

Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA), Nevada, Site

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U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of Legacy Management (LM)

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Presentation for Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board



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CNTA, Nevada, Site



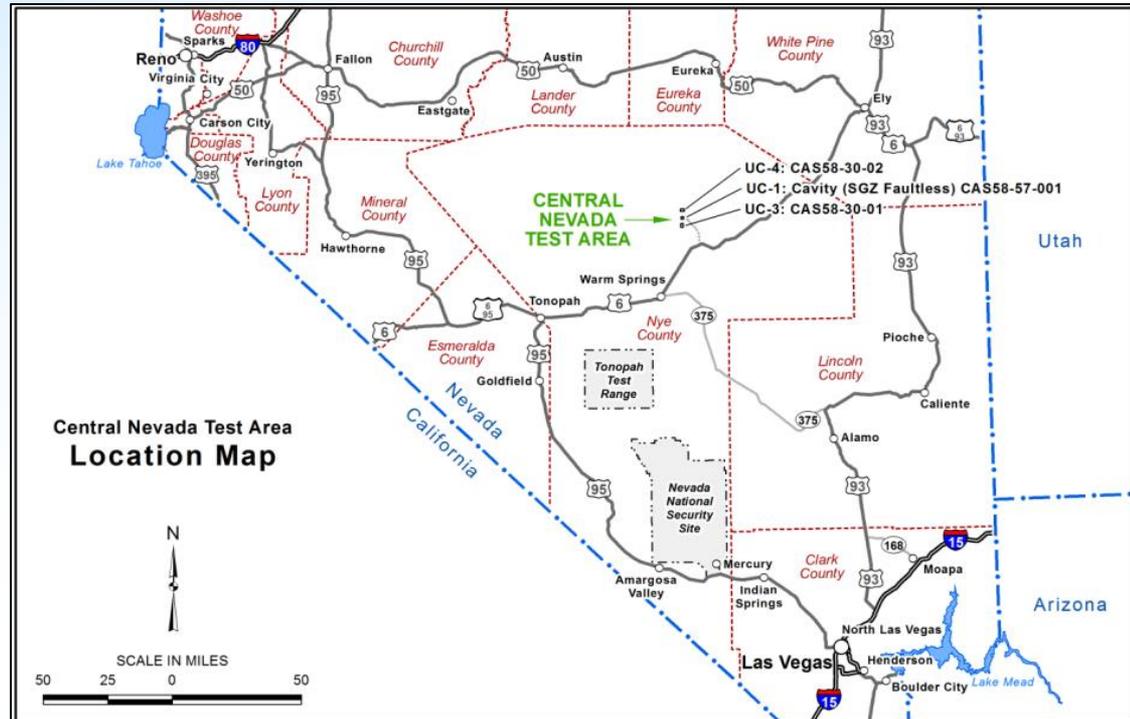
CNTA, Nevada, Site

- Road to closure and long-term monitoring
 - Site background
 - Corrective actions and monitoring well network
 - Site conceptual model and evaluation
 - Closure and long-term monitoring

CNTA, Nevada, Site

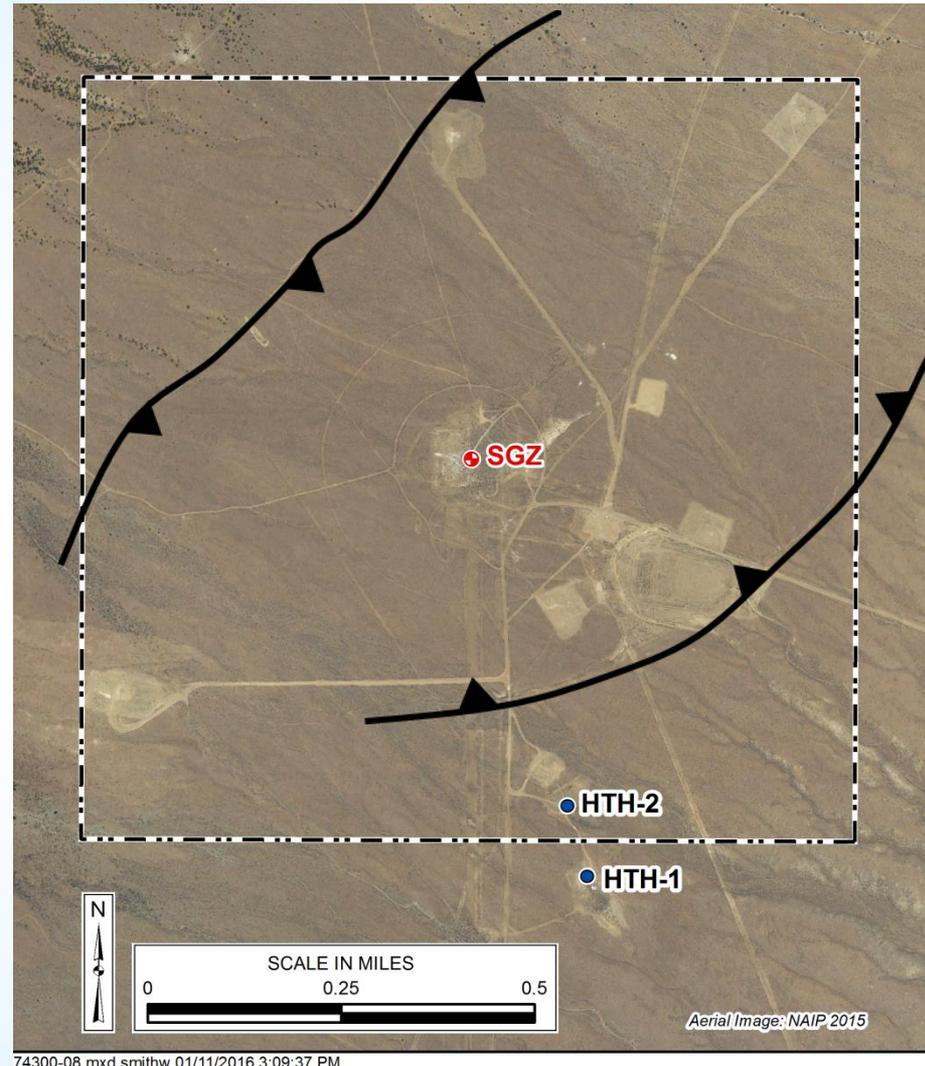
■ Site background

- CNTA was acquired in the early 1960s for underground nuclear testing and as an alternative site to the Nevada National Security Site
- An emplacement borehole was drilled on each parcel, the boreholes UC-1, UC-3, and UC-4 identify the parcels
- The underground test was conducted in borehole UC-1
- Two additional tests were planned (boreholes UC-3 and UC-4), but they were not performed



Site Background

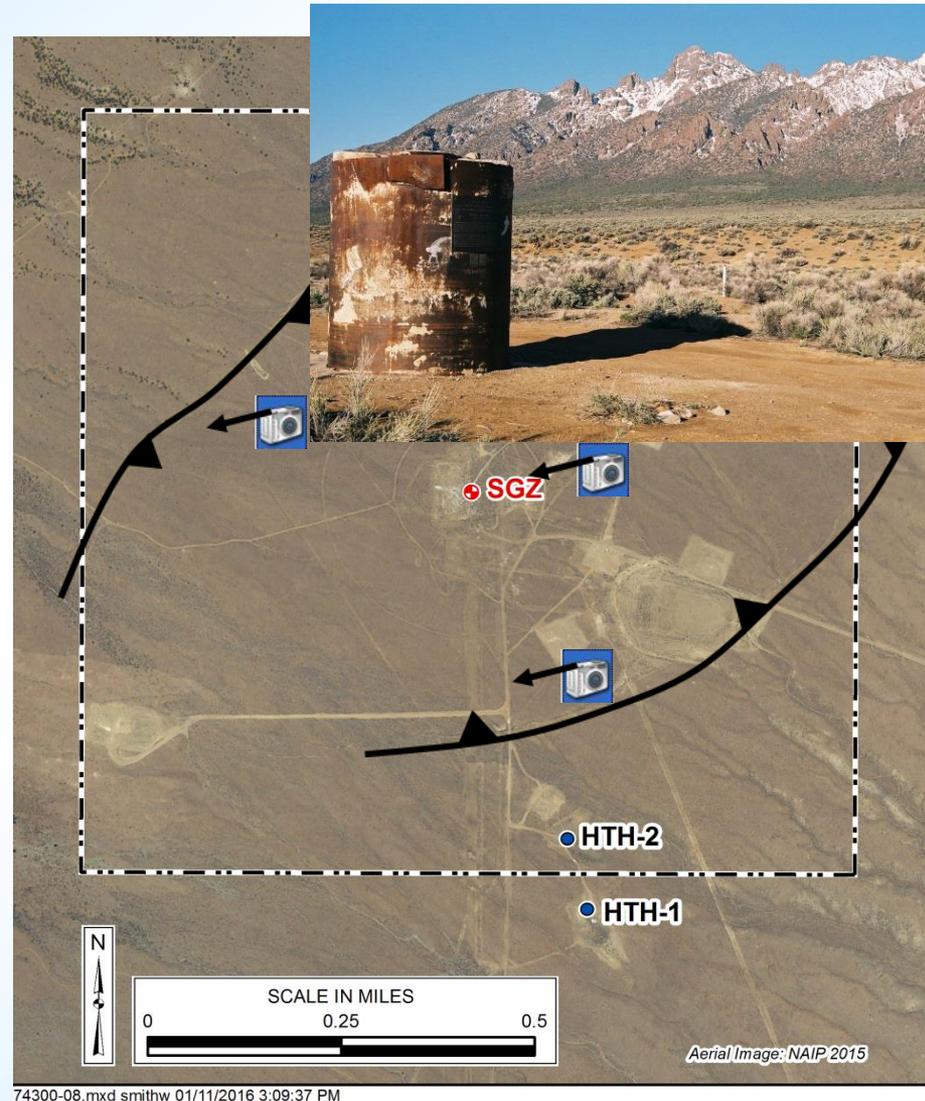
- Underground nuclear test
 - Emplacement borehole UC-1 (SGZ)
 - January 19, 1968
 - Depth of 3,200 feet below ground surface (bgs)
 - Reported yield of 0.2 to 1 megaton
 - Immediately following the test the ground dropped ~15 feet along pre-existing faults creating a down-dropped fault block (or graben) that extends to land surface



