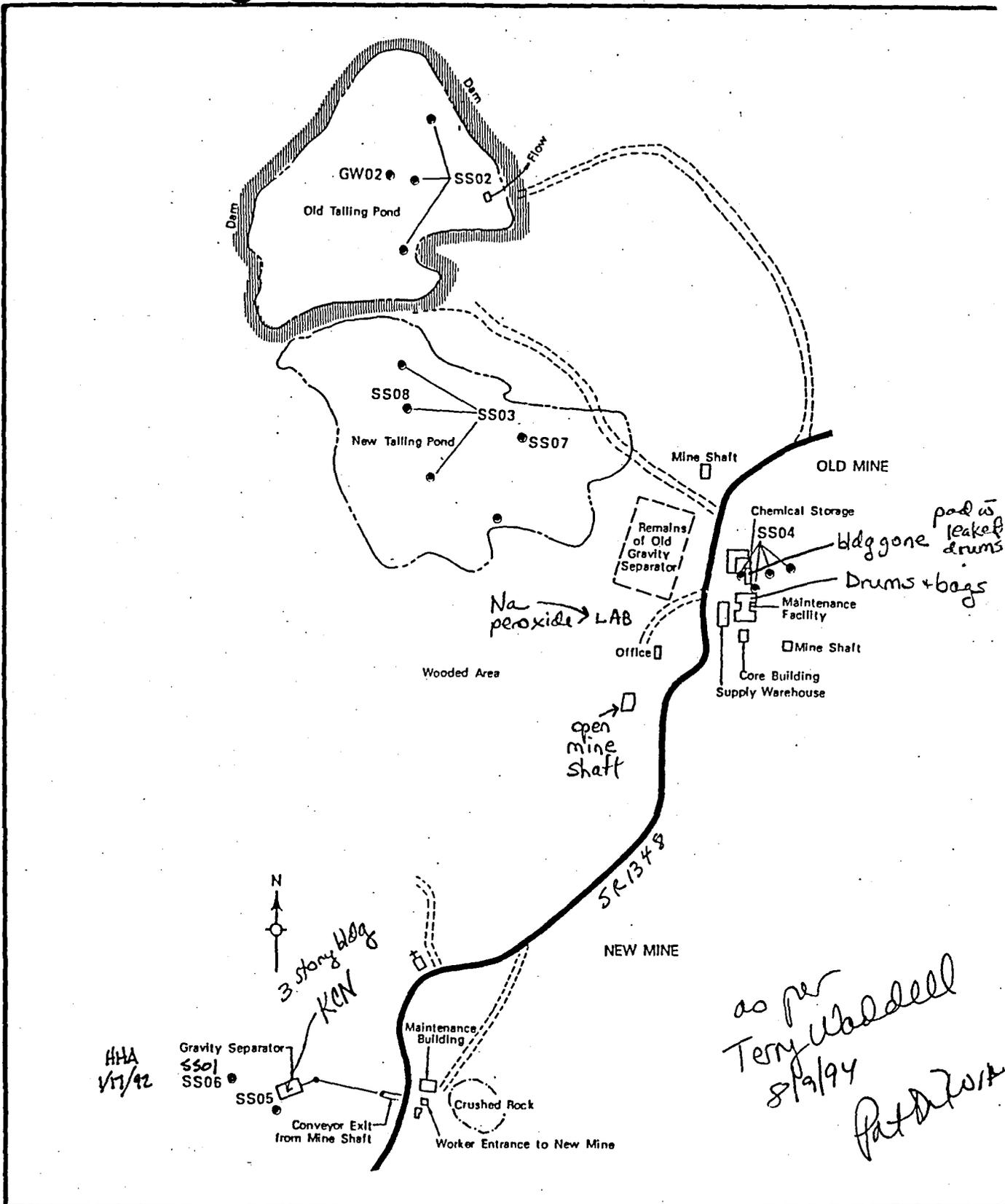
Owner: Atlas Mines (aka Mine Supply, Inc.)
Contact Shan Szombathy or Ken Deeder, (509) 535-2039

Key available with Howard Compton locally at (919) 492-5531

I also told him that if US EPA was going to visit the site, they should contact Terry Waddell by pager 1-800-412-9660 since Terry was most familiar with site conditions. Bill Steiner said that he needed to discuss this site with Shane Hitchcock and others in ERRB and that he would get back to me this afternoon or tomorrow with a response.

attachments

cc: Bruce Nicholson (with attachments)
Jack Butler



TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE

NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2B



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS

GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.

