# ADDITION OF NEW APPENDIX 10 Swift Fox Survey Protocol

# Appendix 10 Swift Fox Survey Protocol

The following protocol is a modification of a swift fox protocol included in Mineral Exploration Permit Number NE0210824 (dated August 19, 2009) issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to Crow Butte Resources, Inc (NDEQ 2009). This permit primarily addresses impacts associated with drilling of boreholes for purposes of mineral exploration. The primary modification of the Appendix 10 protocol is expanding the type of activities potentially impacting the swift fox to include, in addition to drilling of boreholes, uranium in situ satellite project development activities. Satellite "project development" includes construction of satellite facilities (process building and associated storage structures, evaporation ponds, wellfield development (surface preparation, monitor and injection/recovery wells, wellhouses, and trunklines/piping), well workover, boreholes outside of wellfields, and project roadways. Reference to "project development" in this protocol refers to these activities. Project development activities apply to initial construction/wellfield development, operations and decommissioning. Decommissioning includes decontaminating, dismantling, and removing satellite facilities and associated wellfield buildings/equipment/wells and, site reclamation and groundwater restoration.

Swift fox are typically found in topographically flat (slopes <20%) arid regions. In Nebraska, suitable habitat is in the short-grass prairie ecoregion where vegetation is less than 40 cm tall. They can be found in large expanses of prairie as well as prairie intermixed with agriculture. Dens are also found in anthropogenic areas such as near roads and trails, and in agricultural fields, culverts pipes and buildings (Tannerfeldt et al 2003). Swift fox are highly mobile and will use a variety of dens throughout the year. However, a female swift fox with young pups will typically be tied to one den until the pups are old enough to disperse from the den. Swift fox den entrances have a diameter of 17 to 23 cm.

## **Required Surveys:**

CBR will avoid impacting the swift fox species by selecting project development areas that are not in suitable habitat and by avoiding certain locations during specific times of the year. Surveys shall be conducted that are <u>consistent</u> with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NG&PC) standard protocol included in CBR's Mineral Exploration Permit Number NE0210824 as Attachment 1.

The survey form to be used for swift fox surveys is attached to this protocol.

Project development activities will occur within a designated permit boundary. If project development activities within this permit boundary are such that specific protocol requirements (e.g., designated distances from swift fox dens) cannot be avoided as stated in this protocol, CBR will consult with the NDEQ and NG&PC as to the feasibility of alternate actions. No work will be conducted until any such issue has been resolved with the NDEQ and NG&PC.

# **Surveyors:**

Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified individual who has experience working with the species or has been trained to identify swift fox burrows, dens and sign (scat, tracks, etc.).

#### Location:

Surveys shall be conducted at project development sites discussed above where suitable habitat is present within the range of the species.

#### Season:

Surveys shall be conducted year-around in areas of suitable habitat where project development activities are planned.

### Timing:

Surveys shall be conducted within one week of initiating project development activities described above under Location.

# **Survey Technique:**

The "denning season" is defined as the period of time when adult swift fox give birth and raise pups. In Nebraska, the swift fox denning season is from April 1 through August 31.

During the denning season, the area that must be surveyed for dens includes project development activities plus an additional 230 meters around the affected areas. When developing wellfields, numerous boreholes will initially be drilled. In this situation, the "affected area" will be the perimeter of the wellfield for the addition of 230 meters to the survey area, as opposed to each drill site. Under such conditions (i.e. work over multiple days or months), only one survey shall be submitted for that period indicating the duration of planned activities in the survey area. During other periods of time (e.g., operations), when individual boreholes are drilled at one time or a workover rig is used for well maintenance, then the additional 230 meters will be applied to the drill site. The above procedures will allow the operator the option of the most effective type of survey to use - wellfield boundary or individual drill site. The satellite facilities will be located within a 30-acre fenced-in site. The swift fox survey will be conducted prior to construction using an additional 230 meters around the fence boundary.

During the non-denning season (September 1 through March 31), the area that must be surveyed for dens includes the project development activities plus an additional 100 meters around the affected areas. When developing wellfields, numerous boreholes will initially be drilled. In this situation, the "affected area" will be the perimeter of the wellfield for the addition of 100 meters to the survey area, as opposed to each drill site. Under such conditions (i.e. work over multiple days or months), only one survey shall be submitted for that period indicating the duration of planned activities in the survey area. During other periods of time (e.g., operations), when individual boreholes are drilled at one time or a workover rig is used for well maintenance, then the additional 100 meters will be applied to the drill site. The above procedures will allow the operator the option of the most effective type of survey to use - wellfield boundary or individual drill site. The satellite facilities will be located within a 30-acre fenced-in site. The swift fox survey will be conducted using an additional 100 meters around the fence boundary.

The survey will consist of walking transects and searching for dens within the survey area. Transects will be no more that 50 meters apart in order to thoroughly cover the area.

An active den may have fresh digging at the entrance, although this is not always the case (Jackson and Choate 2000). Sign, such as scat or tracks, can also be indicate an active den. Swift fox tracks are approximately 2.54 cm wide and 3.8 cm long. Although this is the smallest canid species, tracks can be confused with other species, especially young coyotes. Inactive dens may be overgrown with vegetation, have spider webs over the entrance, or be caving in.

#### **Conservative Measures:**

If a potentially active swift fox den is identified, one of two conservation measures should be implemented:

- 1. The area of project development activities shall be done so activities are at least 230 meters from the den during the denning season, or 100 meters from the den during the non-denning season. For drilling sites, these can be moved to an appropriate distance from the den. A survey around any of these new activities must be conducted.
- 2. A track or scent station can be set up to determine if the den is being used by swift fox. If track or scent stations indicate swift fox are using the den, then project development activities within a minimum of 100 meters or 230 meters (whichever is appropriate for the season) of the den would be postponed until the den is abandoned. For drilling sites, they can be moved as outlined in #1 above. If track or scent stations indicate swift fox are not using the den, then drilling activities may proceed if there are not any other dens or swift fox within the survey area.

Track Station: Den use can be determined by clearing vegetation around the den and sifting a mixture of fine dry sand and unscented glycerin in a circular patter (~1 m in diameter) around the den hole, approximately 0.5 inches thick. Tracks of the animal using the den can then be identified the following morning as most animals using underground dens are nocturnal and will exit the den at night. Track stations are only good for one night. If the track station cannot be checked the following morning, a new sand and glycerin mixture should be applied to the area around the den hole and surveyed the next morning.

Scent Station: Swift fox scent station surveys can be conducted any time of the year, although tracks will not show on bare, frozen ground. However, snow can be used as a tracking medium in winter. Scent stations are created by clearing any vegetation in an area and sifting a mixture of fine dry sand and unscented glycerin in a circular patter (~1 m in diameter) approximately 0.5 inches thick. A plaster tablet soaked in cod/salmon oil mixture (or either) is placed in the center of the station. Scent stations are then placed at locations selected based on the suitability of the surrounding habitat and the presence of certain structures (fence rows, gates, intersections, trails, etc.) that facilitate movement. Weather permitting, they are reset for 3 consecutive days or until at least one station shows sign of swift fox visitation (tracks, feces). Scent stations should not be used within 300 meters of a known or suspected active den as these methods may attract predators.

# **Survey Reports**

A monthly survey report shall be submitted to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NG&PC) and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) describing all surveys for the swift fox that were conducted during the previous month in connection with project development

activities. The survey report shall include the names of the surveyors and their credentials, date and time of the survey, weather conditions, locations surveyed, methods, results, and a discussion of applicable conservation measures implemented. If the swift fox is not identified, the above information must be recorded and included in the report to be submitted at the end of the month. If a species is identified within the survey area, NG&PC must be notified by telephone within twenty-four (24) hours of identification. Written documentation of identification and the survey report shall be submitted with five (5) days of species identification, along with indication of conservation measures. All survey reports shall be submitted no later than the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of the reporting period, even if the species being surveyed are not detected at a particular site. Copies of the reports shall be kept on site for inspection by the NDEQ.

#### References:

Jackson, V.I. and J.R. Chaote. 2000. Dens and den sites of the swift fox, Vulpes velox. The Southwestern Naturalist 45(2):212:220).

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). 2009. *Mineral Exploration Permit Number NE0210824*. August 19, 2009.

Tannerfeldt, M., A. Moehrenschlager and A. Angerbjorn. 2003. Den ecology of swift, kit, and arctic foxes. A review. In the Swift Fox: Ecology and conservation of swift foxes in a changing world, M. Sovada and L. Carbyn editors. Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regima.



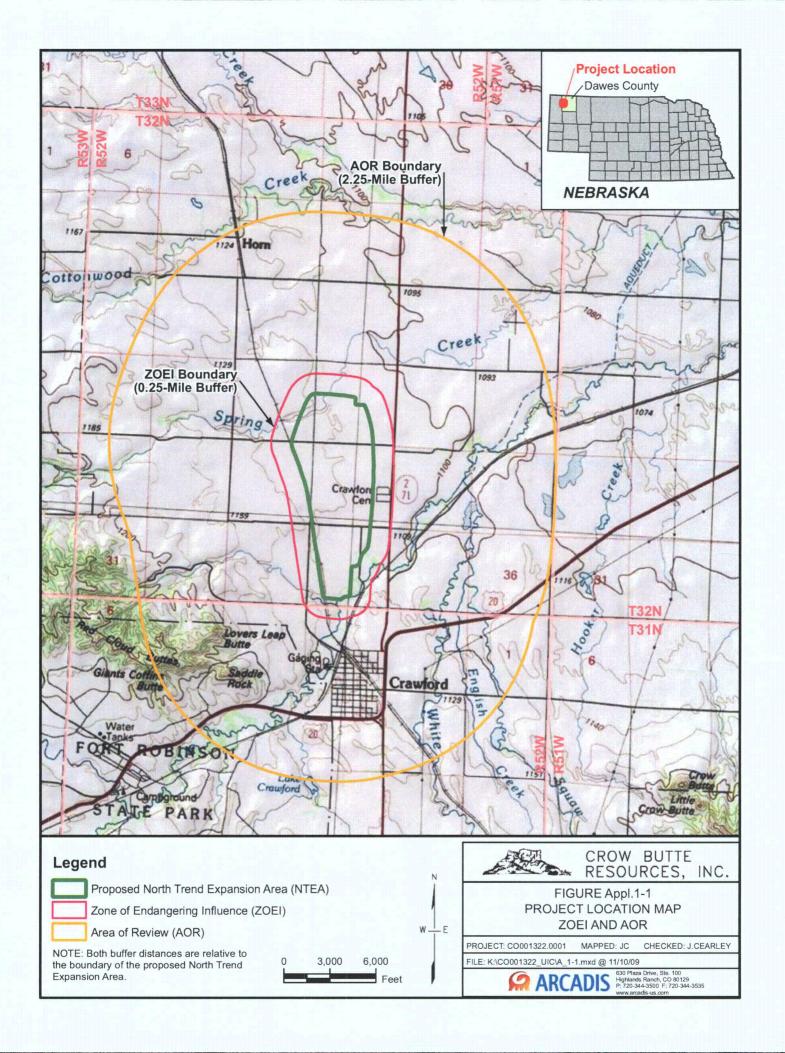
# Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Threatened and Endangered Species Survey Report