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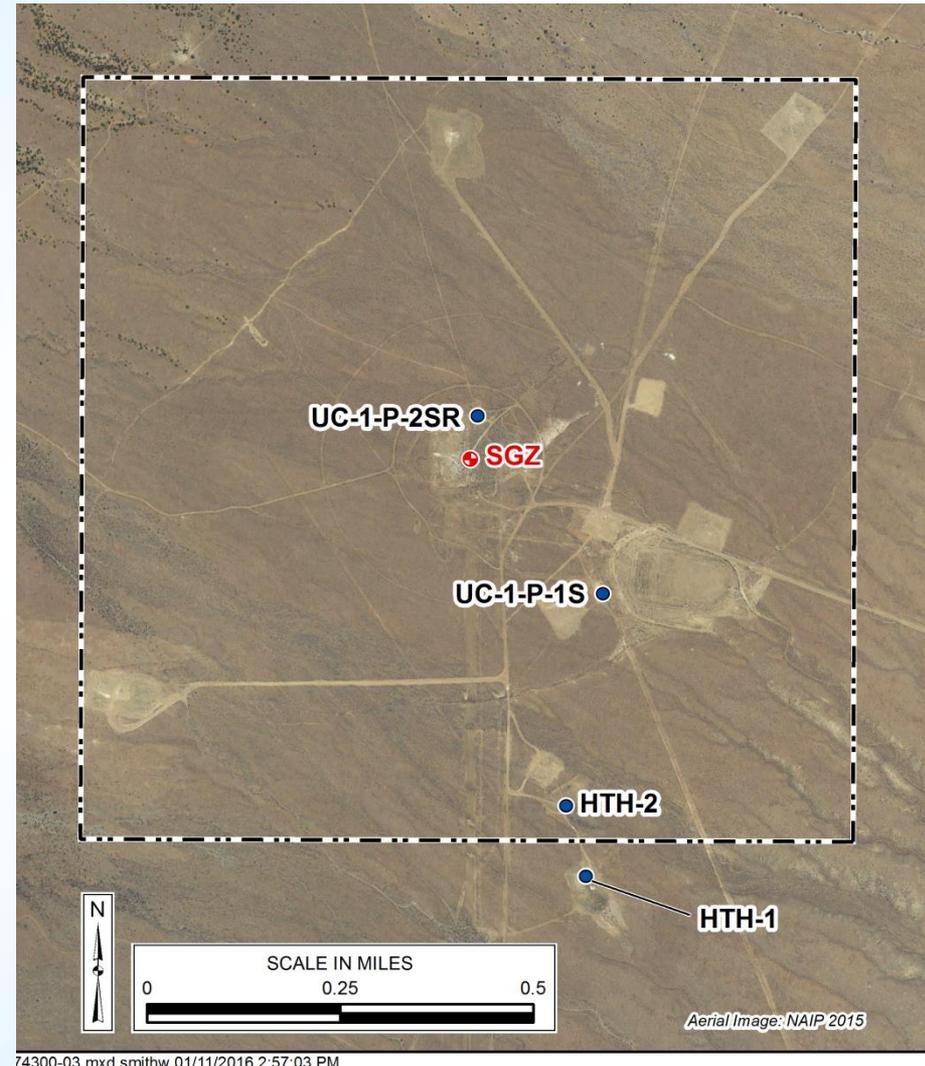


Site Background



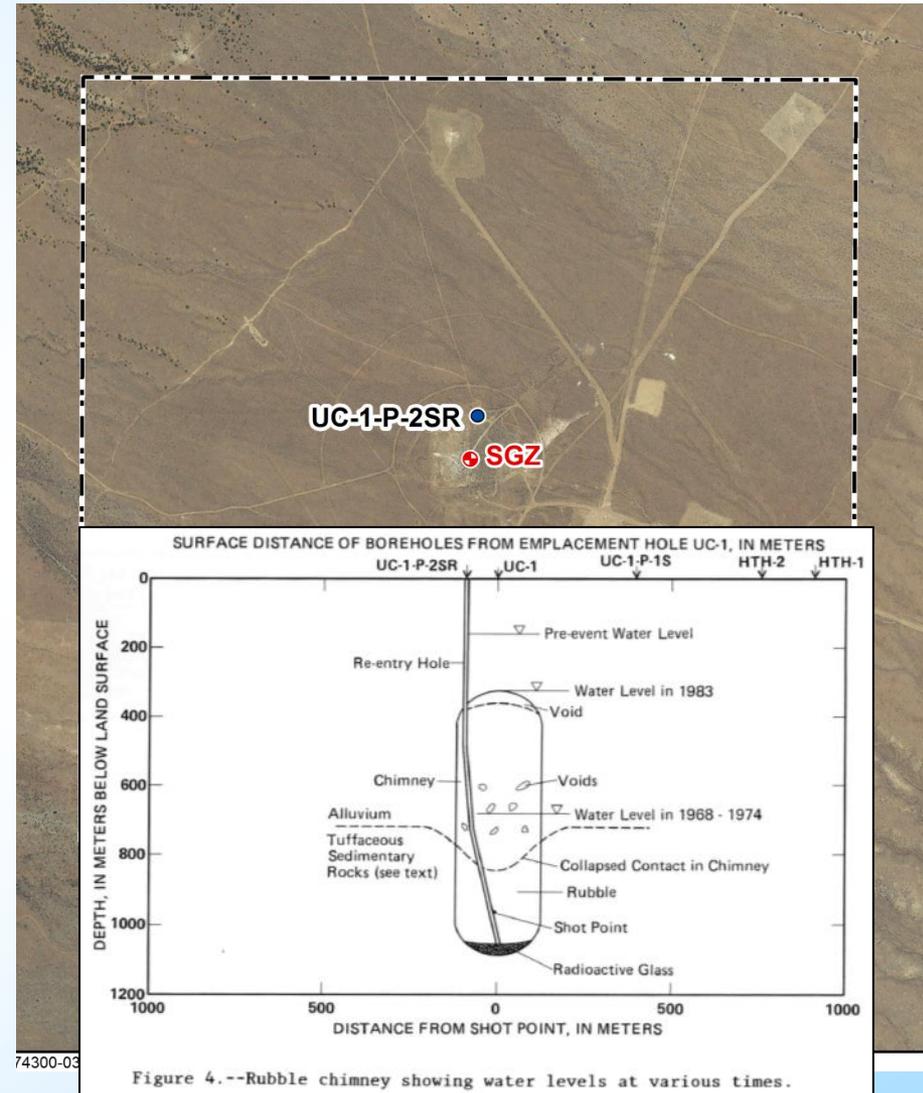
Site Background (continued)

- Wells drilled shortly after test
 - UC-1-P-1S had troubles during drilling and could not be completed as planned (drill pipe twisted off)
 - UC-1-P-2SR (re-entry well) was completed in the cavity and chimney created by the detonation



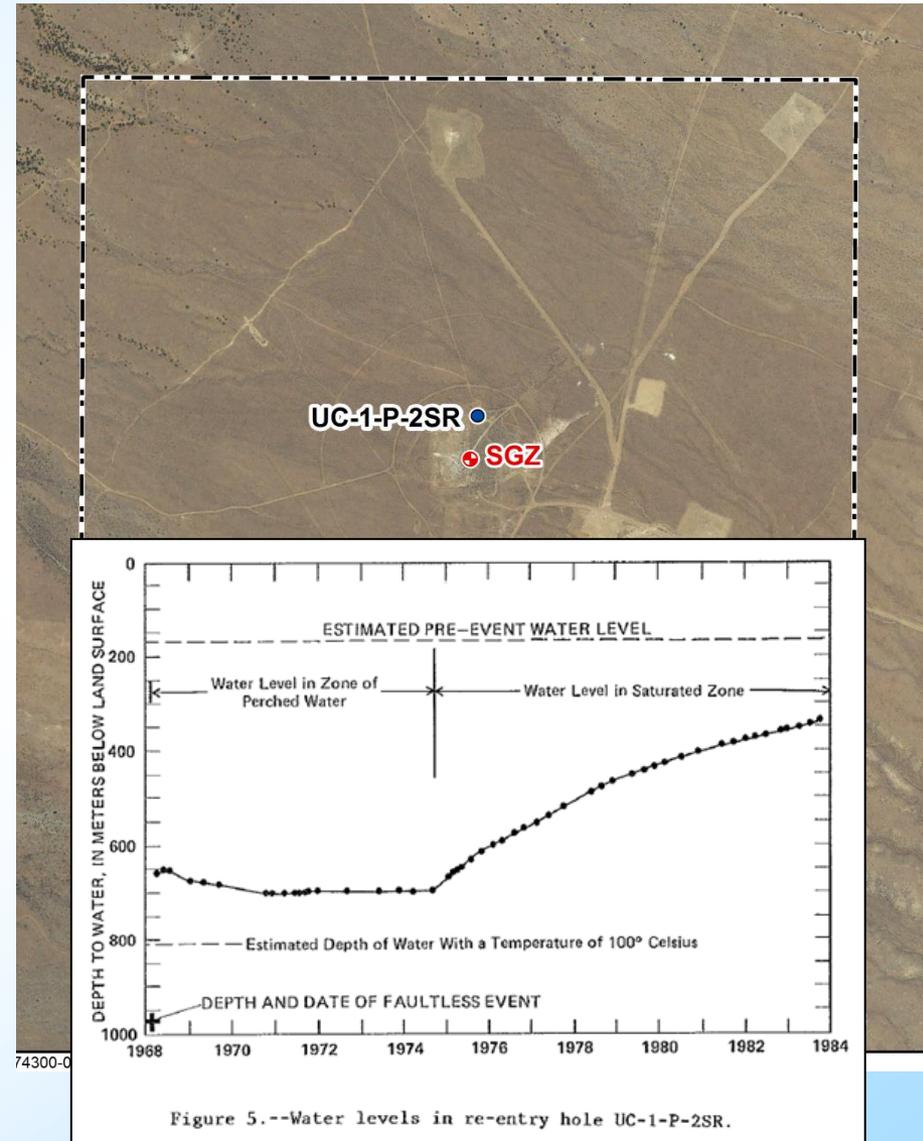
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Site Background (continued)