9001 EDMONSTON ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770
(301) 962-2800

ANNAPOLIS MD • ATLANTA GA • AURORA CO • BALTIMORE MD • CLAYTON VA • DULUTH GA
EXETER NH • FARMAS VA • MANASSAS VA • RALEIGH NC • ROCKVILLE MD • TAMPA FL

**SITE LAYOUT
SAMPLING POINTS**

NCD 082 362 989

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH and NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION
ACTIVITY REPORT

Subject Investigation of Report of Abandoned Chemicals

Location Tungsten Mines

Date 8-1-94

Address SR 1348

Time spent 8 hr.

City Tungsten

State N.C.

Zip _____

By whom Terry W. Waddell-HWS, Ben Barnes-SWM.

Persons contacted Eugene Jaynes - High School Student.

(Owner, agent, tenant, manager, other)

Reason for visit Reported Abandoned Chemicals

Copies to _____

REPORT:

8-1-94, Site visit to the Tungsten Mine property on SR 1348, Tungsten N.C. in Northern Vance Co., revealed the following information.

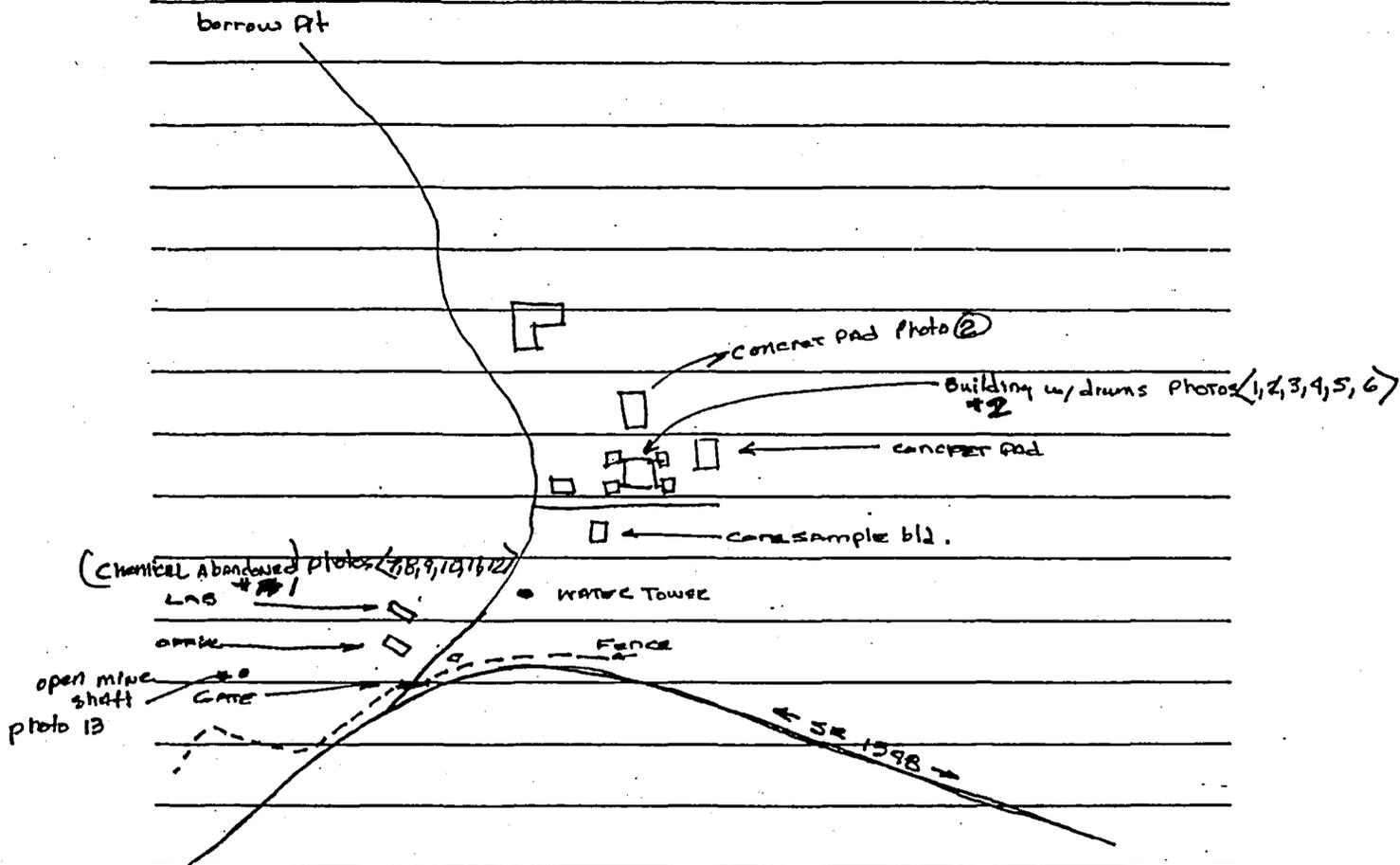
- Site is secured by a chain link fence but areas of accessibility are available. While entering the facility a high school student, Eugene Jaynes, drove by and asked what we were doing. After we ID. ourselves & our purpose, he (Eugene) offered to show us the facility. Eugene said that he has explored the site all of his life, including hunting & swimming. Eugene, when asked, said he knew of drums of material and chemicals in 2 different labs.