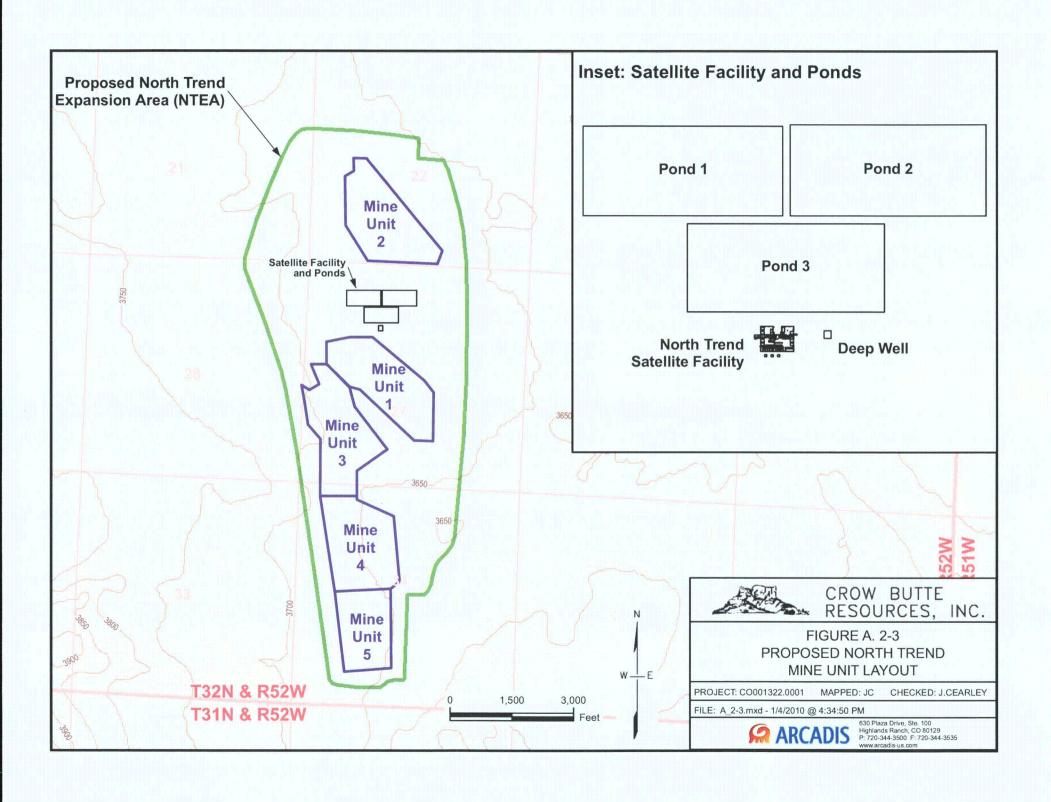
Surveyor' Name(s)						
species)	., who certified t		date of certificati	on or surveyor's	knowledge	of surveyed
Date of Survey:	te of Survey: Time of Survey:					
Weather Condition: Temperature:	°F	Wind Speed	d & Direction:			
ه کالیت					Other	
Sunny Partly	Cloudy Clou	dy Sno	wing Rair	ning		_
Legal Location or GPS WGS84:				area (include	datum, i.e	., NAD83,
County:	<del></del>					
Vegetative Cover (i.e. corn stubble, plowed field, wetland, short grass prairie 10-20 cm tall						
Methods used to survey a			•		ft apart)	
					,	
Were any of the following	g species identific	ed in the area?				
	Mountain Plove River Otter Swift Fox	er Yes. Yes. Yes	/No			
If so, what conservation n	neasures were tal	cen? (Attach if i	necessary)		, .	

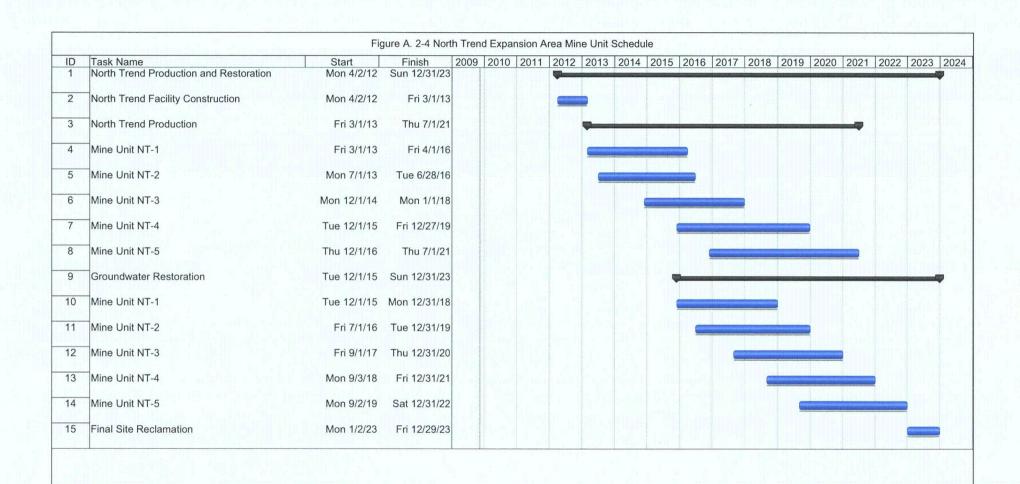
If species is identified, record the location of the species in GPS coordinates. Also indicate locational certainty (i.e. 3 birds were flushed 50 yards NW from this point). Photographs may be sent with survey reports to aid in site description and species identification.

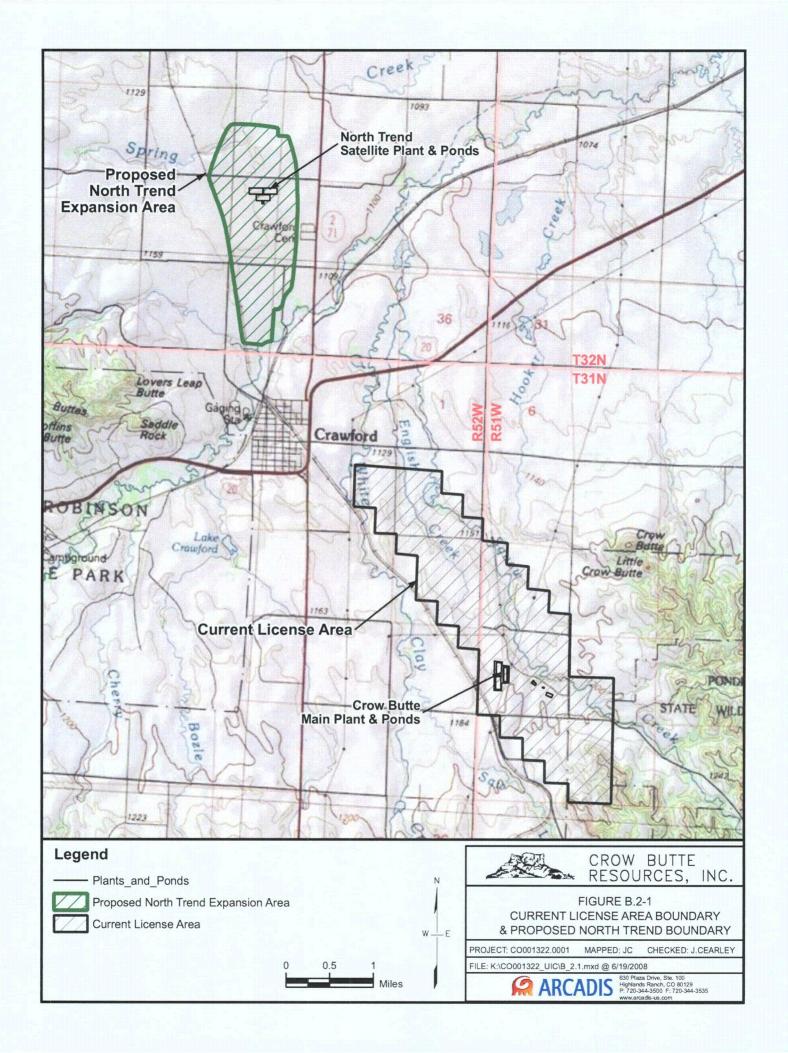
## Submit survey reports monthly to:

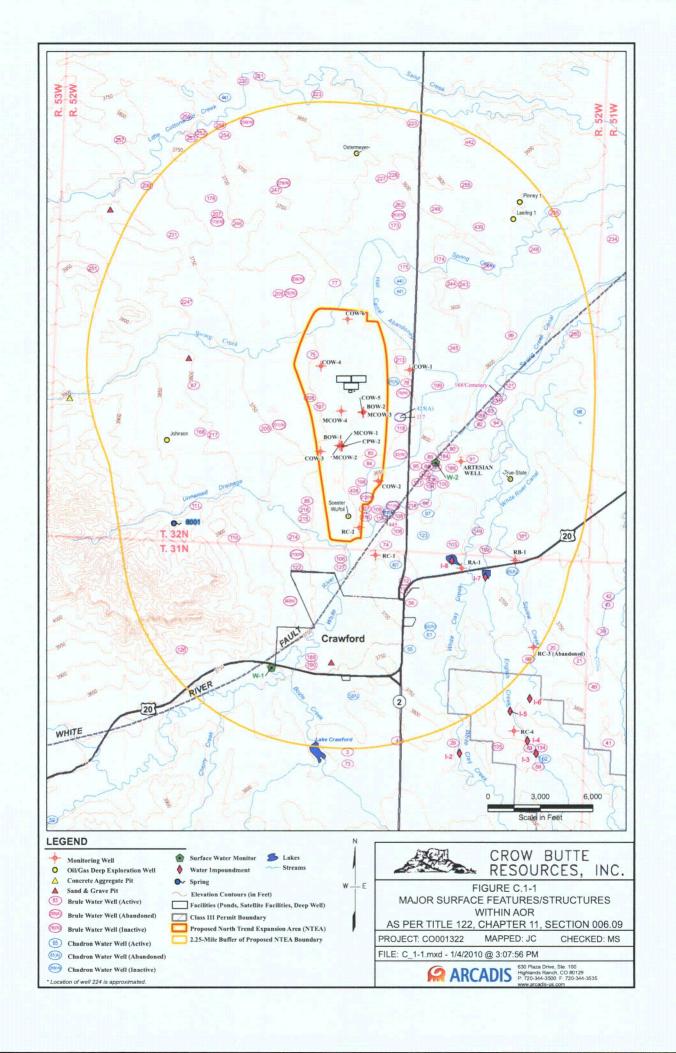
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Attn: Env. Analyst Supervisor Nebraska Natural Heritage Program 2200 N 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Lincoln, NE 68503 Nebraska Dept. of Env. Quality Attn: Mineral Exploration Program P.O. Box 98922 Lincoln, NE 68509