- Wells drilled shortly after test
 - UC-1-P-1S had troubles during drilling and could not be completed as planned (drill pipe twisted off)
 - UC-1-P-2SR (re-entry well) was completed in the cavity and chimney created by the detonation
- In 1972, the Long-Term Hydrologic Monitoring Program was started
 - The re-entry well was not sampled as part of this program; but, water levels were monitored in the well
 - No detection of radionuclides in the other wells

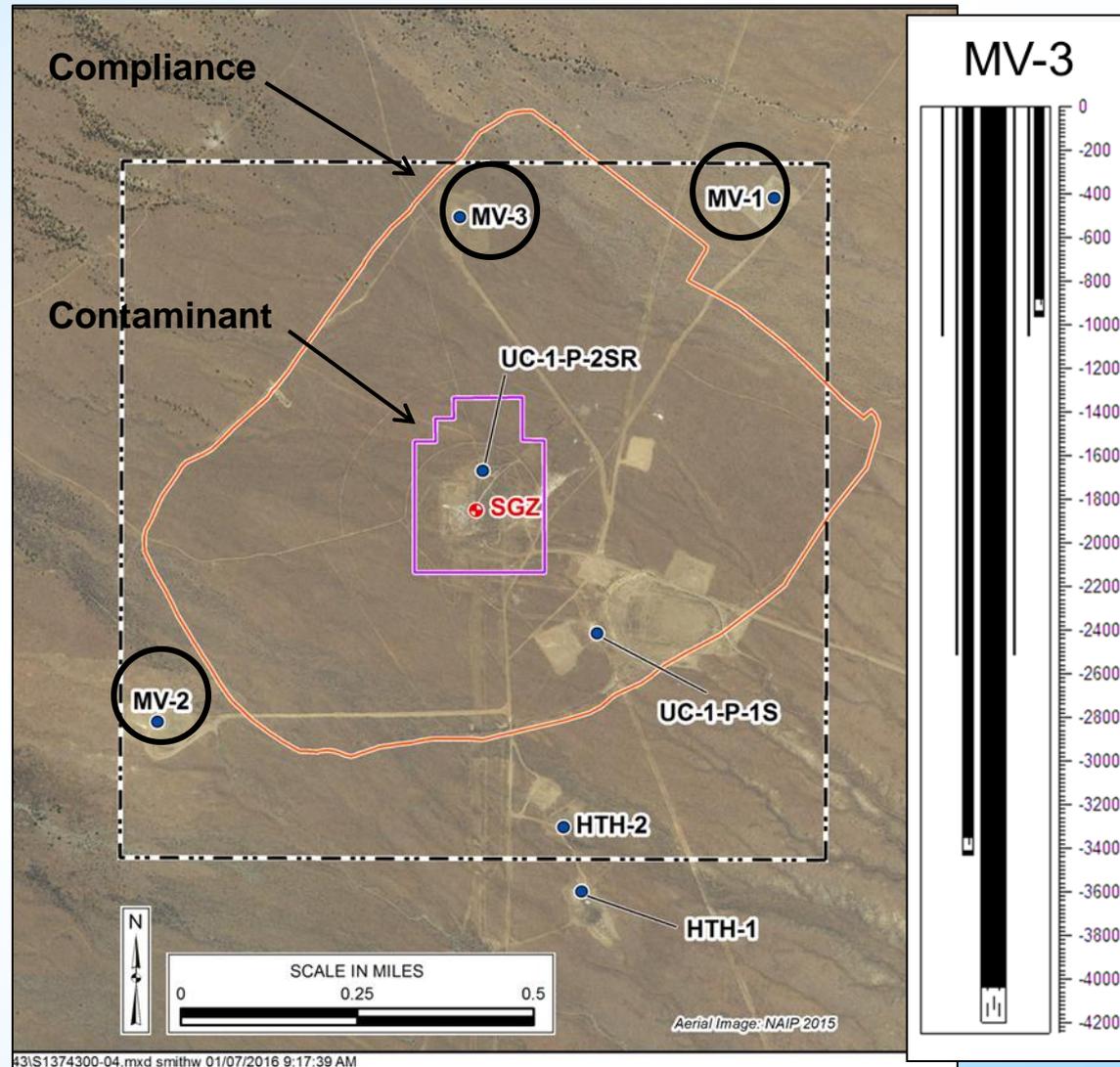


Corrective Actions

- Corrective action investigation activities were initiated in 1999
 - Site data were used to develop a numerical flow and transport model to simulate the potential long-term migration of contaminants away from the UC-1 cavity.
 - It was determined that groundwater velocities were very low.
 - A **contaminant boundary** was developed that depicts the extent that groundwater contaminated with radionuclides exceeding the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) maximum contaminant levels would travel in 1,000 years at a 95 percent confidence level.
 - A **compliance boundary** was negotiated with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) that factored in modeling results and associated uncertainties with respect to the nuclear test's potential effects within the down-dropped fault block. The compliance boundary corresponds approximately to the surface expression of the fault block.

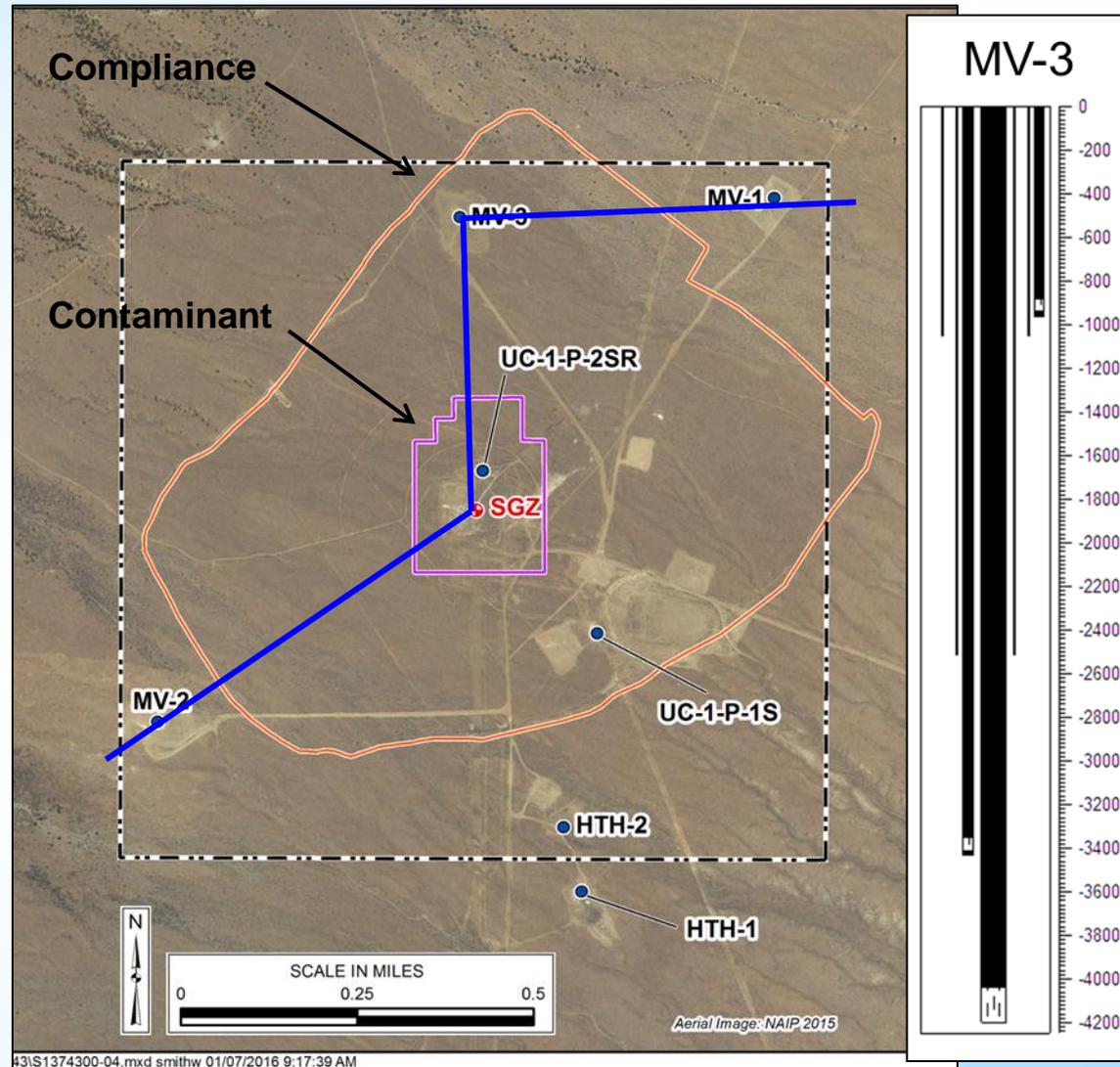
Corrective Actions (continued)

- In 2005, three wells were installed
 - To monitor the most likely transport path and validate the groundwater model, per FFACO process
 - The wells were screened in densely welded tuffs units near and below the depth of the detonation