- The facility (main campus) was closed in mid 1970's due to cheaper Chinese imports of Tungsten. Other locations exist

down the road. Site consist of several abandon buildings, conveyers, crushers, ~~barrow~~ barrow pit, water towers & mine shaft.

Activity Type: Check Most Appropriate

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Complaint | <u>X</u> | 5. Presentation | _____ |
| 2. Emergency Response | _____ | 6. Training | _____ |
| 3. Technical Assistance | _____ | 7. Meeting | _____ |
| 4. Remedial Action
(other than WPCA) | _____ | 8. Other | _____ |



Building #2 (Photos 1, 3, 4, 5, 6) houses several drums of an unknown material. It appears to be some type of metallic powder. Most of the drums are in good shape, but some have completely rusted out.

Concrete Pad (was a building) (photo #2) held a few drums, most empty. (There was a heavy sulfur smell at that location.)

Building #1 (photos 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) was a LAB. Inside there is several containers of chemicals, some of the chemical are;

mini drums of sulfuric acid; (photo 8) Table top numerous containers (note empty container of perchloric acid); Bench bottom shelf (photo 9) numerous containers (note broken bottles); Bench top (photo 10) several containers, one of which is Arsenic trioxide.

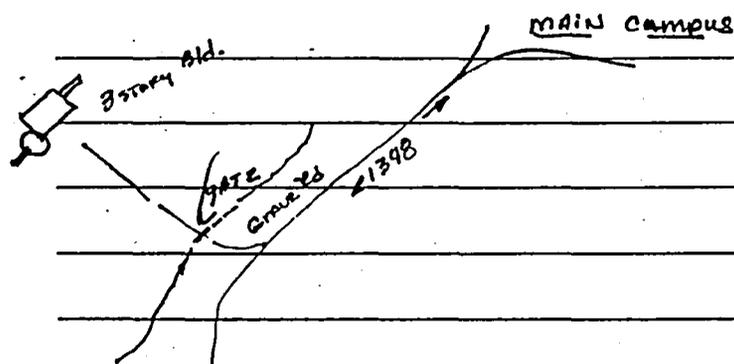
(LAB CONT.)

Bench Top < photo 11 > broken box with containers of Sodium Peroxide (NOTE white crystal from leaking container)

Bench Top < photo 12 > numerous containers of chemicals.

This building is NOT secure and is accessible by any curious person.

The other Mines Site location of concern is down SR 1398 approx 1/2 mile from MAIN Campus.



ON second floor of this location is A LAB with various small container of chemicals & reagents. One container in particular is Potassium cyanide.

- Most of the sites consist of large mining equip bld & machinery. There is obvious signs of intruder damage from fire arms and vandalism.
- Near entrance to MAIN campus, there exist AN OPEN mine shaft unsecured photo < 13 >
- In conclusion I believe emergency or imminent hazard exist. (Owner are ATLAS Mine, Spokane WA.) Recommend is owner is NOT ABLE to remediate the imminent hazard, the STATE should do SO.

Owners of the site.; MINE Supply INC. (Atlas Mines)

P.O. Box 11703

SPOKANE, WA 99211

Contact Howard Compton (919) 492 5531

11:00 AM EST

CONTACTED ATLAS MINE @ (509)-535-2039 ON 8-9-94 alerted

receptionist of problem and ask responsible person to

call or page me asap. She indicate that SHAN Szombathy

would have knowledge of site. Attempt to call @ 2:18 EST - Mr.

Szombathy was not in. Attempted to call 8-5-94, receptionist

told me to speak to Ken Deeder.