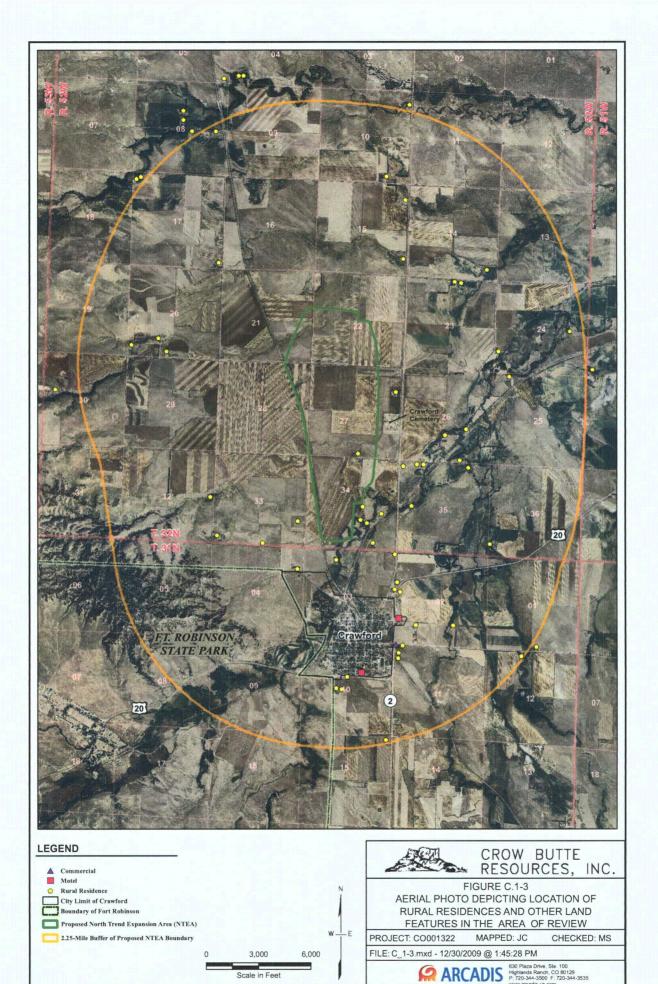


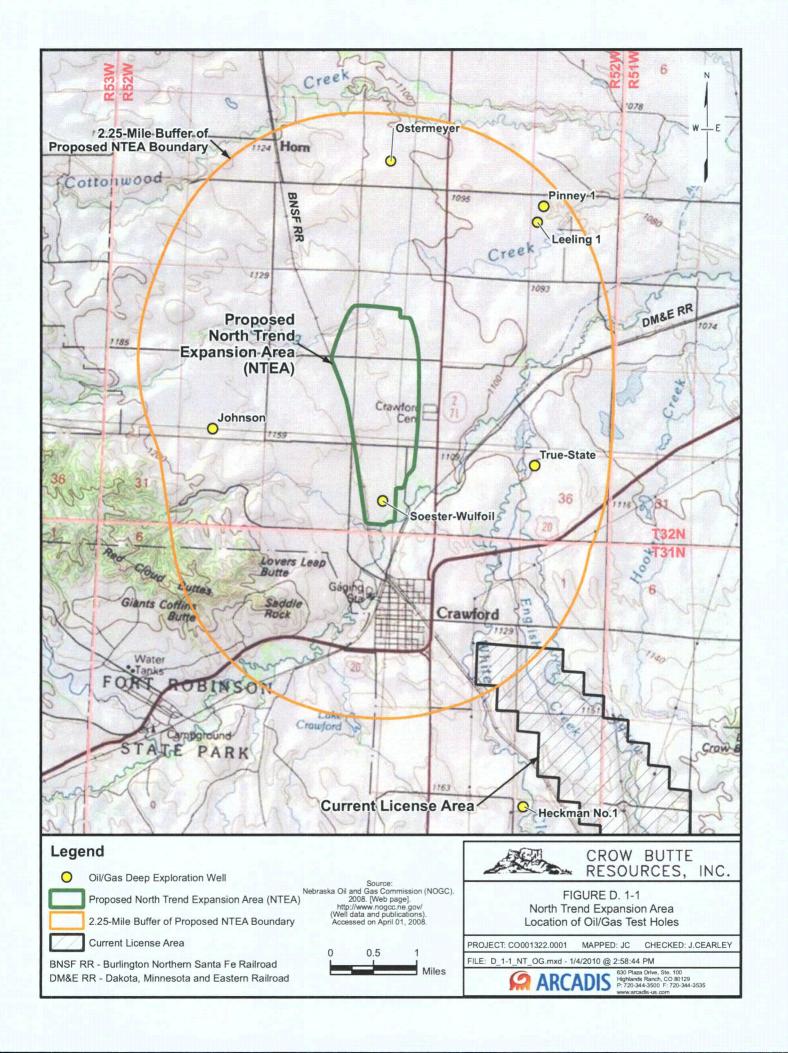




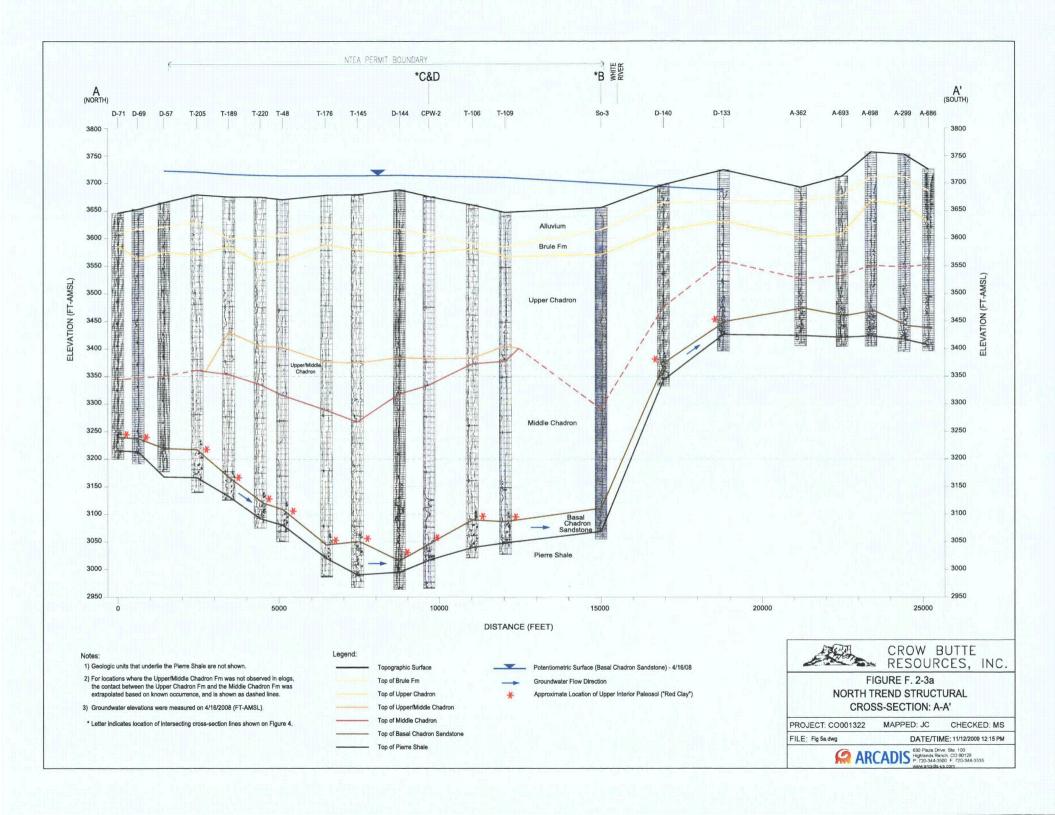


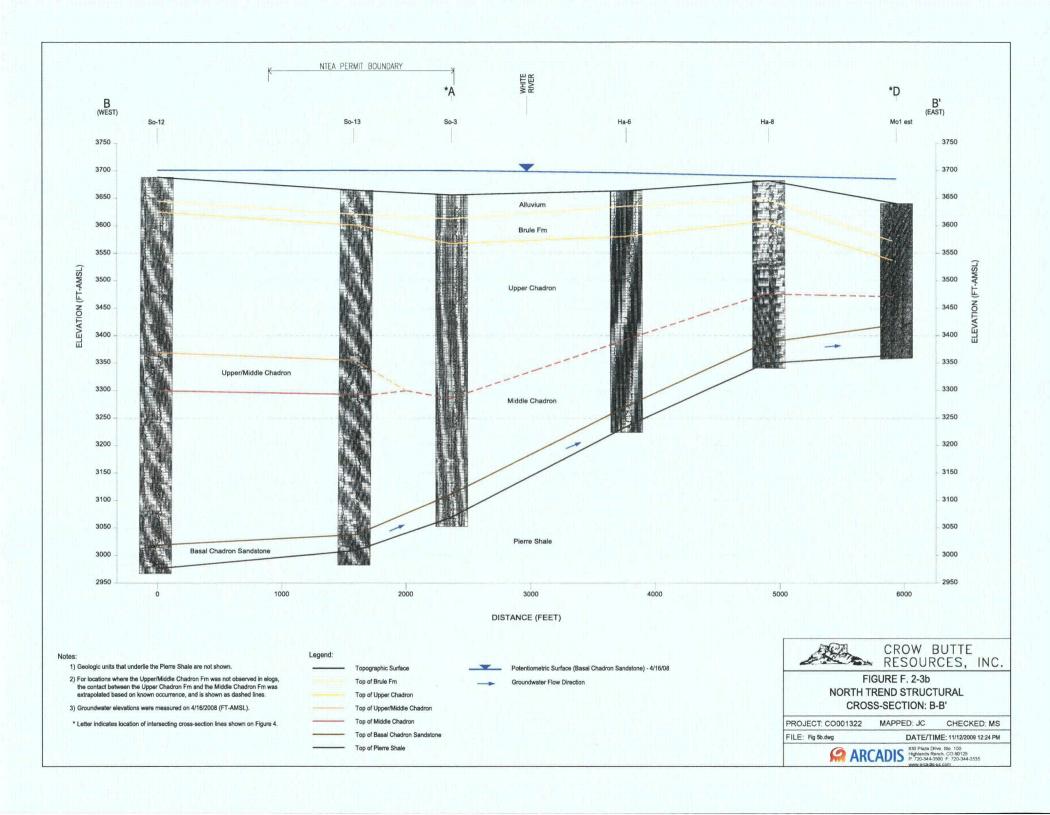


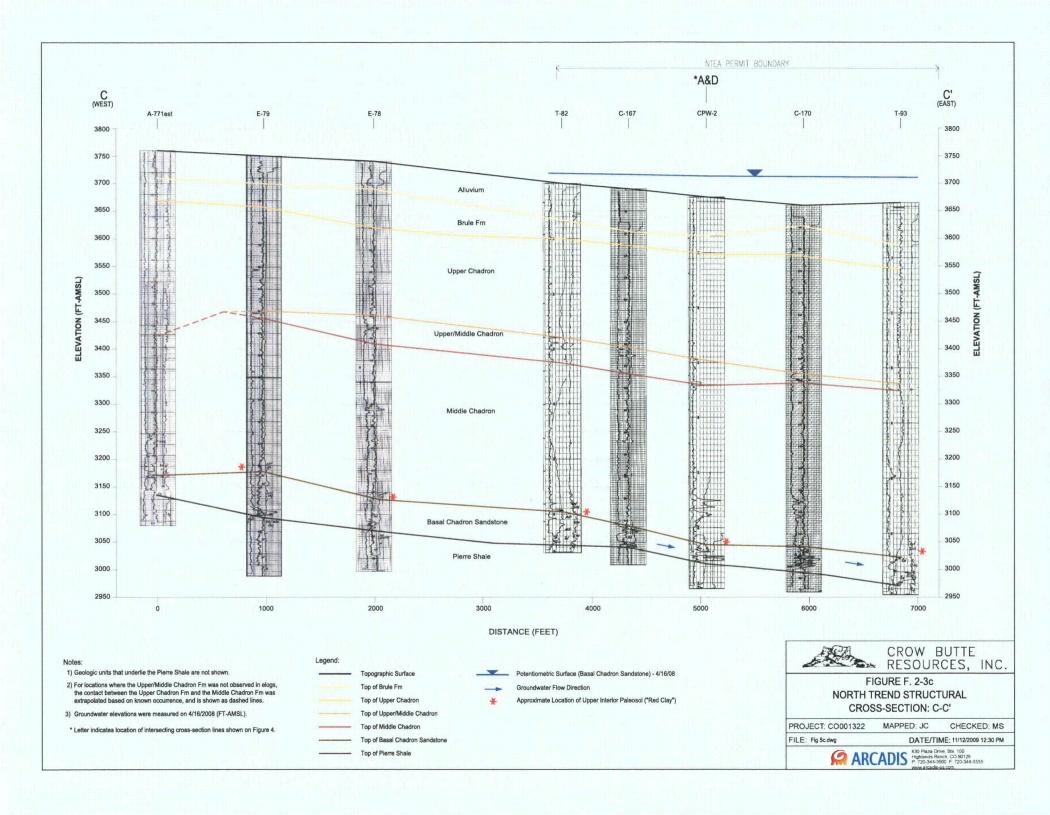


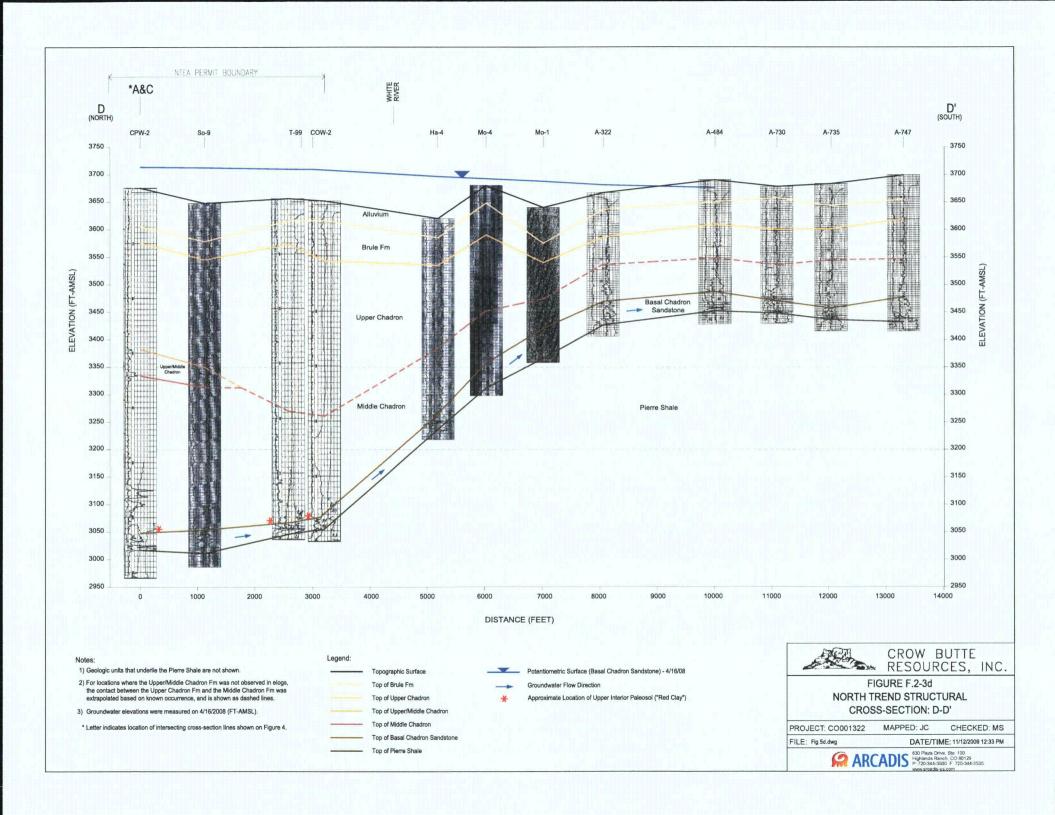


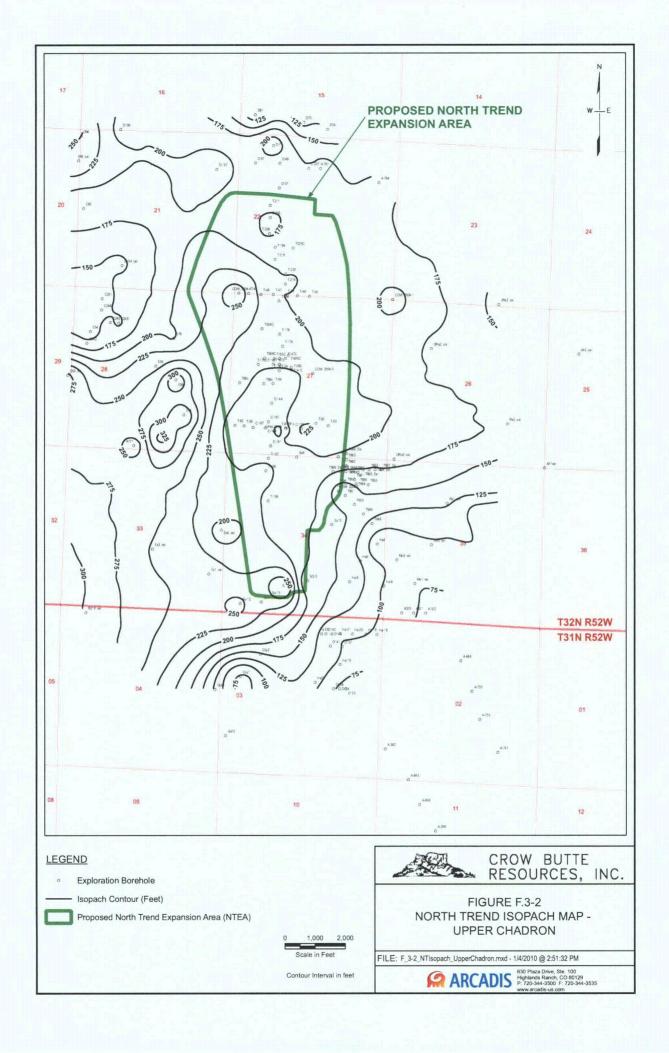


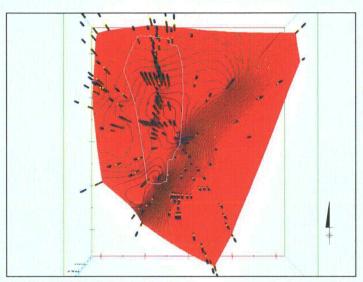




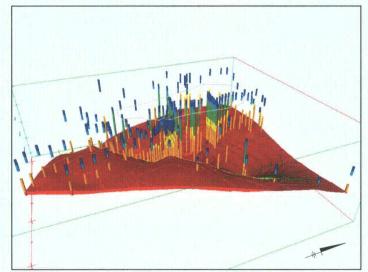




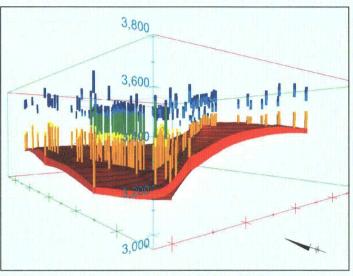




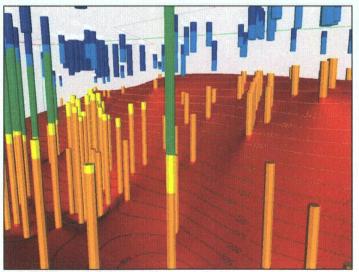
PLAN VIEW (PERMIT BOUNDARY SHOWN)



**OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING NORTHWEST (PERPENDICULAR TO FOLD AXIS)** 



**OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING NORTHEAST (PARALLEL TO FOLD AXIS)** 



OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING EAST-NORTHEAST INTO NORTH LIMB OF FOLD

#### LEGEND:

STRATIGRAPHY

Alluvium

Brule Fm

Upper Chadron Fm (Big Cottonwood Creek Mbr)

Upper/Middle Chadron Fm (Big Cottonwood Creek Mbr)

Middle Chadron Fm (Peanut Peak Mbr)

Basal Chadron Fm (Chamberlain Pass Fm)

#### NOTES:

- All of the 3D model output has a 10x vertical exaggeration.
- Elevations are in ft-amsl (axes and contours).



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FIGURE F.3-3a BASAL CHADRON SANDSTONE (CHAMBERLAIN PASS FM)

PROJECT: CO001322

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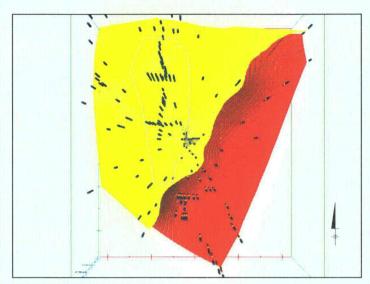
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FILE: FIGURE F.3-3a

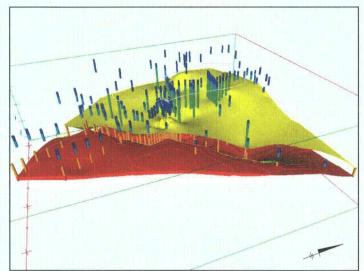


630 Plaza Drive, Ste 100 Highlands Ranch, CO 80129 P 720-344-3500 F 720-344-3535

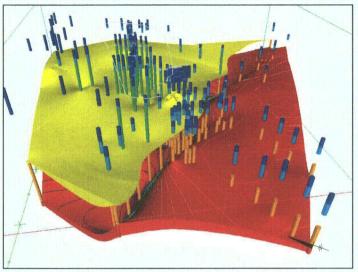
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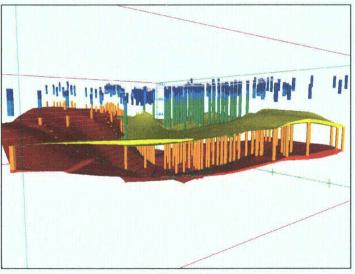
PLAN VIEW (PERMIT BOUNDARY SHOWN)



OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING NORTHWEST (PERPENDICULAR TO FOLD AXIS)



OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING NORTHEAST ( PARALLEL TO FOLD AXIS)



OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING EAST-NORTHEAST INTO NORTH LIMB OF FOLD

#### LEGEND:

#### STRATIGRAPHY

Alluvium

Upper Chadron Fm (Big Cottonwood Creek Mbr)

Upper/Middle Chadron Fm (Big Cottonwood Creek Mbr)

Middle Chadron Fm (Peanut Peak Mbr)

Basal Chadron Fm (Chamberlain Pass Fm)

#### NOTES:

- All of the 3D model output has a 10x vertical exaggeration.
- Elevations are in ft-amsl (axes and contours).



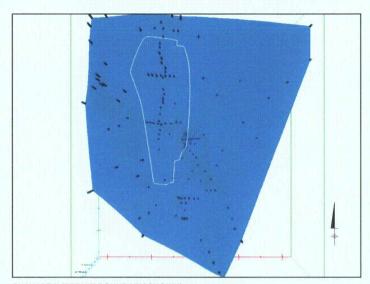
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FIGURE F.3-3b
BASAL CHADRON SANDSTONE
(CHAMBERLAIN PASS FM) AND UPPER/MIDDLE
CHADRON (BIG COTTONWOOD CREEK MBR)

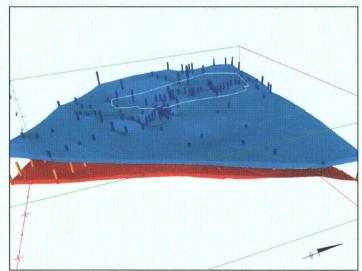
PROJECT: CO001322

FILE: FIGURE F.3-3b

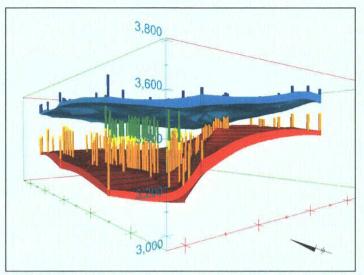




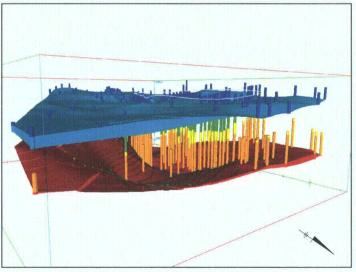
PLAN VIEW (PERMIT BOUNDARY SHOWN)



OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING NORTHWEST (PERPENDICULAR TO FOLD AXIS)



OBLIQUE VIEW - FACING NORTHEAST (PARALLEL TO FOLD AXIS)



OBLIQUE VIEW FACING SOUTHWEST (PARALLEL TO FOLD AXIS)

#### LEGEND:

STRATIGRAPHY



Upper Chadron Fm (Big Cottonwood Creek Mbr)

Upper/Middle Chadron Fm (Big Cottonwood Creek Mbr)

Middle Chadron Fm (Peanut Peak Mbr)

Basal Chadron Fm (Chamberlain Pass Fm)

#### NOTES:

- All of the 3D model output has a 10x vertical exaggeration.
- Elevations are in ft-amsl (axes and contours).



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FIGURE F.3-3c BASAL CHADRON SANDSTONE (CHAMBERLAIN PASS FM) AND BRULE FM

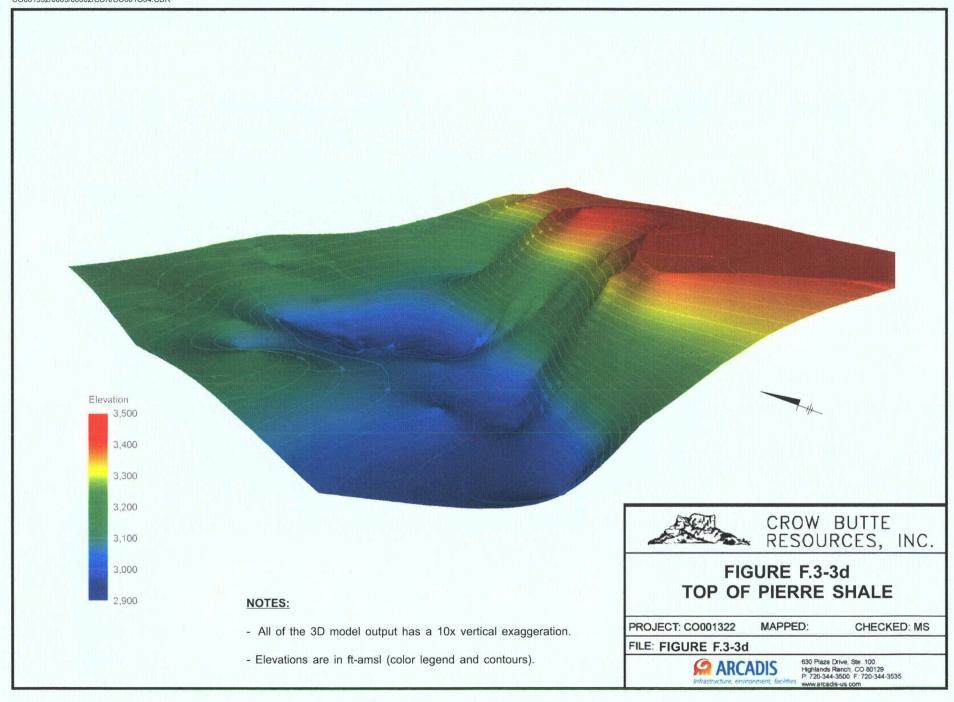
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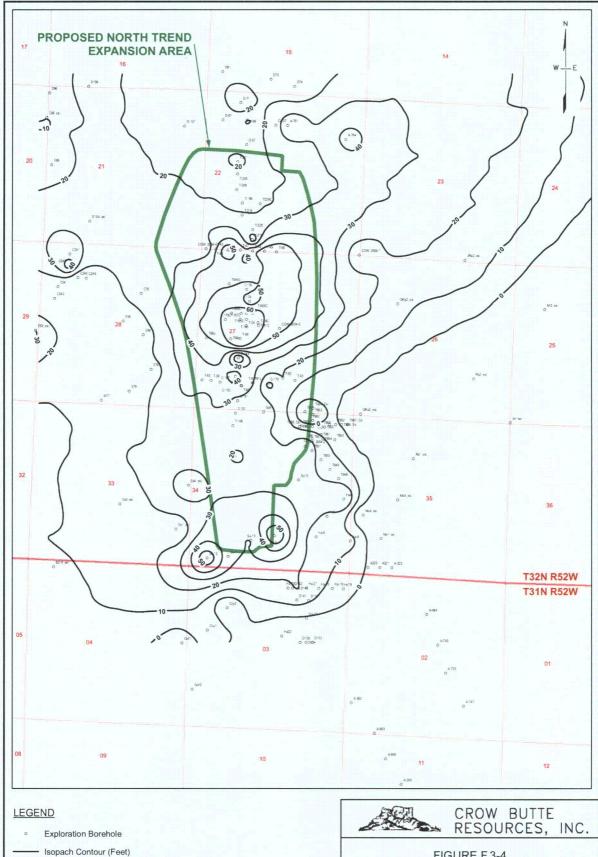
MAPPED:

CHECKED: MS

FILE: FIGURE F.3-3c







Proposed North Trend Expansion Area (NTEA)



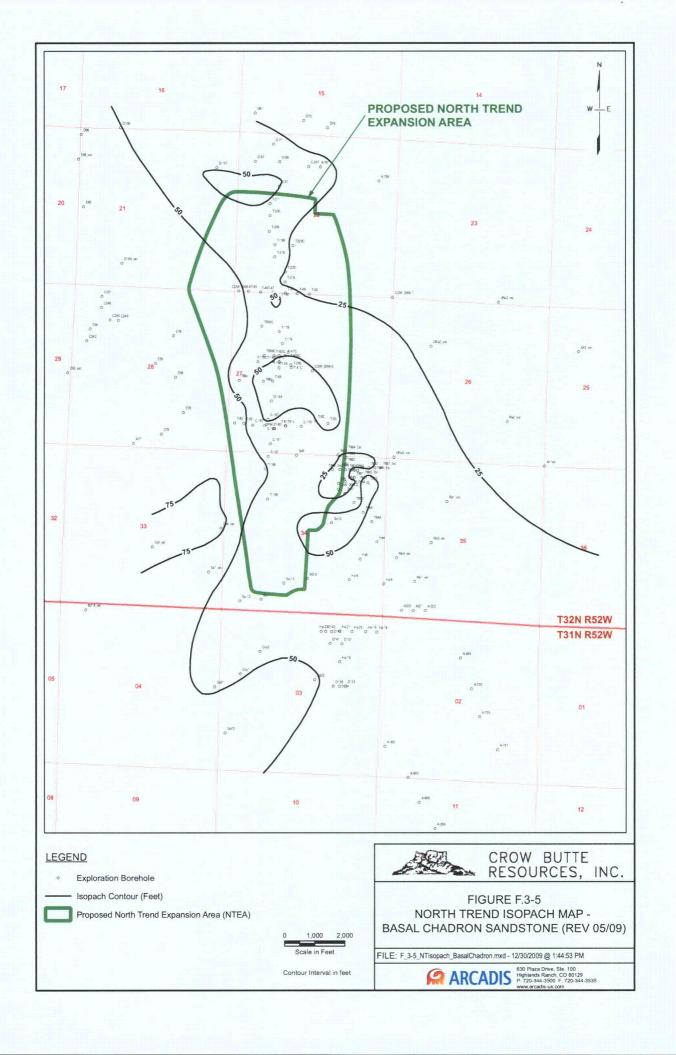
Contour Interval in feet

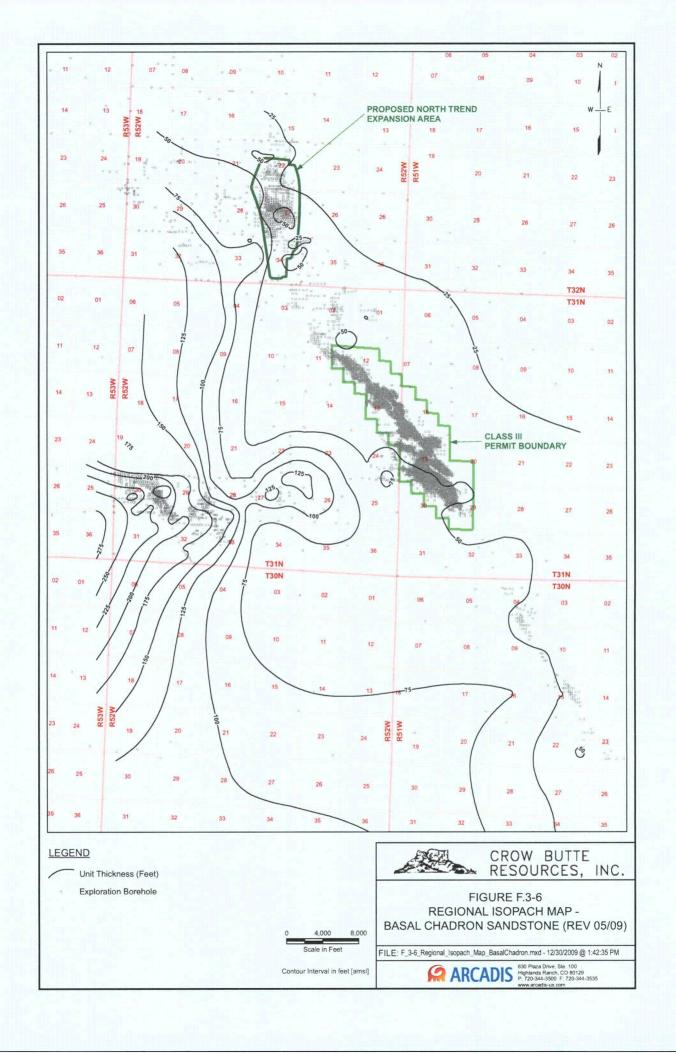
FIGURE F.3-4 NORTH TREND ISOPACH MAP -UPPER/MIDDLE CHADRON

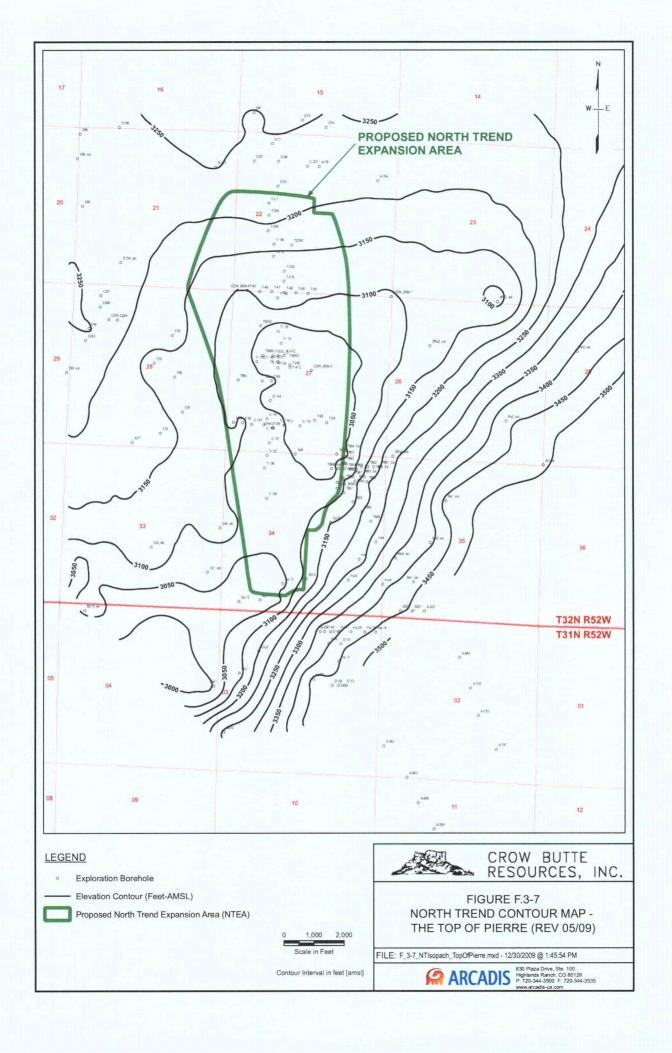
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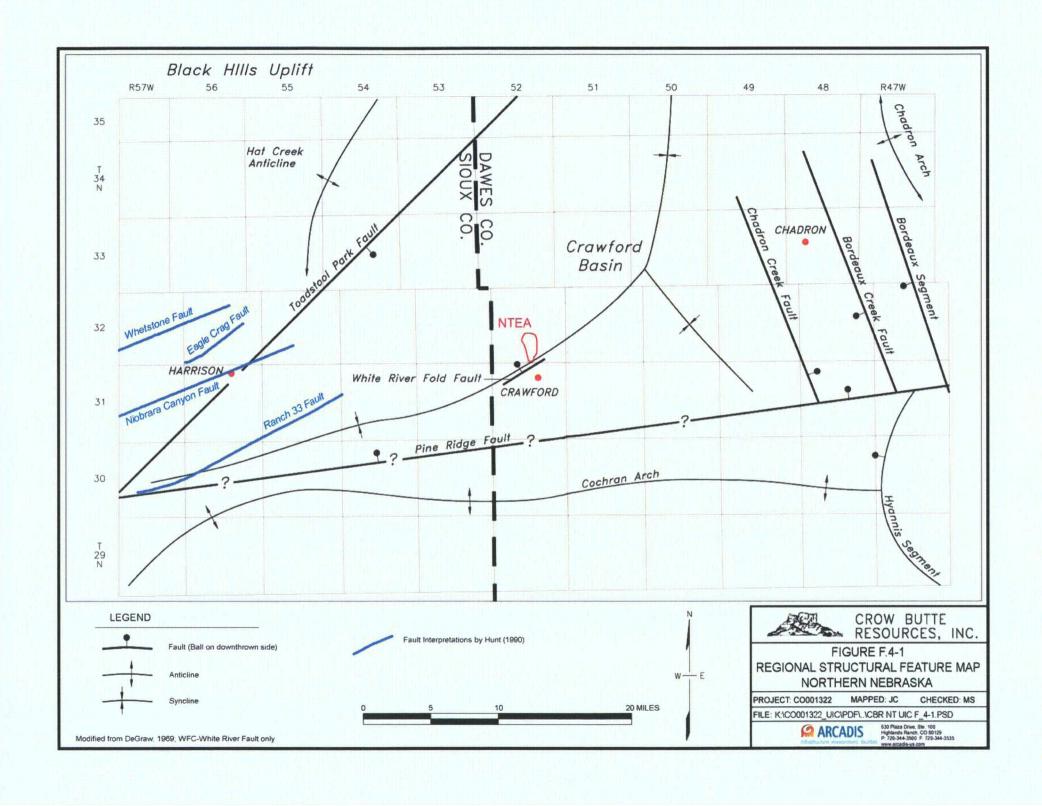


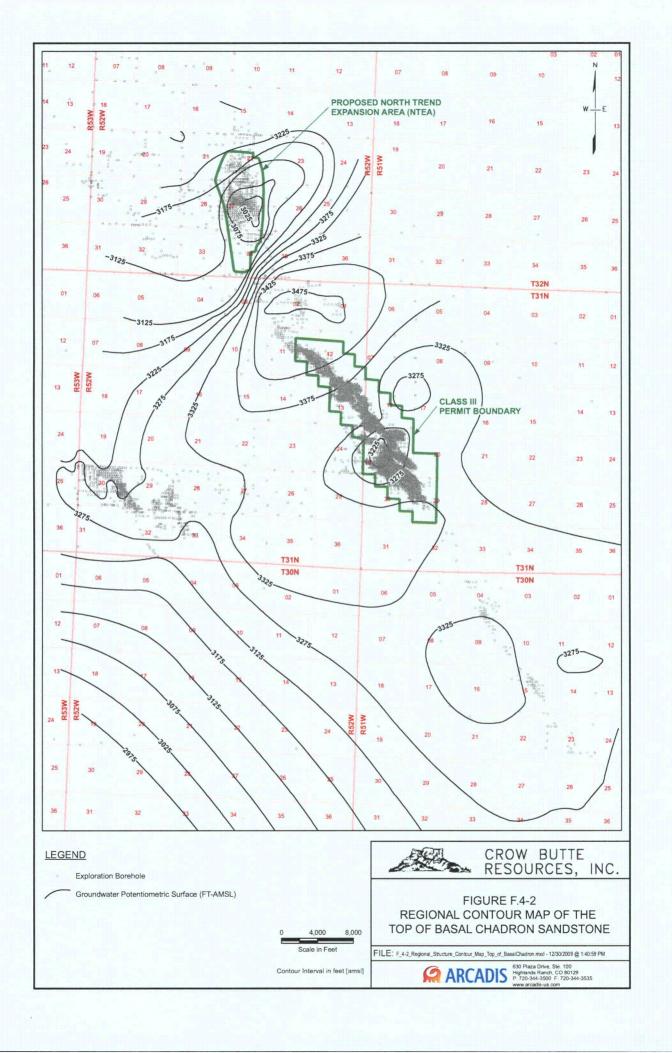
ARCADIS 630 Plaza Drive, Ste. 100 Highlands Ranch, CO 80129 Pr. 720-344-3500 F: 720-344-3535 www.arcadis-us.com