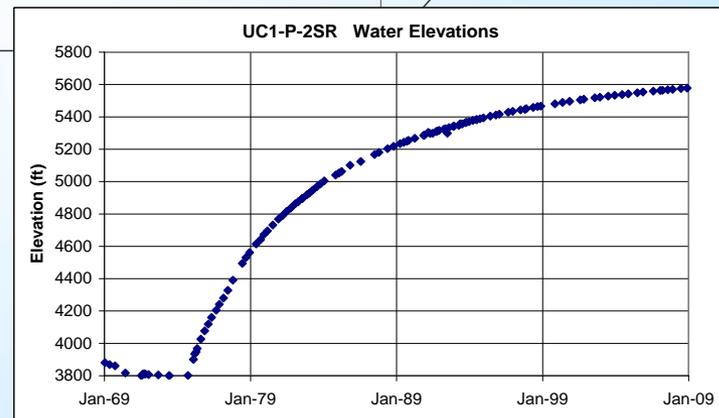
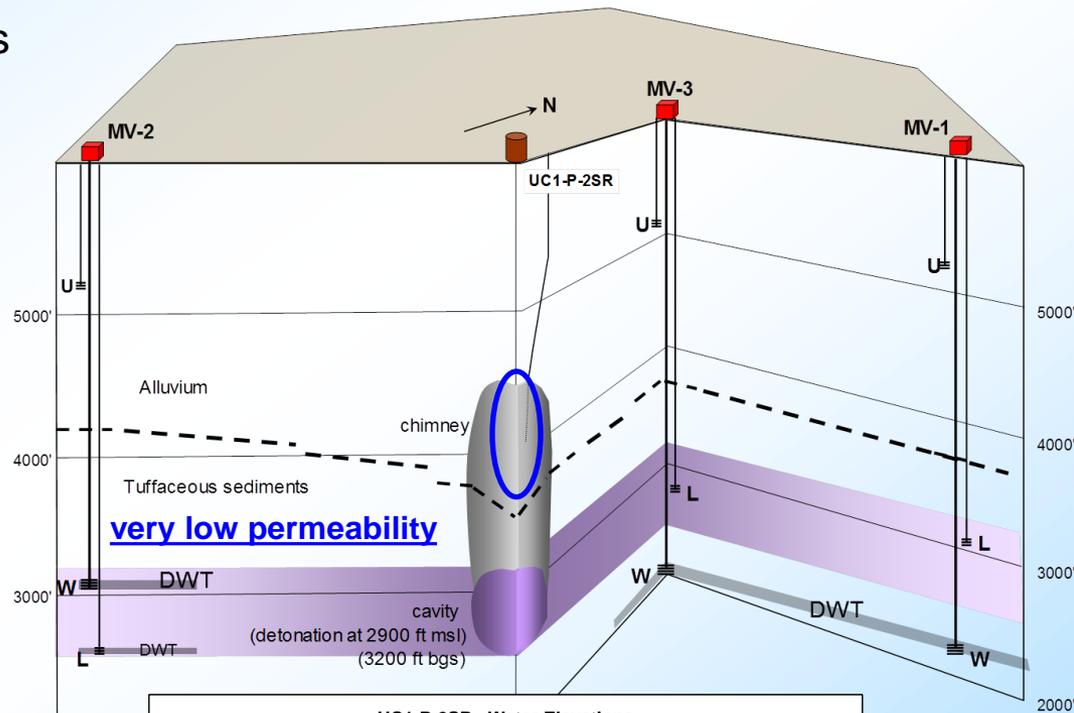
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 - To monitor the most likely transport path and validate the groundwater model per FFACO process
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Corrective Actions (continued)

- Data from the monitoring and validation (MV) wells indicated:
 - No detection of radionuclides
 - Most likely transport path is down, toward densely welded tuff (DWT)
 - Volcanic section and DWT less permeable than originally modeled
 - Determined by aquifer tests data from the MV wells and continued slow recovery of well UC-1-P-2SR
 - However, head levels in MV wells did not agree with the model predictions (so the model could not be validated)



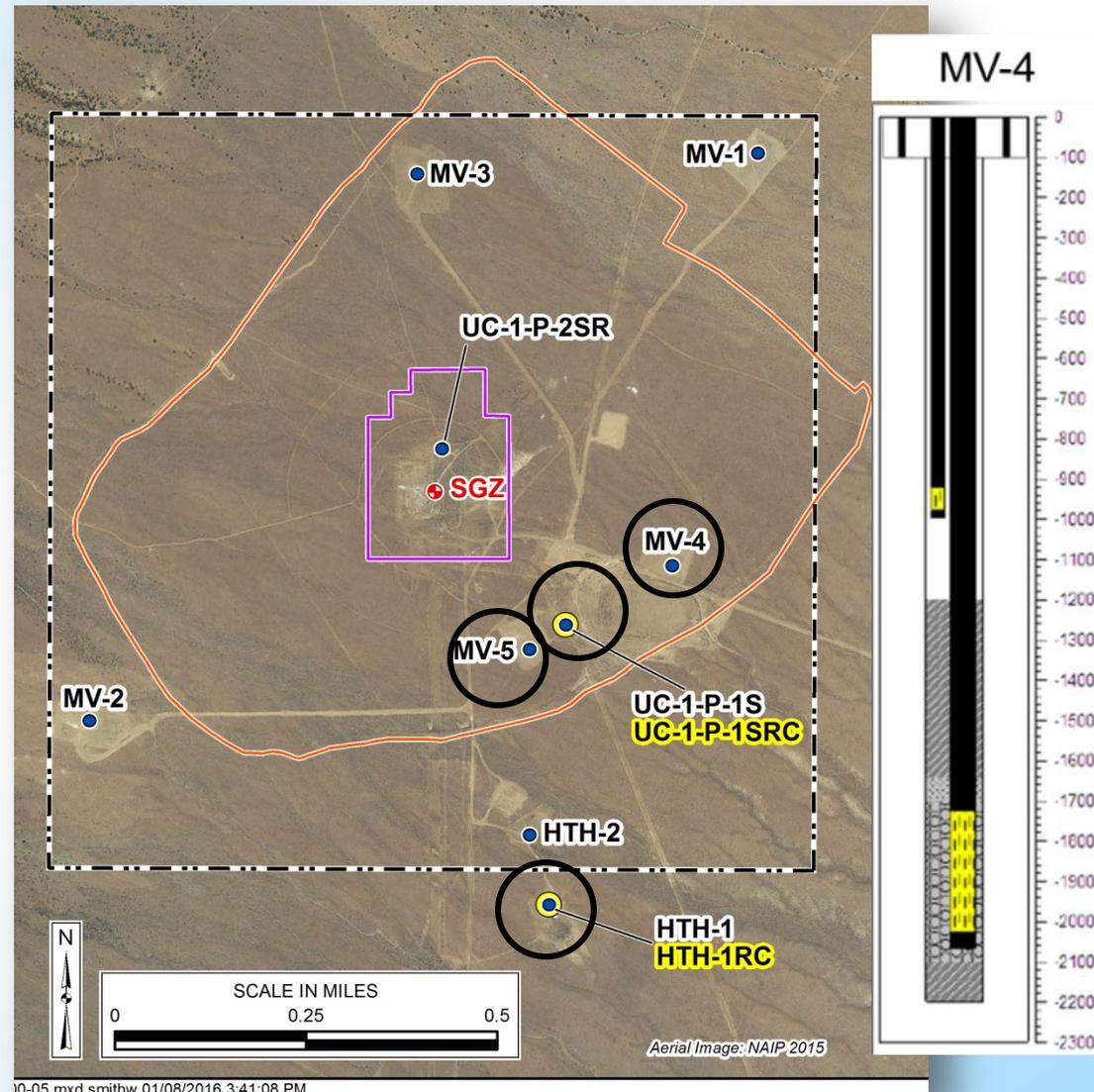
Corrective Actions (continued)

- Using these data LM developed a new strategy
 - Focused on enhancing the monitoring well network
 - Validating the compliance boundary
- Enhancements to monitoring network focused on the alluvial aquifer
 - The alluvium is an unlikely **transport** path, though
 - The chimney extends into the alluvium
 - Assess if faults are conduits or barriers to flow
 - The alluvium is the most likely **access** path
 - Alluvial aquifer is good water producer (100 gallons per minute [gpm] from HTH-2)



Corrective Actions (continued)

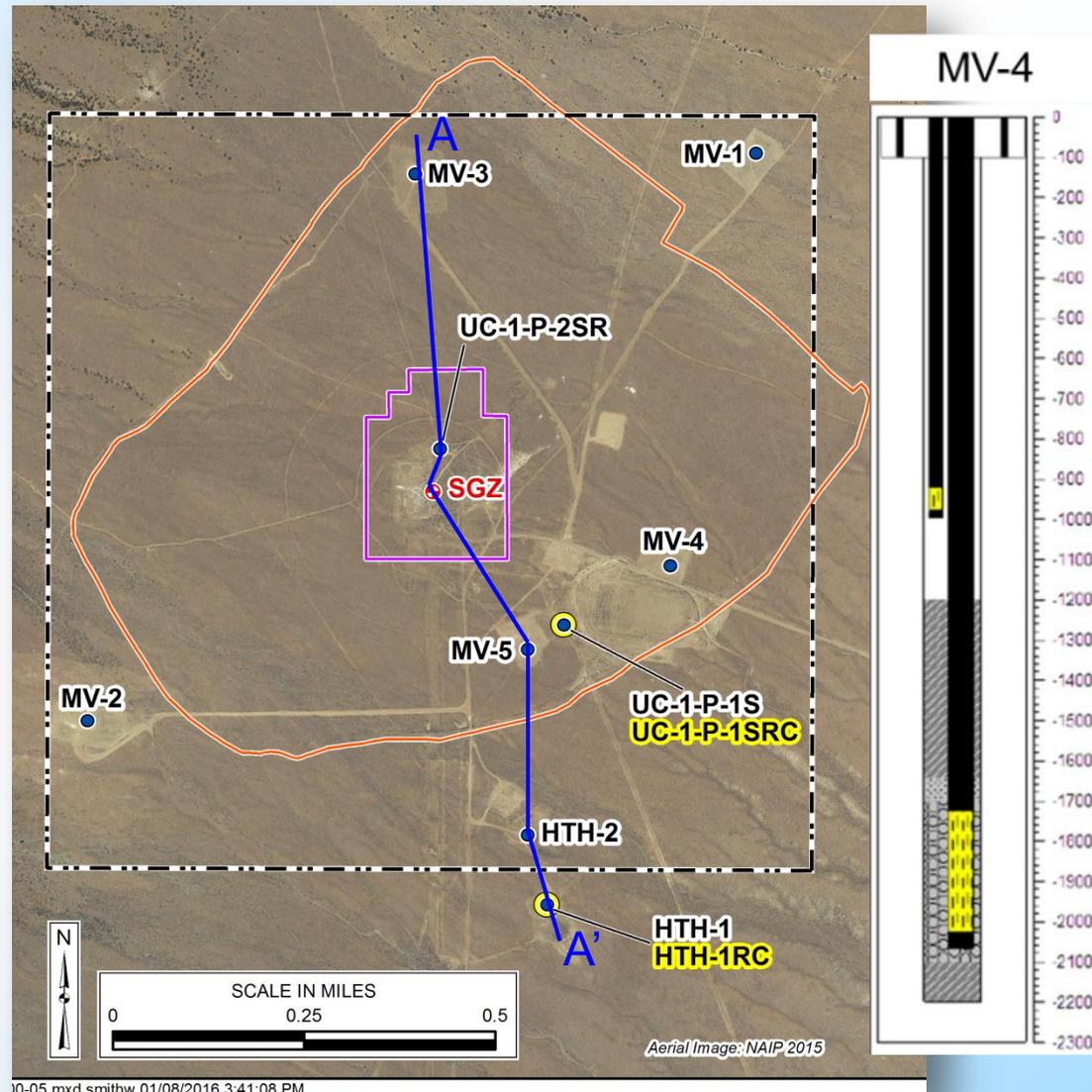
- In 2009, the monitoring well network was enhanced
 - This included, two new wells (MV-4 and MV-5), and the recompletion of two existing wells (UC-1-P-1S and HTH-1)
 - Wells (MV-4 and MV-5) were installed in the alluvium down-gradient from UC-1 and dually completed with a piezometer inside the graben and well outside of the graben
 - Well (UC-1-P-1SRC) was recompleted to monitor the upper alluvium (original construction had difficulties)
 - Well (HTH-1RC) was recompleted to monitor volcanic section (densely welded tuff) and provide head data in upper and lower alluvium



