

**BASALT WASTE ISOLATION PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

ADDENDUM

BER-004

**Gable Mountain (NSTF) Water Line,
Trailer Move and Modifications**

October 1987

**Prepared for
the U.S. Department of Energy
under Contract DE-AC06-76 RLO 1830**

**Pacific Northwest Laboratory
Richland, Washington 99352**

**8712030270 871021
PDR WASTE PDR
WM-10**

BER-004
BWIP ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
ADDENDUM

Gable Mountain (NSTF) Water Line Improvements,
R26E, T13N, Sec. 14-16, Benton County, Washington

INTRODUCTION:

This ADDENDUM responds to new information on the proposed activity and details the results and recommendations of a Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWIP) Environmental Review (BER) ADDENDUM on a site characterization activity currently under way.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this ADDENDUM is to review, examine, and recommend vehicular traffic (turn-around and parking) in undisturbed areas not delineated during the original BER. A second purpose is to correct the incorrect response to question 5a in the WATER section of the Ecological Evaluation Form. The response to the question of potential water discharge to the environment should be YES instead of NO. Engineers have informed us that it will be necessary to flush debris from the new water line, and it will also be necessary to test the line for design specifications of pressure and volume. These tests will require the discharge of approximately 3785 m³ (100,000 gal) of water. An additional purpose is to clarify the amount of surface acreage on Gable Mountain originally cleared for construction activity.

ACTION:

During the excavation of the trench for the new water line, (the old line was not replaced as originally believed) engineers determined that the existing access road and construction pad were too narrow for needed vehicular traffic. The pipe, excavation equipment, and soil from the trench occupied the entire width of the existing construction corridor that had been cleared for activity during the original BER. Thus, insufficient room remained for worker's vehicles and for the water truck used to water the site. Engineers from WHC requested that PNL examine specific additional areas for this vehicular traffic, and to advise them how these areas could be utilized in a manner that would minimize environmental impact.

BER Ecologists and Archaeologists examined these specified areas and found no environmental resources that might be unacceptably impacted as long as the work is confined to the newly established boundaries for vehicular traffic. These areas were generally occupied by undisturbed sagebrush/cheatgrass habitat and would be used for vehicle parking and turn-around. The additional areas approved for construction activity are as follows (see Figure 1, a portion of a USGS map):

1. A truck turn-around area at the west end of the new water line approximately 372 m² (4000 ft²) in area (point "A" on Figure 1).

2. A truck turn-around area at the water blow-out pipe approximately .32 km (0.2 miles) west of Route 4, including an area of approximately 372 m² (4000 ft²) (point "B" on Figure 1).
3. Equipment parking area west and adjacent to Route 4 and the water line, utilizing part of the Route 4 right-of-way including an area of approximately .20 hec (.5 ac) (point "C" on Figure 1).
4. A truck turn-around area approximately 457 m (1500 ft) east of Route 4 at the top of the basalt outcrop, including an area of approximately 372 m² (4000 ft²) (point "D" on Figure 1).
5. An additional area running the entire length of the water line [approximately 3.22 km (2 miles)] and 7 m (24 ft) in width on the north side of the water line. This area had been previously disturbed and covered with gravel probably when the old water line was installed. This additional area will permit the movement of earth moving equipment to plow excavated dirt into the the water line trench.
6. We clarified the aerial extent of land that had been cleared for traffic on the side of Gable Mountain. The area examined and cleared by ecologists and archaeologists during the original BER included the existing water line access road [approximately 6 m (20 ft) in width] and a strip of land 10 m (33 feet) wide on both sides of the existing access road.
7. We agreed that the best location for the disposal of the pipeline test water is the existing, abandoned gravel pit immediately north of the Trailer Village located at the foot of Gable Mountain (point "E" on Figure 1).