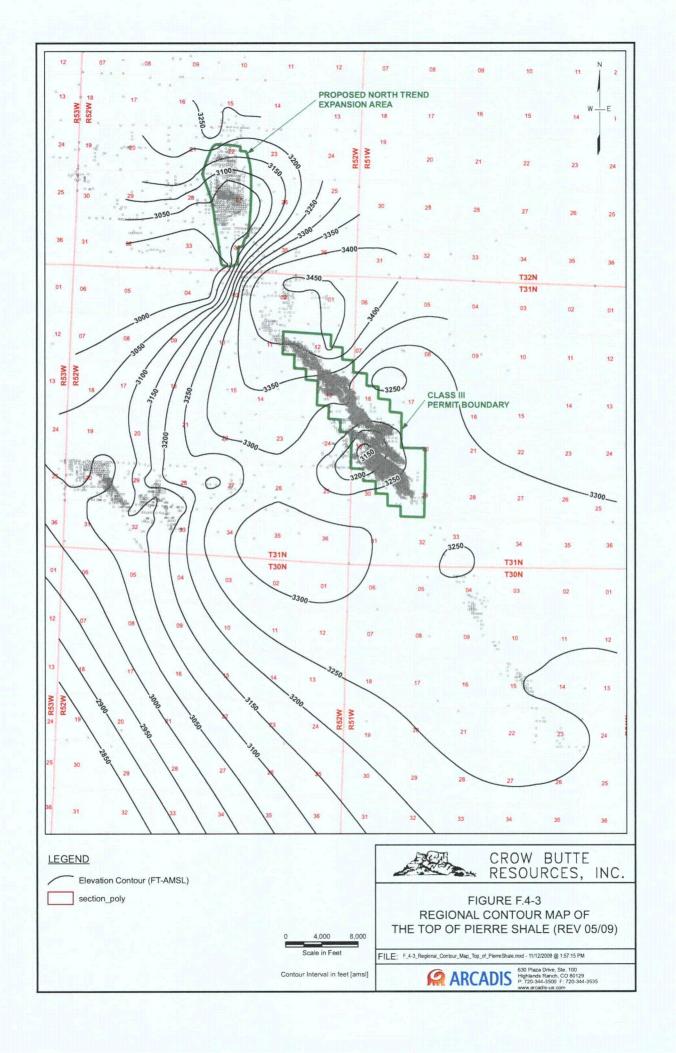














- HbB, Haverson silt loam, occasionally flooded JmC, Jayem loamy very fine sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes
- KaD2, Thirtynine silt loam, 2 to 11 percent slopes, eroded
- KeB, Keith silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes
- KeD, Keith silt loam, 3 to 9 percent slopes KfD, Keith and Ulysses silt loams, 3 to 9 percent slopes
- KpD, Keota-Epping silt loams, 3 to 9 percent slopes
- Lo, Haverson loam, frequently flooded
- OgF, Oglala loam, 9 to 30 percent slopes OhF, Oglala-Canyon loams, 9 to 20 percent slopes
- SrD, Sarben fine sandy loam, 6 to 9 percent slopes
- SvF, Sarben and Vetal loamy very fine sands, 9 to 30 percent slopes
- VeC, Vetal and Bayard soils, 1 to 6 percent slopes



Source: Aerial - NAIP NE045, 2006; Soil - NRCS Soil Mart



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FIGURE F. 7-1 NORTH TREND SOILS

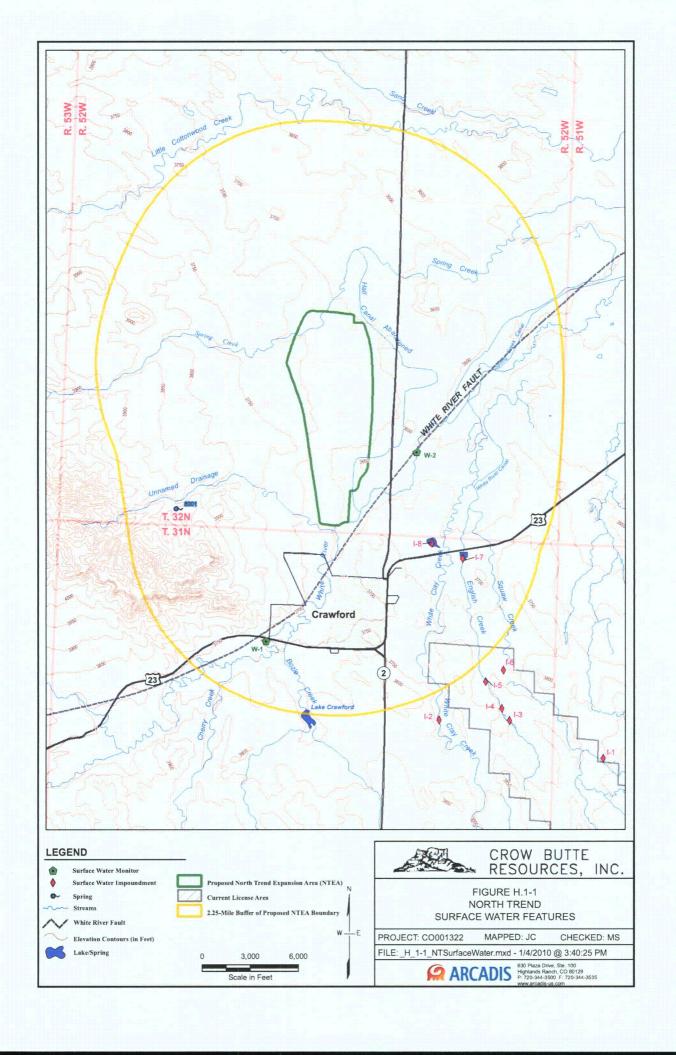
PROJECT: CO001322

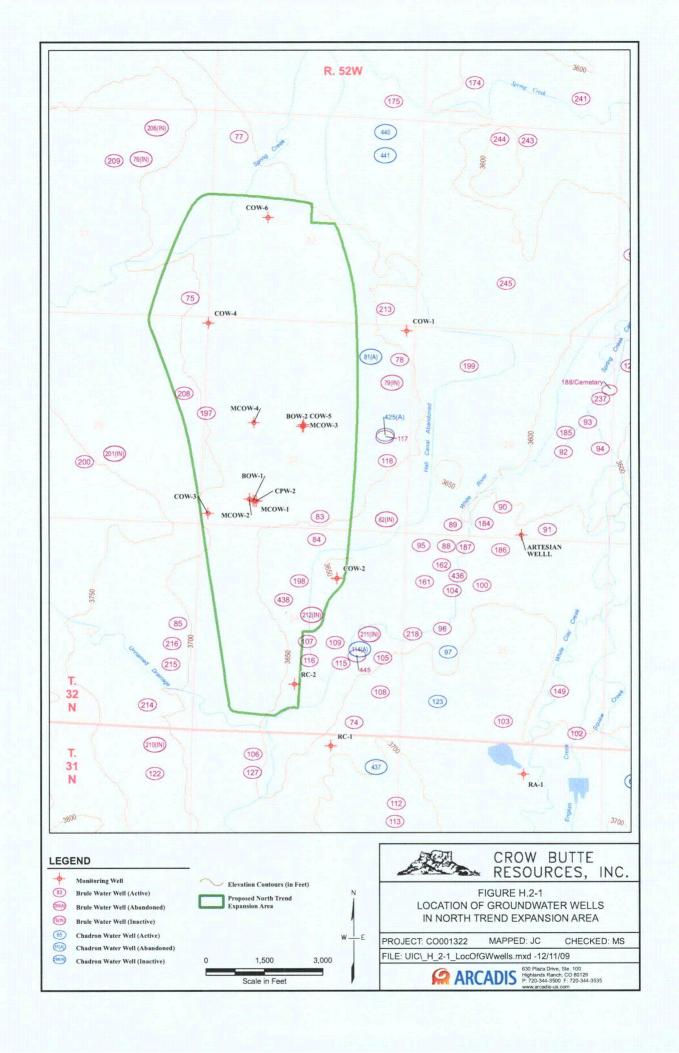
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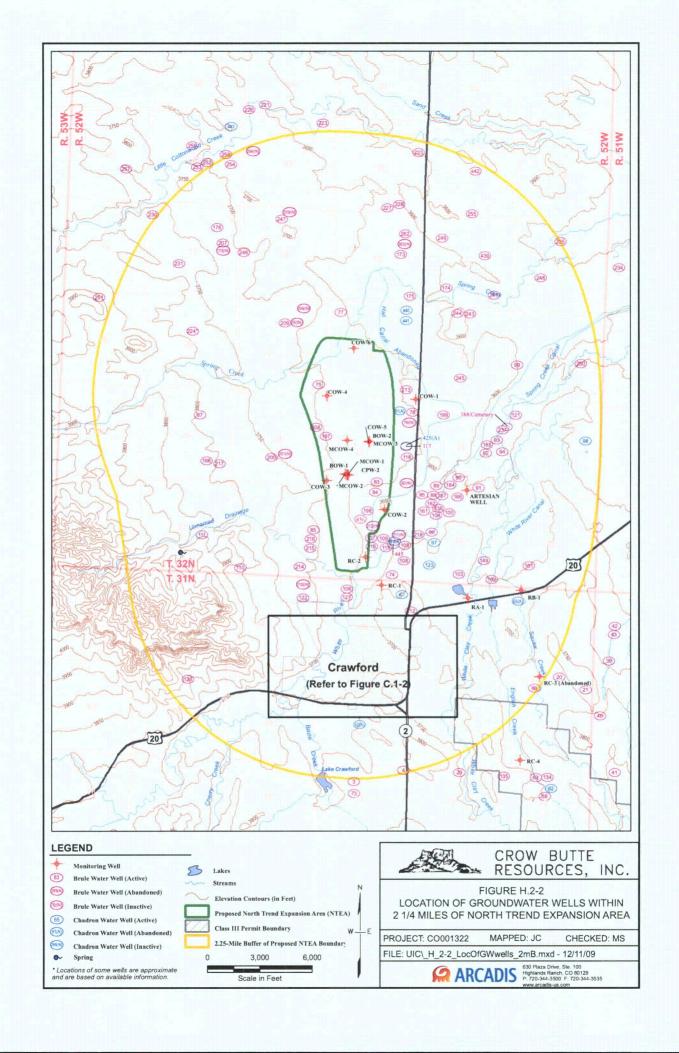
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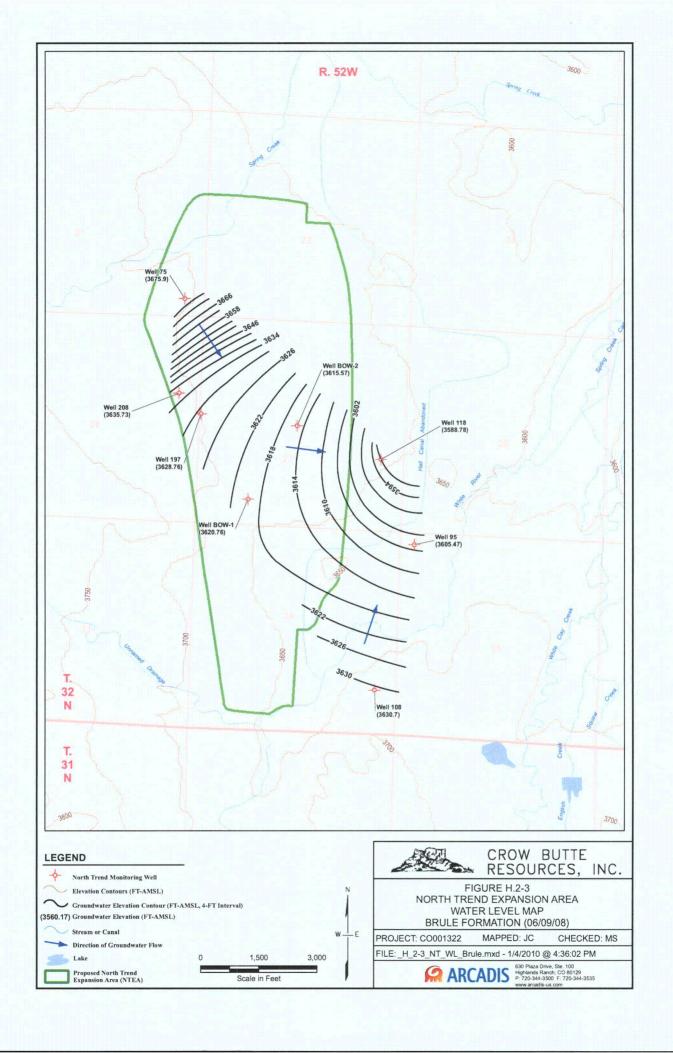
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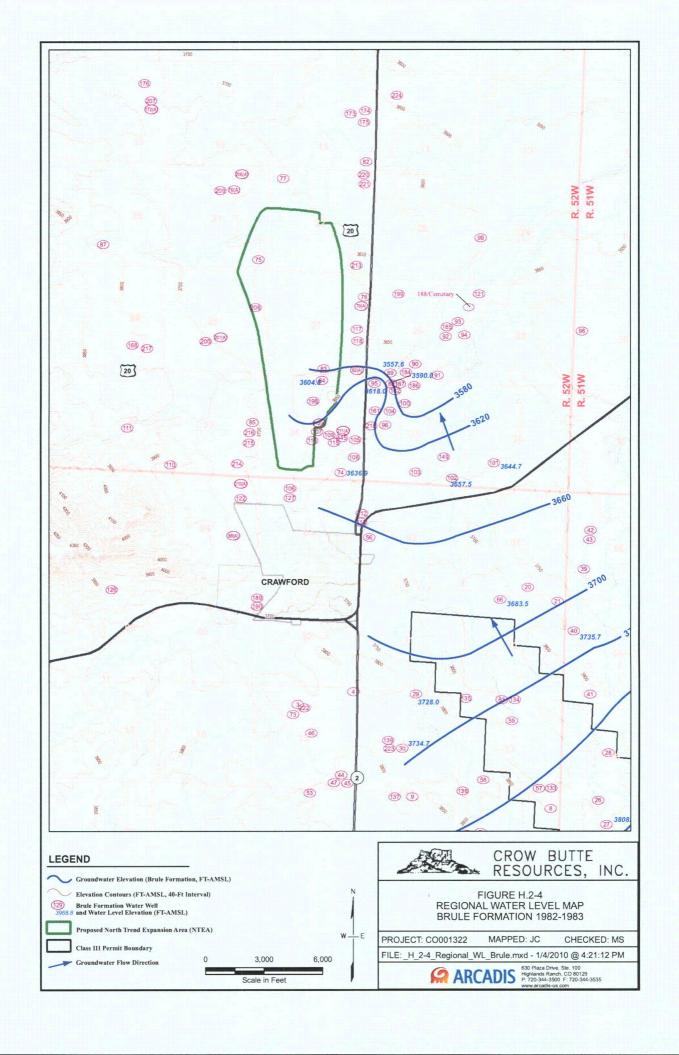