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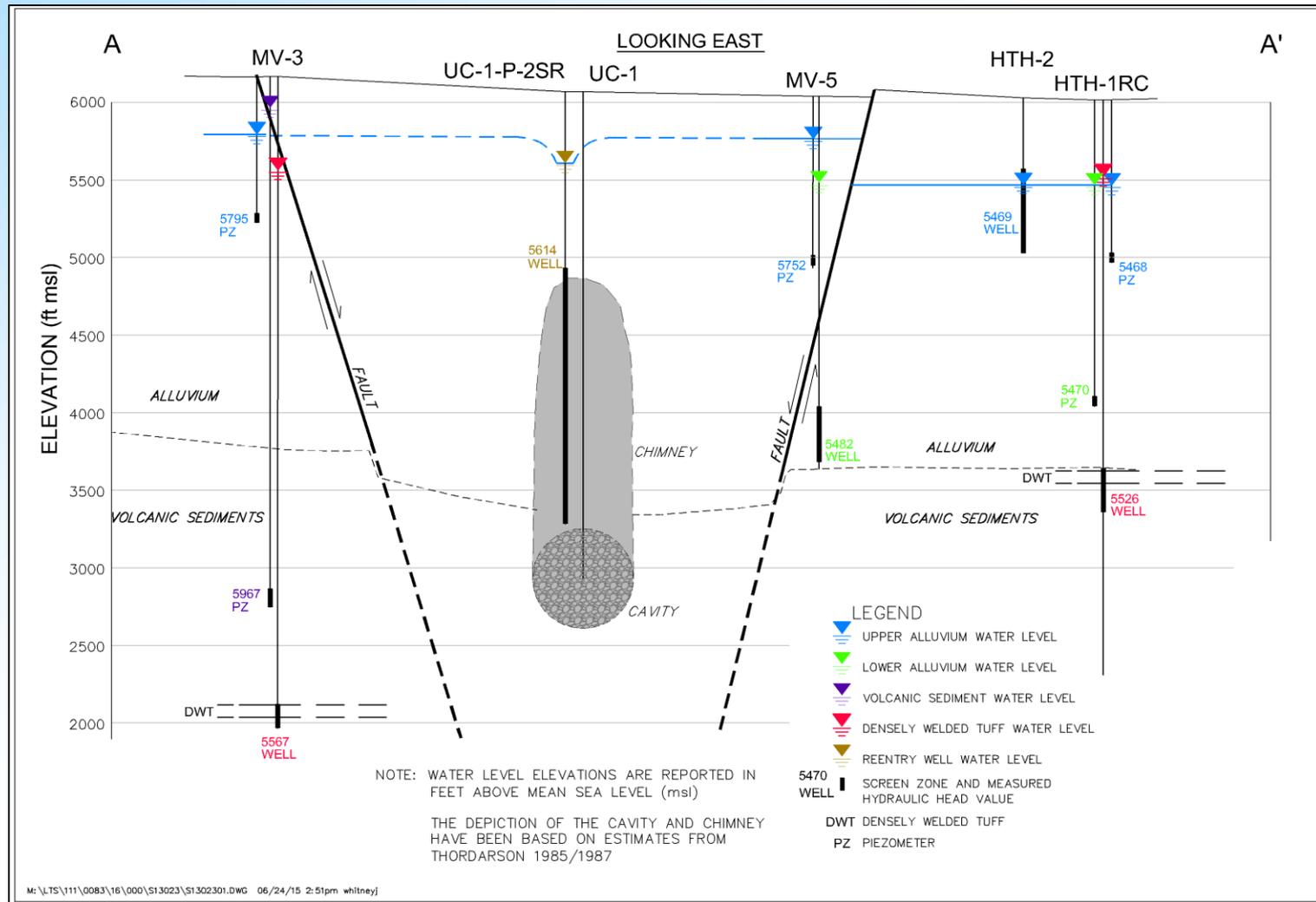
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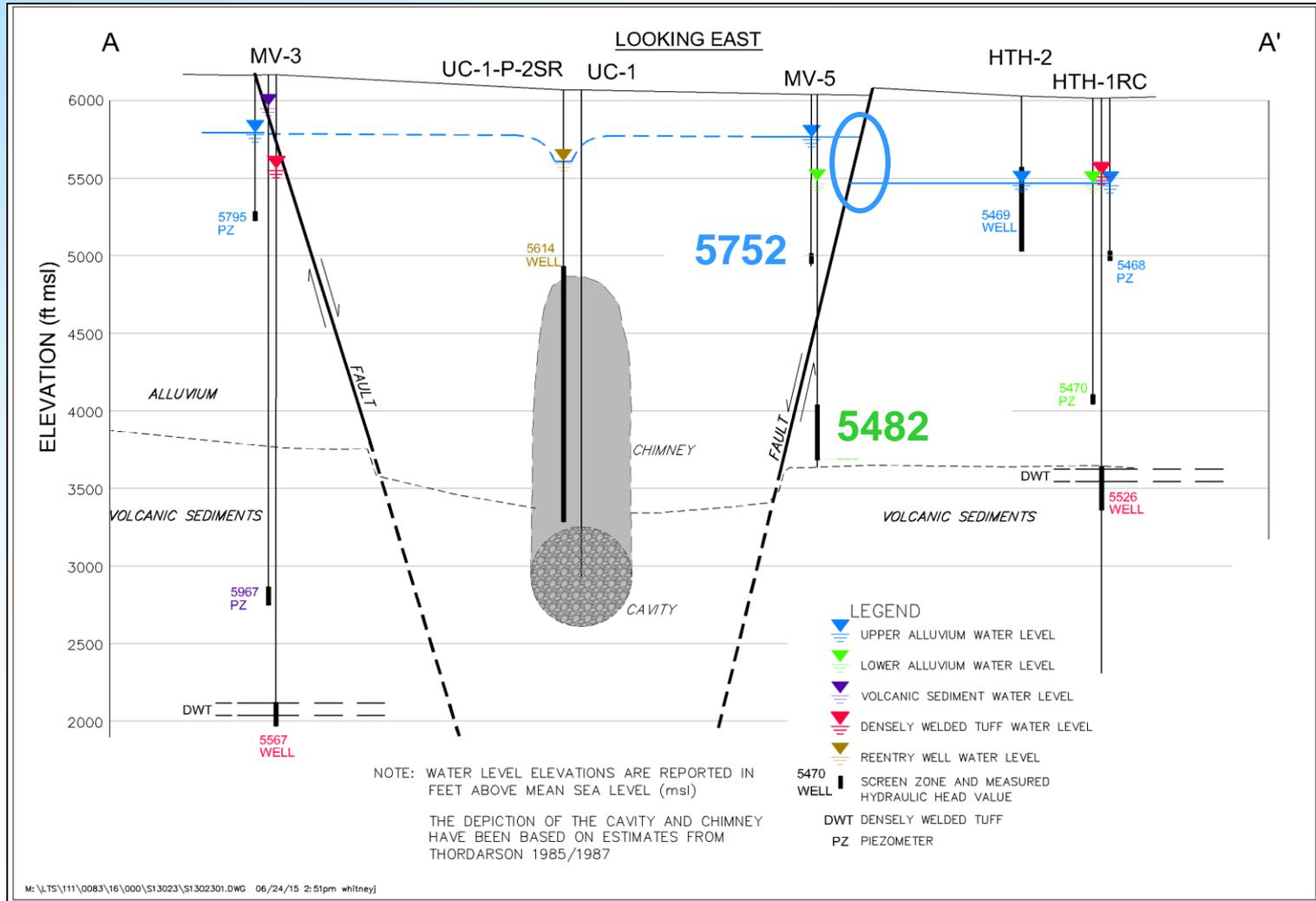