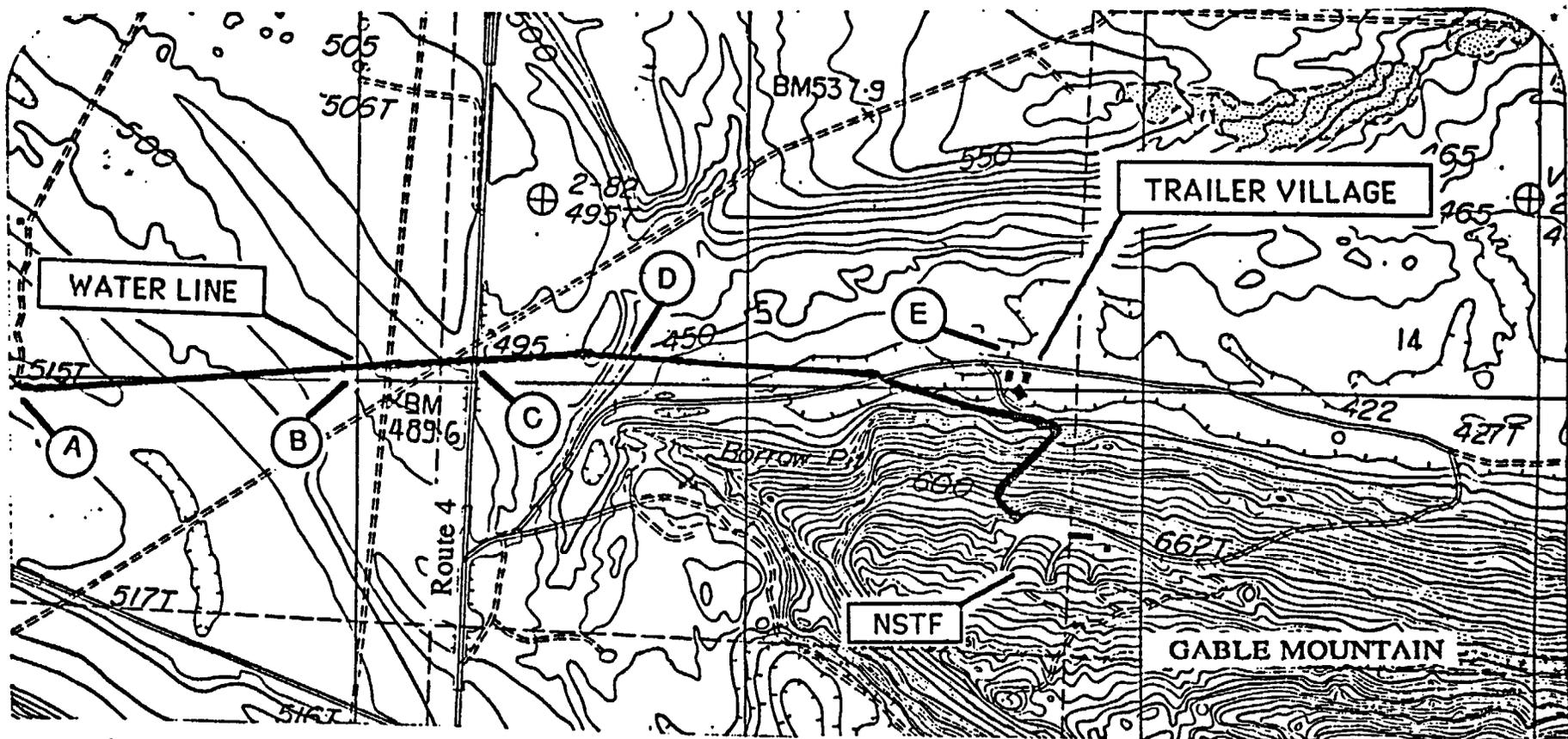
These new disturbed areas will result in a minor amount of environmental disturbance not anticipated to be significant. We anticipate no impacts to cultural resources.

The water line project should proceed as planned utilizing/disturbing only those surface locations examined and approved in the original BER and this ADDENDUM.

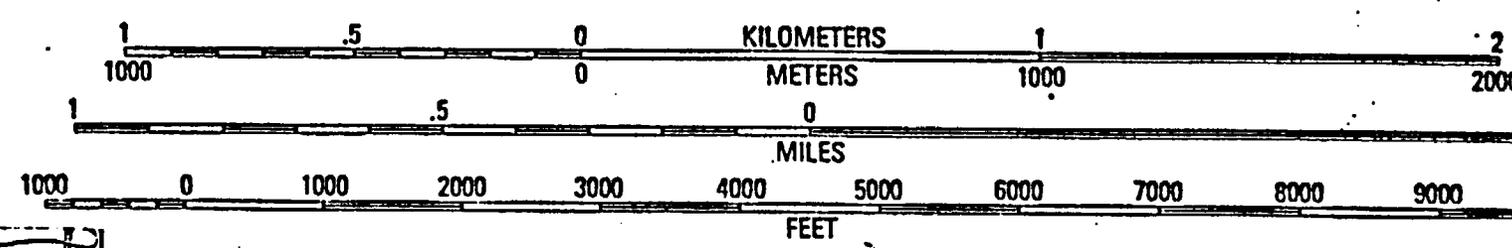
Robert L. Newell
Signed

Task Leader
Title

10/15/87
Date

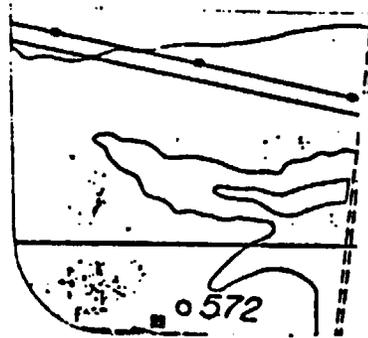


SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

Figure 1. Route of Gable Mountain Water line and New Areas (A-E) Examined In This Addendum (source USGS 1:24 000 scale Gable Butte, 1986 map).



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