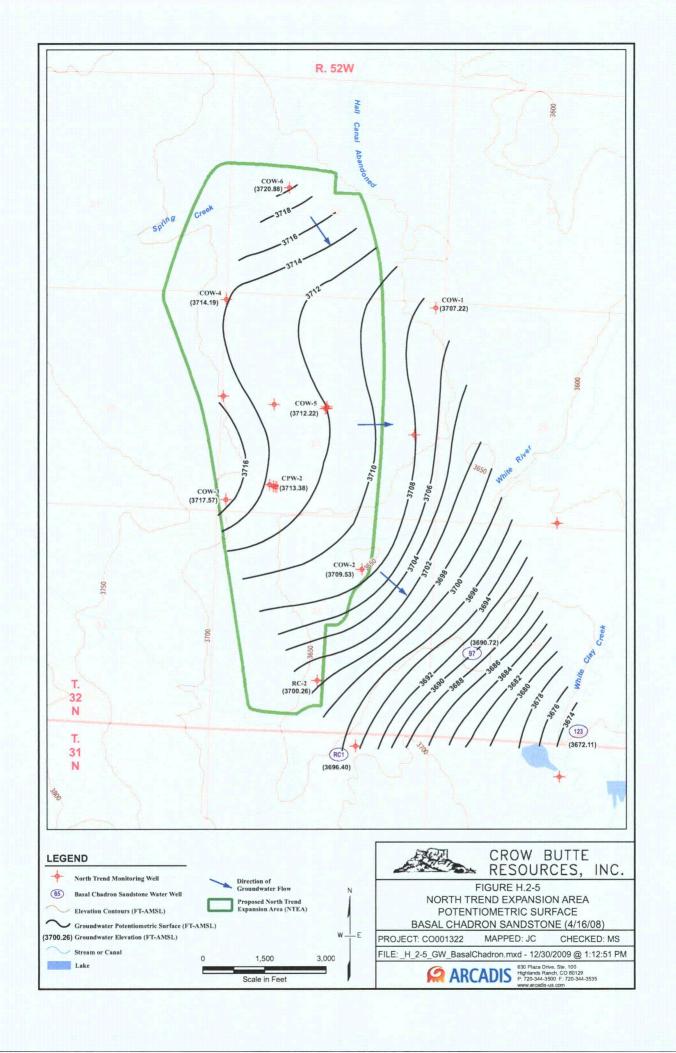


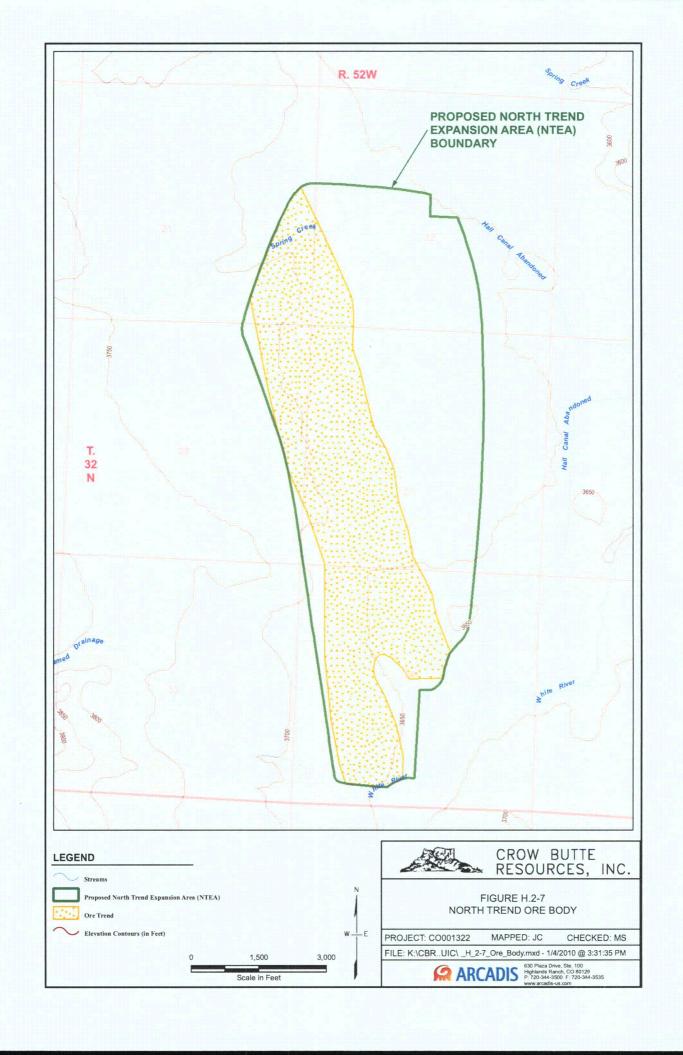


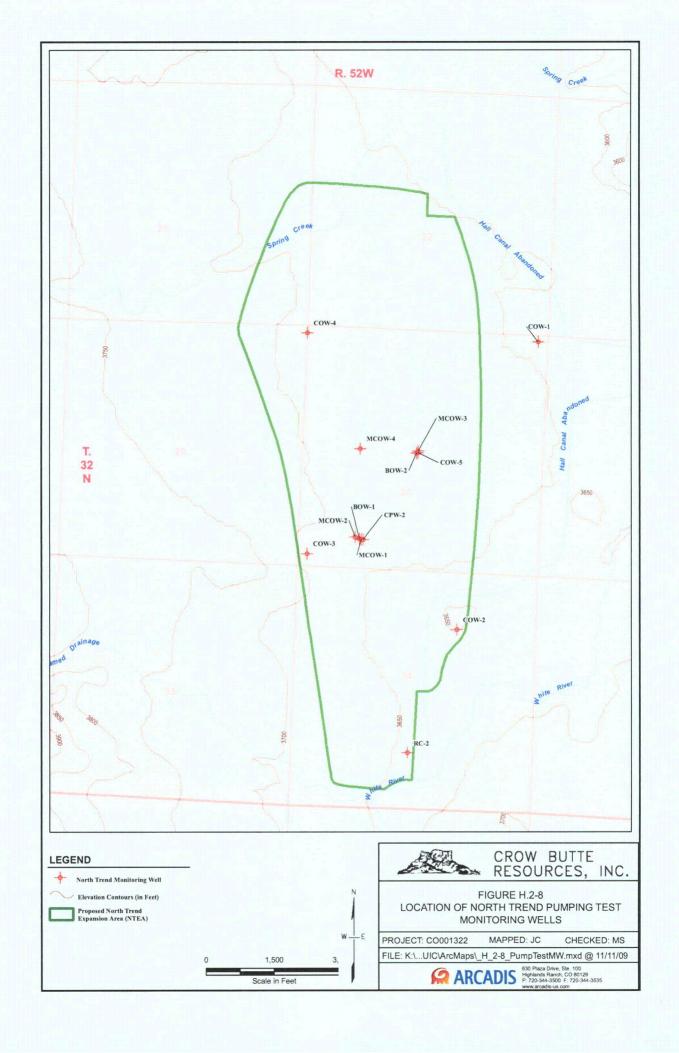


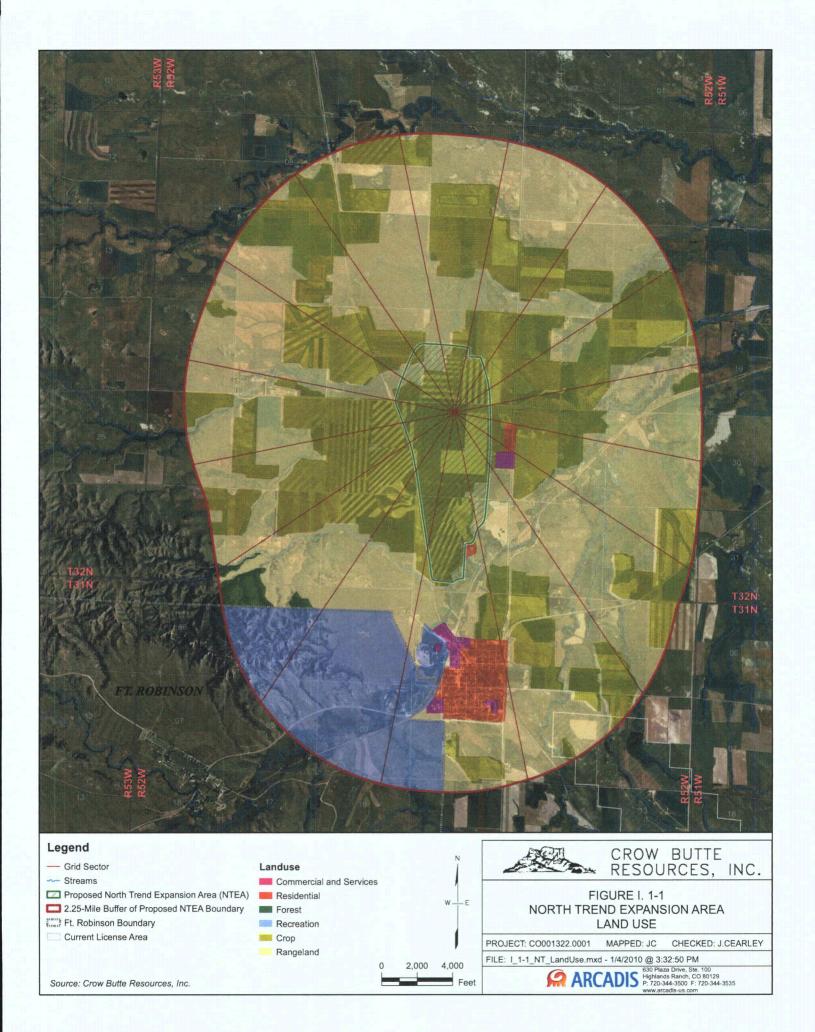


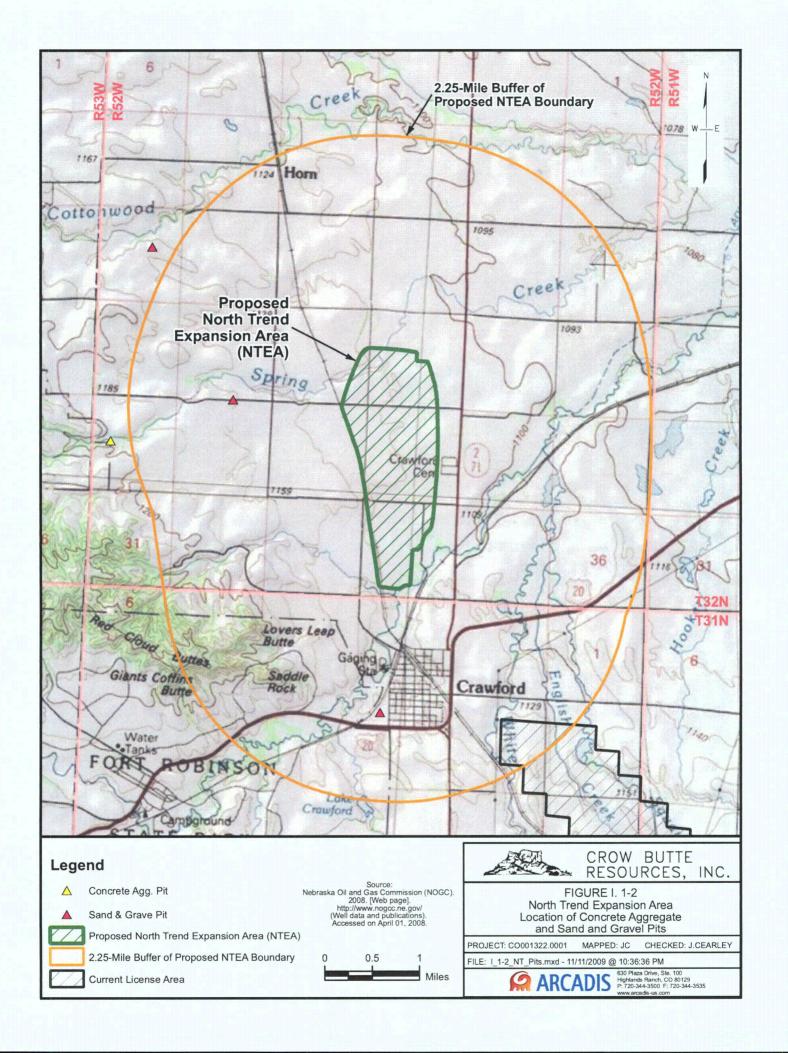


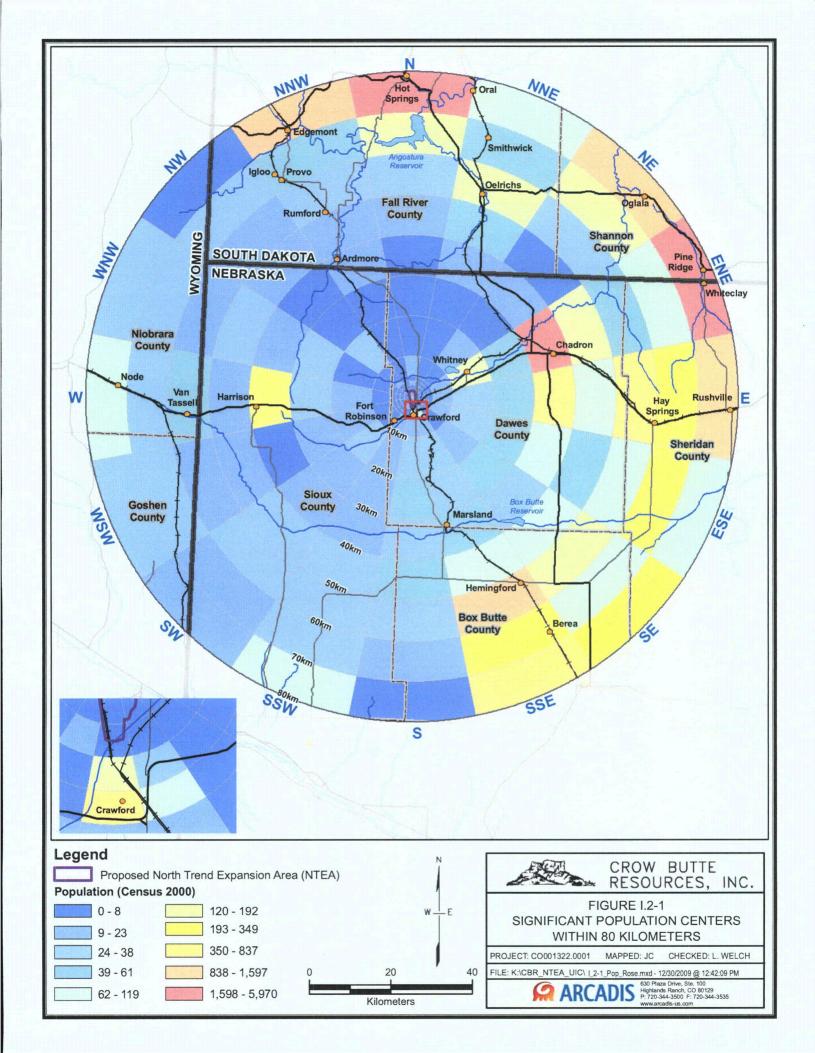


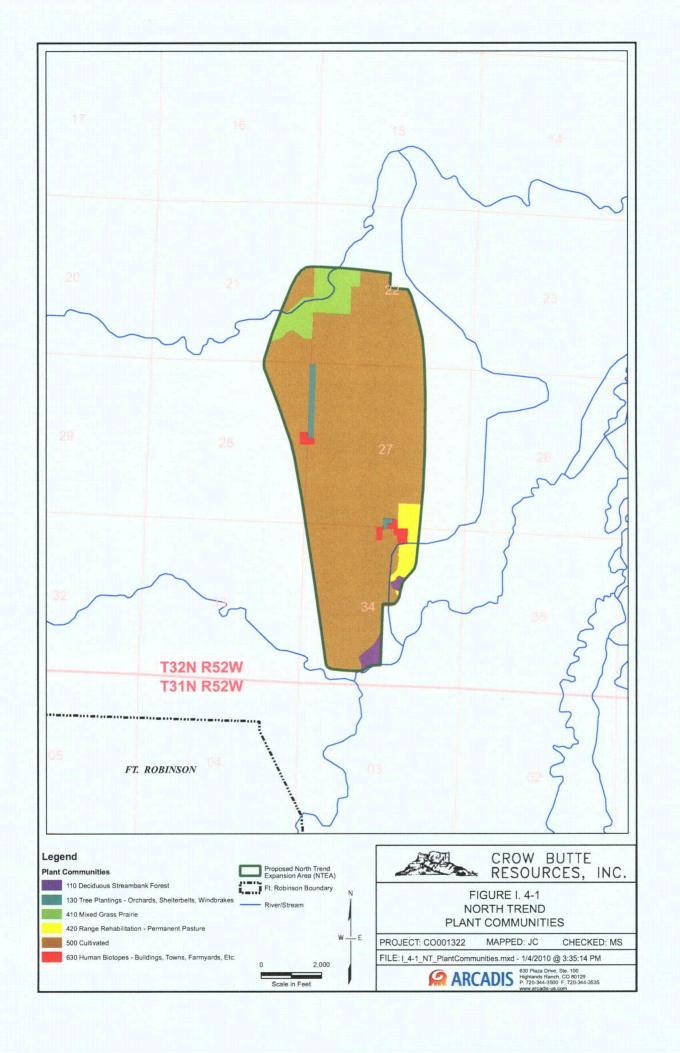


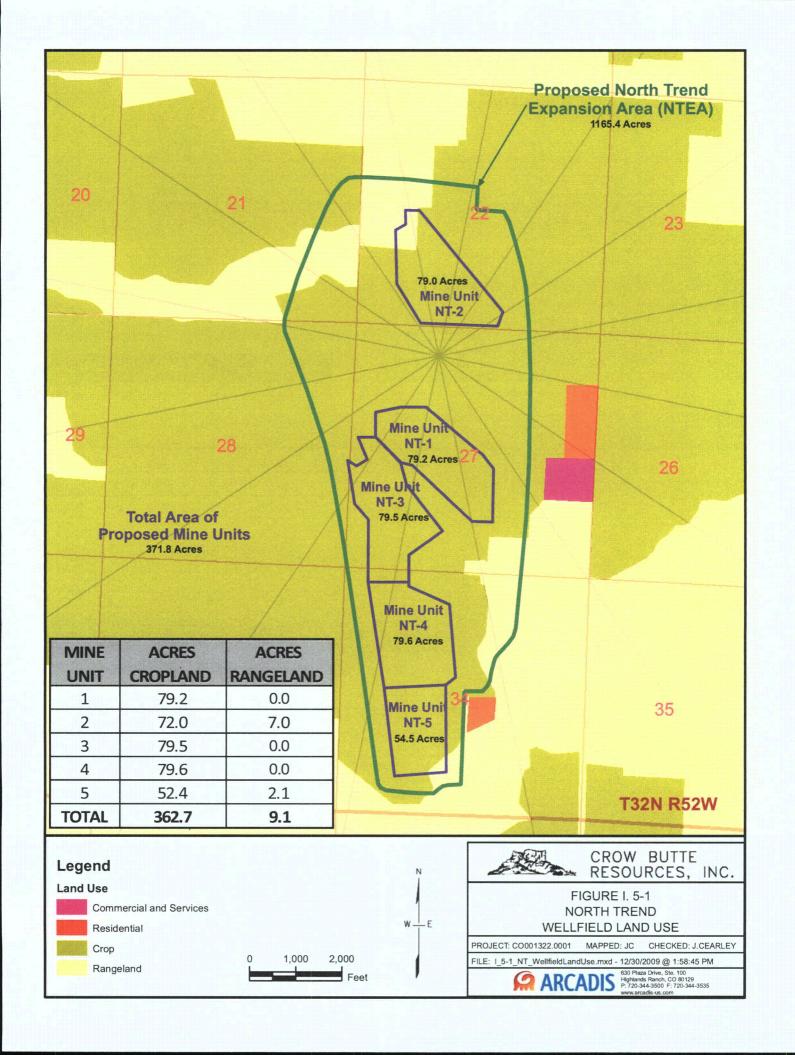


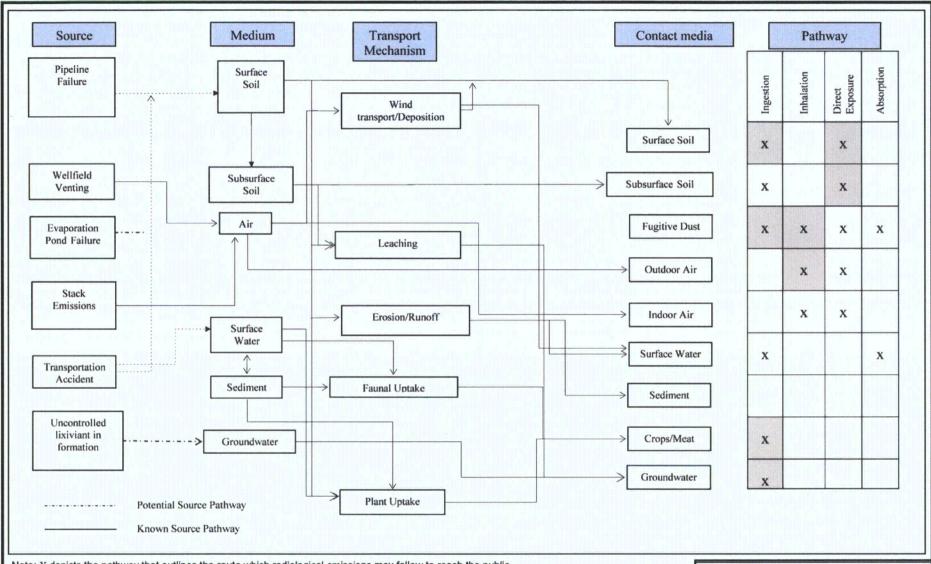












Note: X depicts the pathway that outlines the route which radiological emissions may follow to reach the public. Gray shading depicts predominant pathway.



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FIGURE 1.5-2

HUMAN EXPOSURE PATHWAYS FOR KNOWN AND POTENTIAL SOURCES OF RADIOLOGICAL EMISSIONS FROM THE NORTH TREND EXPANSION AREA

PROJECT: CO001322 MAPPED: JC CHECKED: JEC

FILE: CBR NT UIC I\_5-2.psd @ 11/02/2009



630 Plaza Drive, Ste. 100 Highlands Ranch, CO 80129 P: 720-344-3500 F: 720-344-3535