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Site Conceptual Model

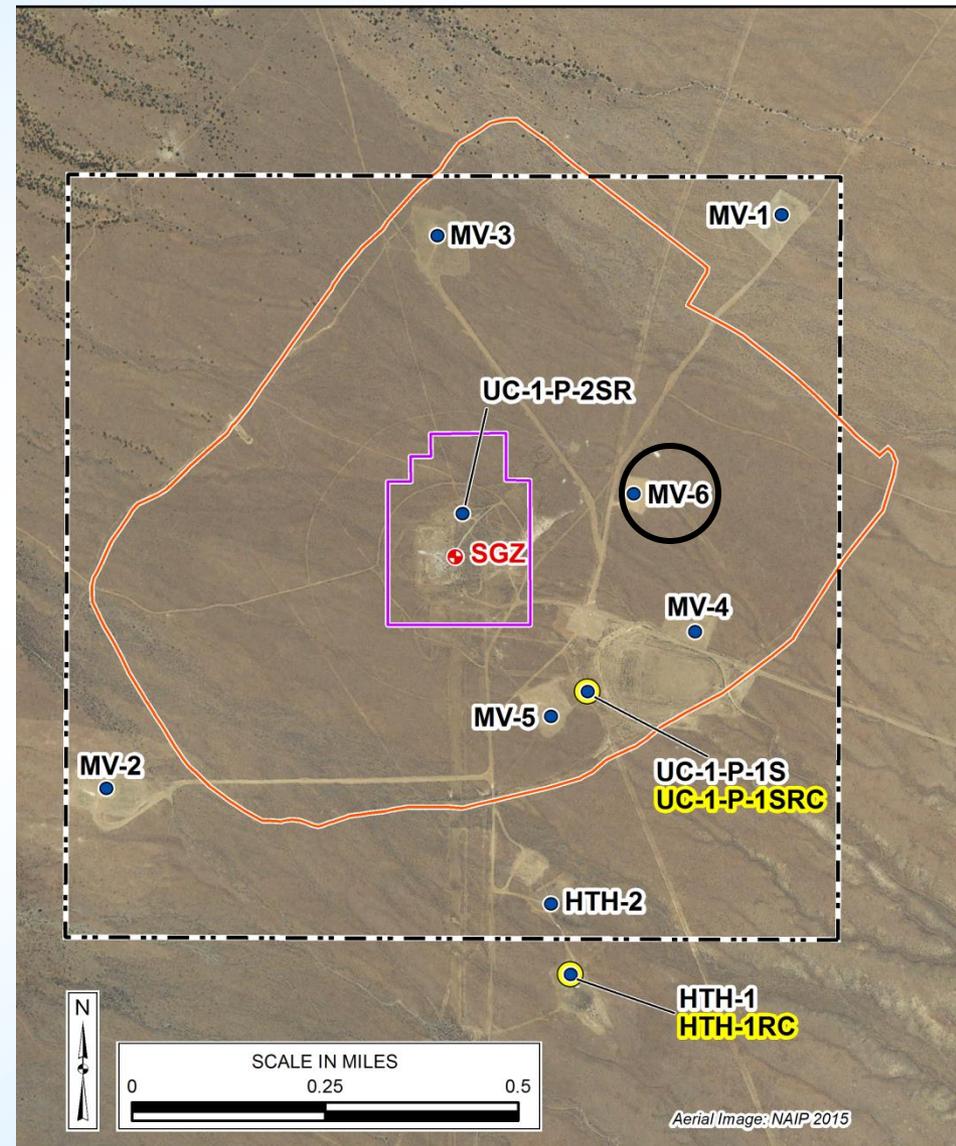


Site Conceptual Model



Site Conceptual Model (continued)

- In 2013, final enhancement made to monitoring well network
 - MV-6 was installed to provide an additional monitoring location in the upper alluvium inside the graben and to verify the site conceptual model



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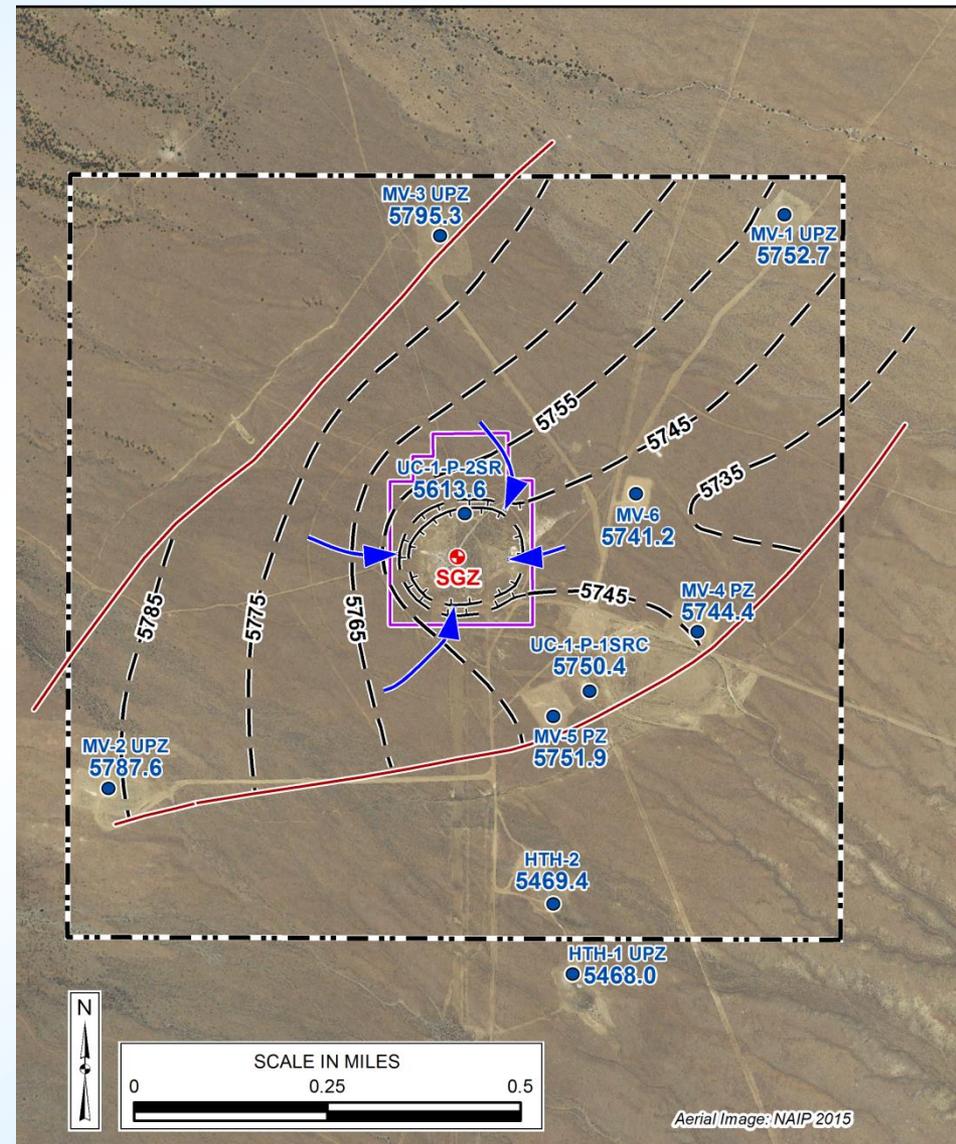


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Site Conceptual Model (continued)

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- Flow system within the alluvium
 - Flow in the upper alluvium is toward the UC-1 chimney, where water levels in UC-1-P-2RS are still recovering
 - Away from the UC-1 chimney flow is diverted to the east-northeast by the graben fault, which acts as a barrier to groundwater flow