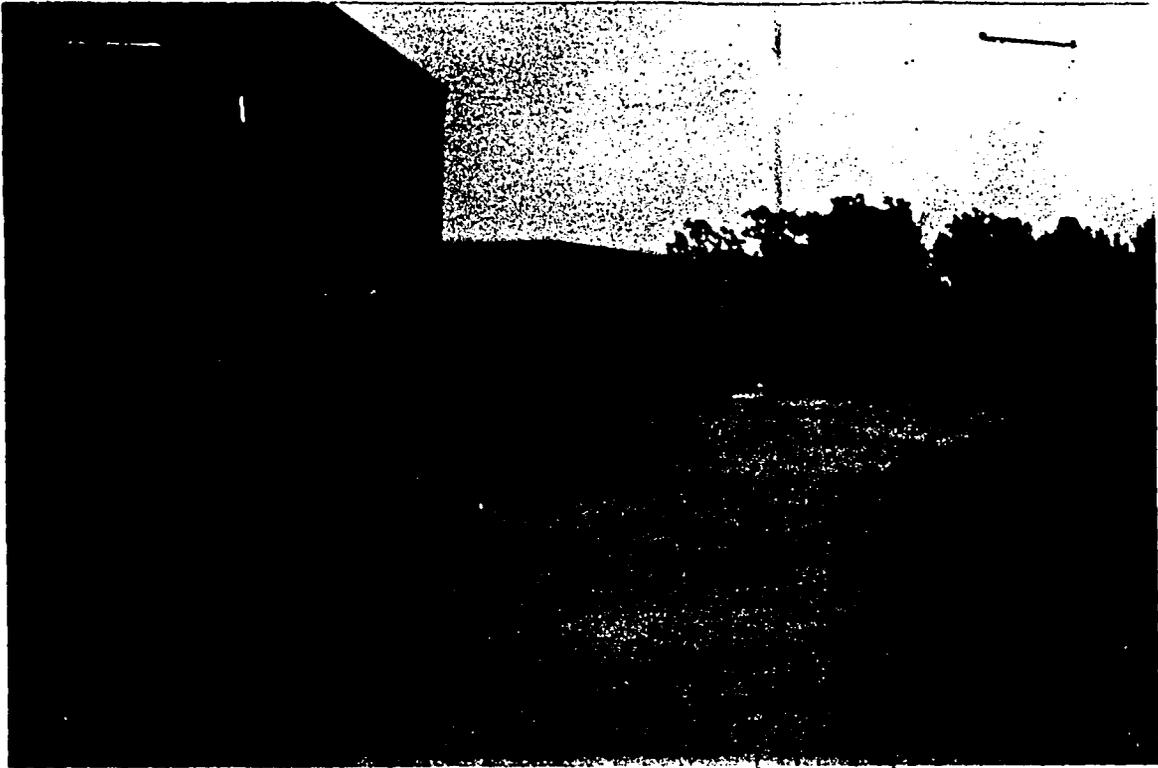
I explained situation to Deeder & asked when

a rep from his company planned to be at the site. Mr.

Deeder did not know. Mr. Deeder indicated I needed

to speak to SHAN Szombathy.

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8-1-94 Bld #2 ENTRANCE Tungsten Mine 2/11h