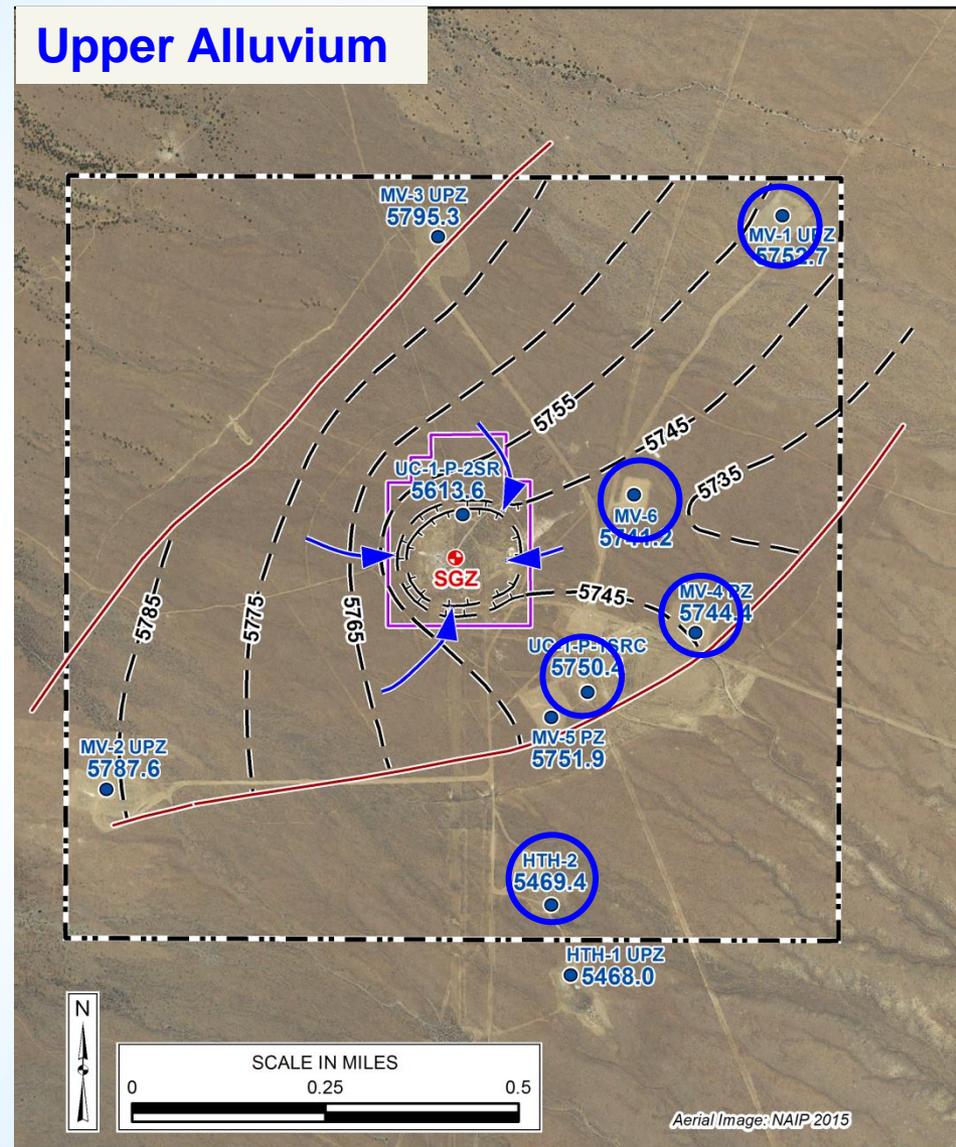


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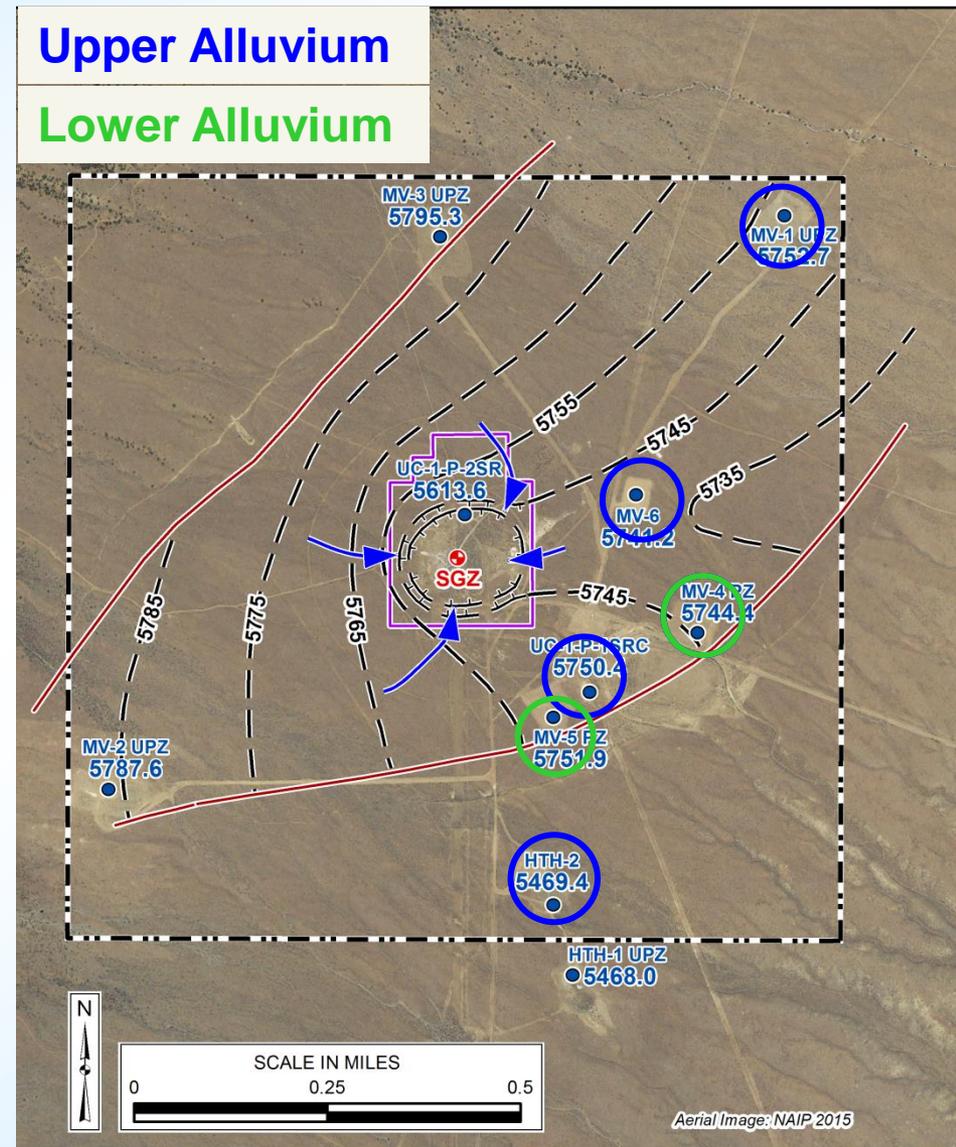


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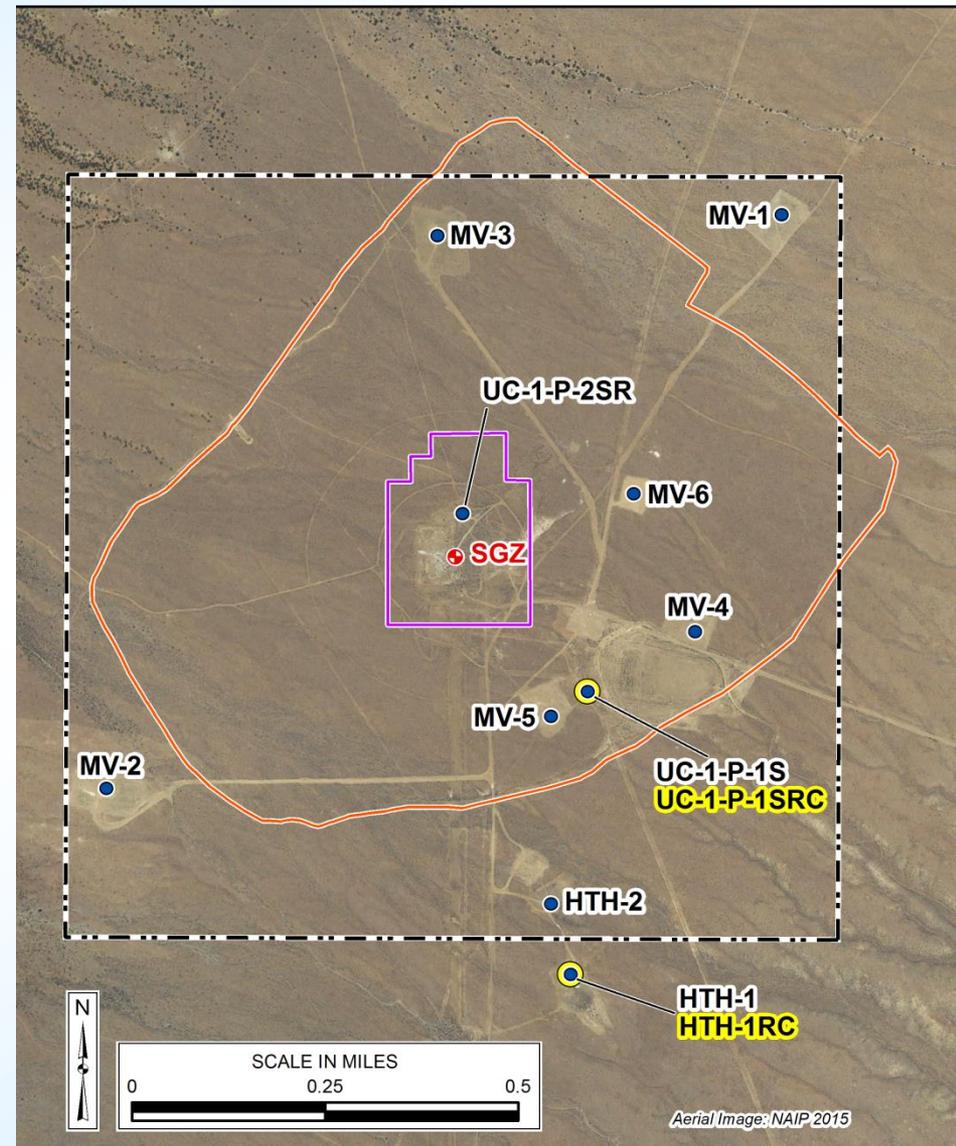


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Site Conceptual Model (continued)

- Flow system within volcanics
 - Very low permeability at and near the detonation level
 - Downward gradient from the detonation zone to the densely welded tuff below the detonation
 - Densely welded tuffs are likely discontinues and fault separated