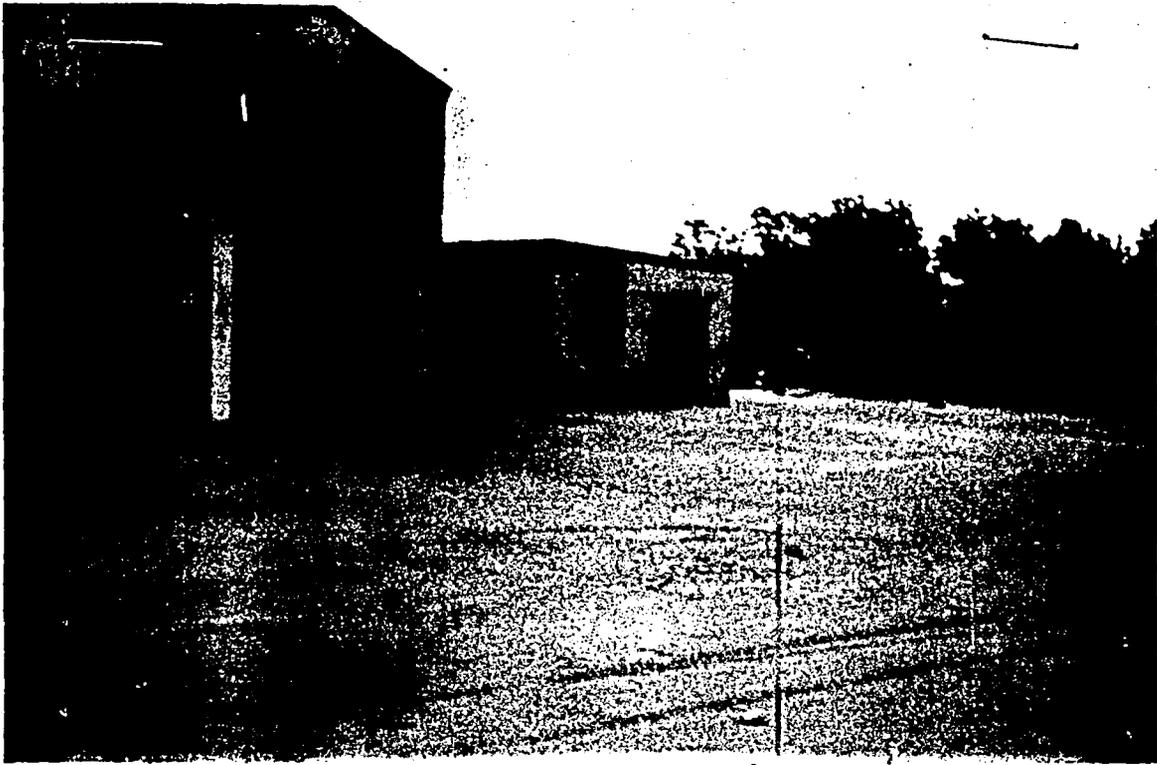
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Pad Behind Bld #2 Tungsten Mine

8-1-94

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8-1-94 Bld #2 Entrance Tungsten Mine 20M

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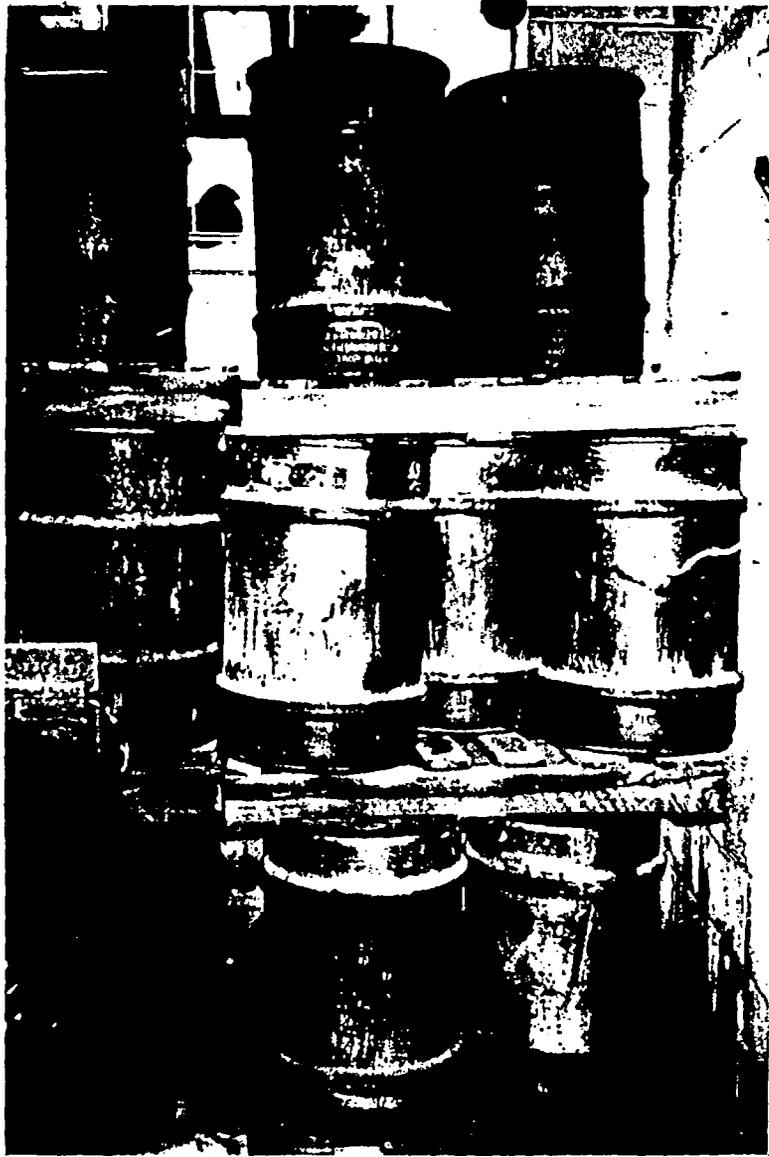