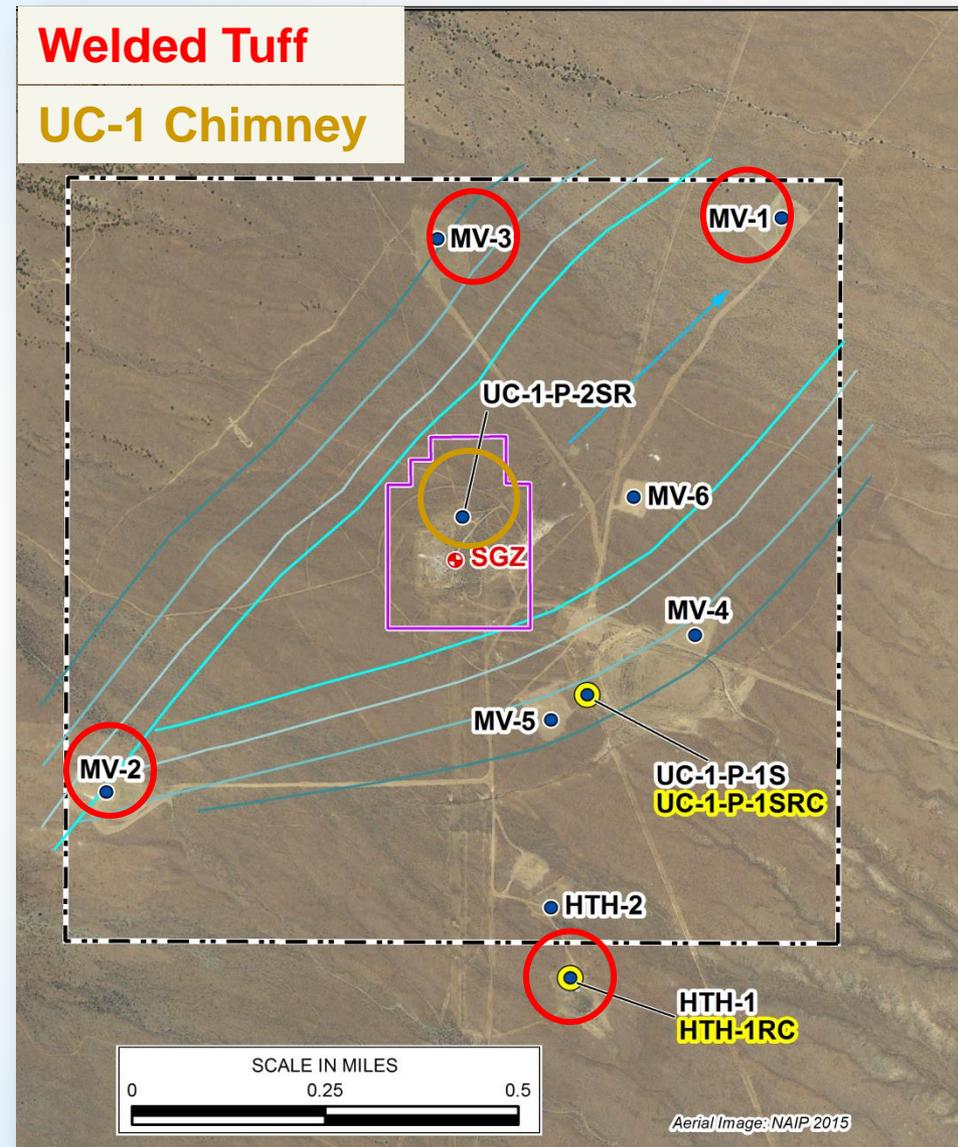


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Conceptual Model Evaluation

- Volcanic section is the most likely transport path
 - Water levels in UC-1-P-2SR are still recovering from the detonation;
 - Downward gradient from the detonation zone to the densely welded tuff;
 - Densely welded tuffs are less permeable than originally expected; and
 - Densely welded tuff is monitored by wells MV-1, MV-2, and MV-3
- Alluvium is the most likely access path
 - Flow in the alluvium (inside the graben) is toward the UC-1 chimney;
 - The graben fault south of UC-1 is a barrier to flow; and
 - The alluvium is monitored by wells UC-1-P-1SRC, MV-4, MV-5, and MV-6
- No detections of radionuclides outside contaminant boundary
 - Validates the compliance boundary
- Closure and long-term monitoring



Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

Table 2. Monitoring Network with Sampling Frequency for Radioisotopes of Interest

Monitoring Wells/Piezometers	Monitoring Network and Sampling Frequency for Radioisotopes of Interest													Lithologic Unit Monitored	
	2016	2018	2020	2023	2026	2029	2032	2035	2038	2041	2044	2047	2050		
MV-1UPZ			TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T	Upper	Alluvium
MV-2UPZ															
MV-3UPZ															
MV-4PZ			TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-5PZ															
MV-6	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
UC-1-P-1SRC	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 780 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
HTH-2			TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
HTH-1UPZ															
HTH-1LPZ															
MV-4	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	Lower	
MV-5	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI			UC-1 Chimney	
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
MV-1LPZ														Tuffaceous Sediments	
MV-3LPZ															
MV-1	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T	Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic
MV-2LPZ															
MV-2	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-3	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
HTH-1RC	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		

T = Analyze sample for tritium

C = Analyze sample for ¹⁴C

I = Analyze sample for ¹²⁹I

Note: Well UC-1-P-2SR is perforated from 1148 to 2792 ft bgs, and samples will be collected from discrete depths (780, 1,200, 1,591, and 2,192 ft bgs) within the well.



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MV-2UPZ															
MV-3UPZ															
MV-4PZ			TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-5PZ															
MV-6	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
UC-1-P-1SRC	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 780 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
HTH-2			TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
HTH-1UPZ														Lower	
HTH-1LPZ															
MV-4	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	UC-1 Chimney	
MV-5	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
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UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
MV-1LPZ														Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic
MV-3LPZ															
MV-1	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-2LPZ															
MV-2	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-3	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
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UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
HTH-2			TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
HTH-1UPZ														Lower	
HTH-1LPZ															
MV-4	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
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MV-2LPZ															
MV-2	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-3	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
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HTH-1UPZ															
HTH-1LPZ															
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MV-5	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T	T	TCI	T	T		
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI			UC-1 Chimney	Chimney
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)			TCI				TCI				TCI				
MV-1LPZ														Tuffaceous Sediments	
MV-3LPZ															
MV-1	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T	Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic
MV-2LPZ															
MV-2	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-3	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
HTH-1RC	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		

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MV-2LPZ															
MV-2	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
MV-3	T	T	TCI		T		TCI		T		TCI		T		
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Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

Table 4. Monitoring Network with Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest

Monitoring Wells/Piezometers	Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest					Lithologic Unit Monitored			
	Inside Contaminant Boundary	Outside Contaminant Boundary, but Inside Compliance Boundary			Outside Compliance Boundary			Upper	Alluvium
		>MCL	>2x MDC	>0.5 MCL	>MCL				
MV-1UPZ					Notify NDEP 3	Upper	Alluvium		
MV-2UPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3UPZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-4PZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-5PZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-6		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-1SRC		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 780 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
HTH-2					Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1UPZ						Lower			
HTH-1LPZ									
MV-4		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-5		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3		UC-1 Chimney			
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)	NA					Tuffaceous Sediments			
MV-1LPZ									
MV-3LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-1					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-2LPZ									
MV-2					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
HTH-1RC					Notify NDEP 3				

Radioisotopes of Interest = Tritium, ¹⁴C, and ¹²⁹I

MCL = SDWA maximum contaminant levels: 20,000 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) for tritium, 2,000 pCi/L for ¹⁴C, and 1 pCi/L for ¹²⁹I.

>0.5 MCL = Concentrations greater than 10,000 pCi/L for tritium, 1,000 pCi/L for ¹⁴C, and 0.5 pCi/L for ¹²⁹I.

MDC = Minimum detectable concentration required by laboratory: 400 pCi/L for tritium, 5 pCi/L for ¹⁴C, and 0.1 pCi/L for ¹²⁹I.

>2x MDC = Concentrations greater than 800 pCi/L for tritium, 10 pCi/L for ¹⁴C, and 0.2 pCi/L for ¹²⁹I.

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Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

Table 4. Monitoring Network with Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest

Monitoring Wells/Piezometers	Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest					Lithologic Unit Monitored			
	Inside Contaminant Boundary	Outside Contaminant Boundary, but Inside Compliance Boundary			Outside Compliance Boundary			Upper	Alluvium
		>MCL	>2x MDC	>0.5 MCL	>MCL				
MV-1UPZ					Notify NDEP 3	Upper	Alluvium		
MV-2UPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3UPZ			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
MV-4PZ			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
MV-5PZ			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
MV-6			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
UC-1-P-1SRC			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 780 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
HTH-2					Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1UPZ						Lower			
HTH-1LPZ									
MV-4			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3	UC-1 Chimney			
MV-5			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)	Notify NDEP 1					Tuffaceous Sediments			
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)	NA								
MV-1LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-3LPZ									
MV-1					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-2LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-2					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3			Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1RC					Notify NDEP 3				

Radioisotopes of Interest = Tritium, ¹⁴C, and ¹²⁹I

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> MCL	pCi/L
Tritium	= 20,000
Carbon-14	= 2,000
Iodine-129	= 1



Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

Table 4. Monitoring Network with Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest

Monitoring Wells/Piezometers	Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest					Lithologic Unit Monitored			
	Inside Contaminant Boundary	Outside Contaminant Boundary, but Inside Compliance Boundary			Outside Compliance Boundary				
		>MCL	>2x MDC	>0.5 MCL					
MV-1UPZ					Notify NDEP 3	Upper	Alluvium		
MV-2UPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3UPZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-4PZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-5PZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-6		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-1SRC		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 780 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
HTH-2					Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1UPZ						Lower			
HTH-1LPZ									
MV-4		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3		UC-1 Chimney			
MV-5		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)	Notify NDEP 1					Tuffaceous Sediments			
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)	NA								
MV-1LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-3LPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-1					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-2LPZ									
MV-2					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
HTH-1RC					Notify NDEP 3				

Radioisotopes of Interest = Tritium, ¹⁴C, and ¹²⁹I

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>2x MDC	pCi/L
Tritium	= 800
Carbon-14	= 10
Iodine-129	= 0.2



Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

Table 4. Monitoring Network with Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest

Monitoring Wells/Piezometers	Action Levels for Radioisotopes of Interest					Lithologic Unit Monitored			
	Inside Contaminant Boundary	Outside Contaminant Boundary, but Inside Compliance Boundary			Outside Compliance Boundary				
		>MCL	>2x MDC	>0.5 MCL					
MV-1UPZ					Notify NDEP 3	Upper	Alluvium		
MV-2UPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3UPZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-4PZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-5PZ		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
MV-6		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-1SRC		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 780 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,200 ft)	Notify NDEP 1								
HTH-2					Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1UPZ						Lower			
HTH-1LPZ									
MV-4		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3		UC-1 Chimney			
MV-5		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)	Notify NDEP 1					Tuffaceous Sediments			
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)	NA								
MV-1LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-3LPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-1					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-2LPZ									
MV-2					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
HTH-1RC					Notify NDEP 3				

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>0.5 MCL	pCi/L
Tritium	= 10,000
Carbon-14	= 1,000
Iodine-129	= 0.5



Closure and Long-Term Monitoring

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MV-2UPZ					Notify NDEP 3				
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HTH-2					Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1UPZ						Lower			
HTH-1LPZ									
MV-4		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3		UC-1 Chimney			
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UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)	Notify NDEP 1					Tuffaceous Sediments			
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)	NA								
MV-1LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-3LPZ									
MV-1					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-2LPZ									
MV-2					Notify NDEP 3				
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HTH-2					Notify NDEP 3				
HTH-1UPZ						Lower			
HTH-1LPZ									
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UC-1-P-2SR (depth 1,591 ft)	Notify NDEP 1					Tuffaceous Sediments			
UC-1-P-2SR (depth 2,192 ft)	NA								
MV-1LPZ						Densely Welded Tuff	Volcanic		
MV-3LPZ									
MV-1					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-2LPZ									
MV-2					Notify NDEP 3				
MV-3		Notify NDEP 1	Notify NDEP 2	Notify NDEP 3					
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Questions?

<http://www.lm.doe.gov/CNTA/Sites.aspx>