PAD Behind Bld #2. Tungsten Mine

8-1-94

8-1-74
J.M.
Tromper, W. Va.
Blk 42
Bavello of

③



④

8-1-74
J.M.
Blk 42
Bavello of



5



Photograph of the equipment used in the laboratory.

6



Photograph of the containers used in the laboratory.

7



2-1-77 Lab #1 Milk Thompson Mine - sulfuric acid

8



2-1-77 Lab #1 Milk Thompson Mine - empty cont. of phosphoric acid



8-1-74
JLH
Lab
Tungsten Mire
Abandoned Glass

(10)



8-1-74
JLH
Lab
Tungsten Mire
Abandoned Glass

(11)



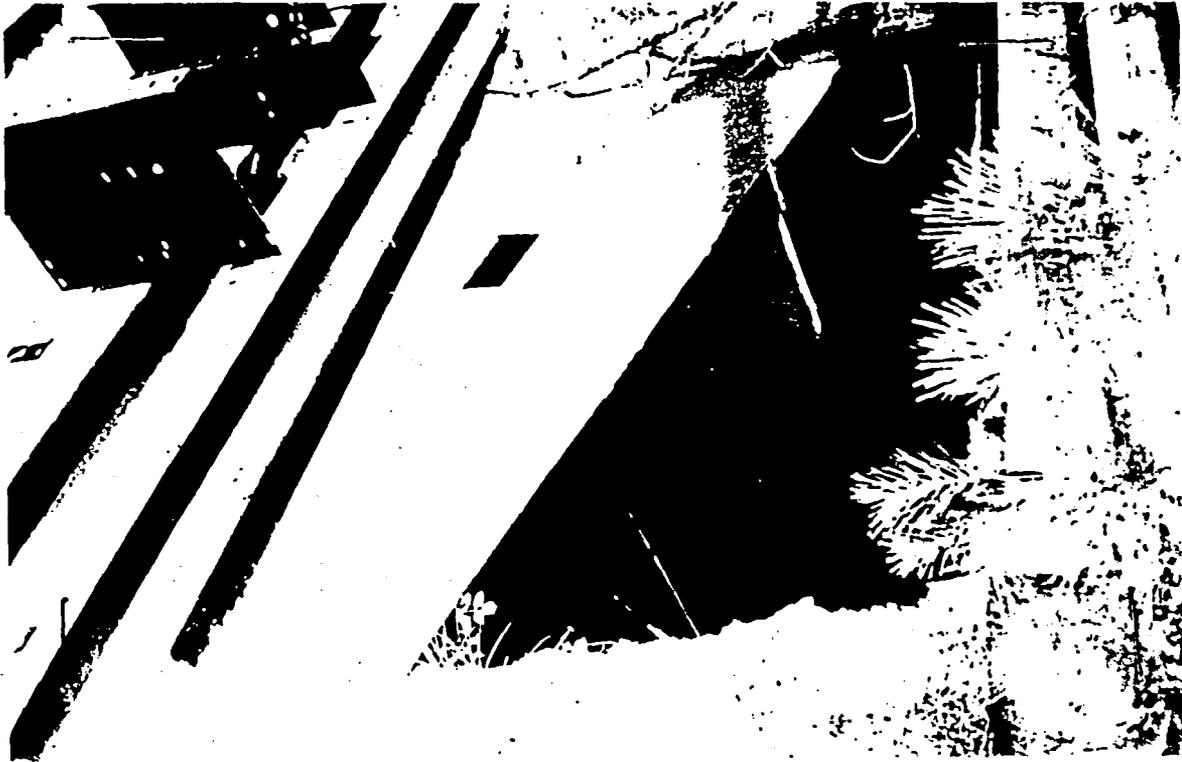
8-1-74 Lab #1 - White Thymus Virus - 2nd passage - 1st passage of
2nd passage - 1st passage

(12)



8-1-74 Lab #1 - White Thymus Virus - 2nd passage - 1st passage

13



8-1-77 13000' from mine shaft @ Tongst. mine