

POWER RESOURCES, INC.

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40-8851
RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

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November 10, 1989 TELECOPY
(307) 35-4533

Mr. Edward F. Hawkins
Uranium Recovery Field Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 25325
Denver, Colorado 80225



Re: Docket No. 40-8851 : SUA - 1511
Reporting Pursuant to License Condition No. 44

Dear Ed:

As was reported to you by telefax on November 4, 1989, and in a follow-up telephone conversation with Mr. Ray Hall on November 6, a leak developed in a buried production fluid pipeline in the Section 14 - North wellfield at approximately 1:45 A.M. on November 4. By 2:30 A.M. of that same morning, the location of the leak had been determined and the affected portion of the wellfield shut-in.

Review of the production flow meter recorder chart indicated that approximately 3850 gallons of production fluid containing approximately 200 mg/l U₃O₈ had escaped from the break in the pipe. Most of the fluid was contained within the two steel lined valve boxes where the leak occurred. Approximately 1000 gallons of the fluid overflowed the valve boxes and flowed down-gradient approximately 350 feet to an existing small playa depression which contained rain water and ice. The attached Figure 1 shows the location of the incident in relation to the permit area, and Figure 2 shows the actual extent of the affected area.

At about 9 A.M. on November 4, a vacuum truck arrived on site to remove the fluid from the valve boxes and the playa depression. The recovered fluid was treated at the Satellite No. 2 facility for uranium and radium recovery and piped to the radium ponds, which is the normal method of treatment for wellfield purge water. Inspection of the pipe in the valve boxes indicated that the cause of the failure was a cracked fusion joint in a section of a ten inch diameter black polyethylene pipe. Repair was effected and the production line was back in service by the afternoon of November 6.

A gamma survey performed over the area on November 6 indicated no gamma response above background (ie, 15-20 uR/hr). Representative soil samples have been collected and are being analyzed for Radium-226 and uranium. The location

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By Mary C. Hood

90-0107

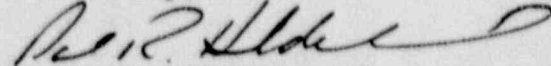
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PDR ADCK 04008851
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of these samples are shown on Figure 2. Analytical results will be reported to you upon receipt from the laboratory. Because the ground within the area was already saturated due to recent storms and snow melt, no significant volume of fluid penetrated into the soil. Because of the fast response of the Satellite operators, the small affected area and volume of fluid released, and the immediate mitigative action taken to dispose of the released fluid, this incident did not result in a significant adverse environmental impact. Any residual contamination will be removed during decommissioning.

Please call should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Hildenbrand
Environmental Manager/
Radiation Safety Officer
Highland Uranium Project

PRH/mc

cc: P.G. Cooper
S.P. Morzenti
W.M. Mays
L. Geesey, WDEQ/LQD

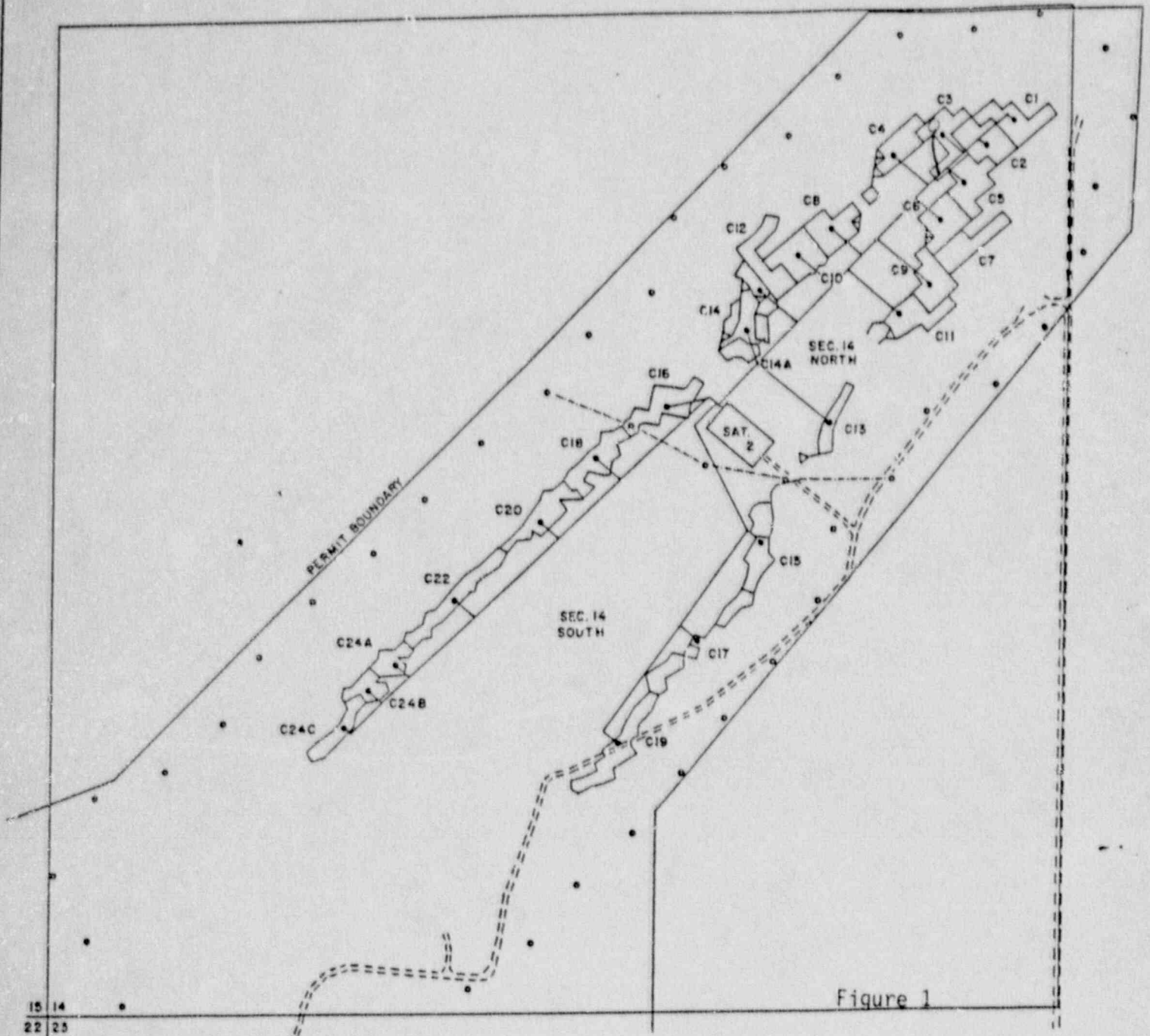


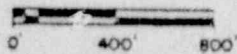
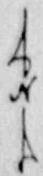
Figure 1

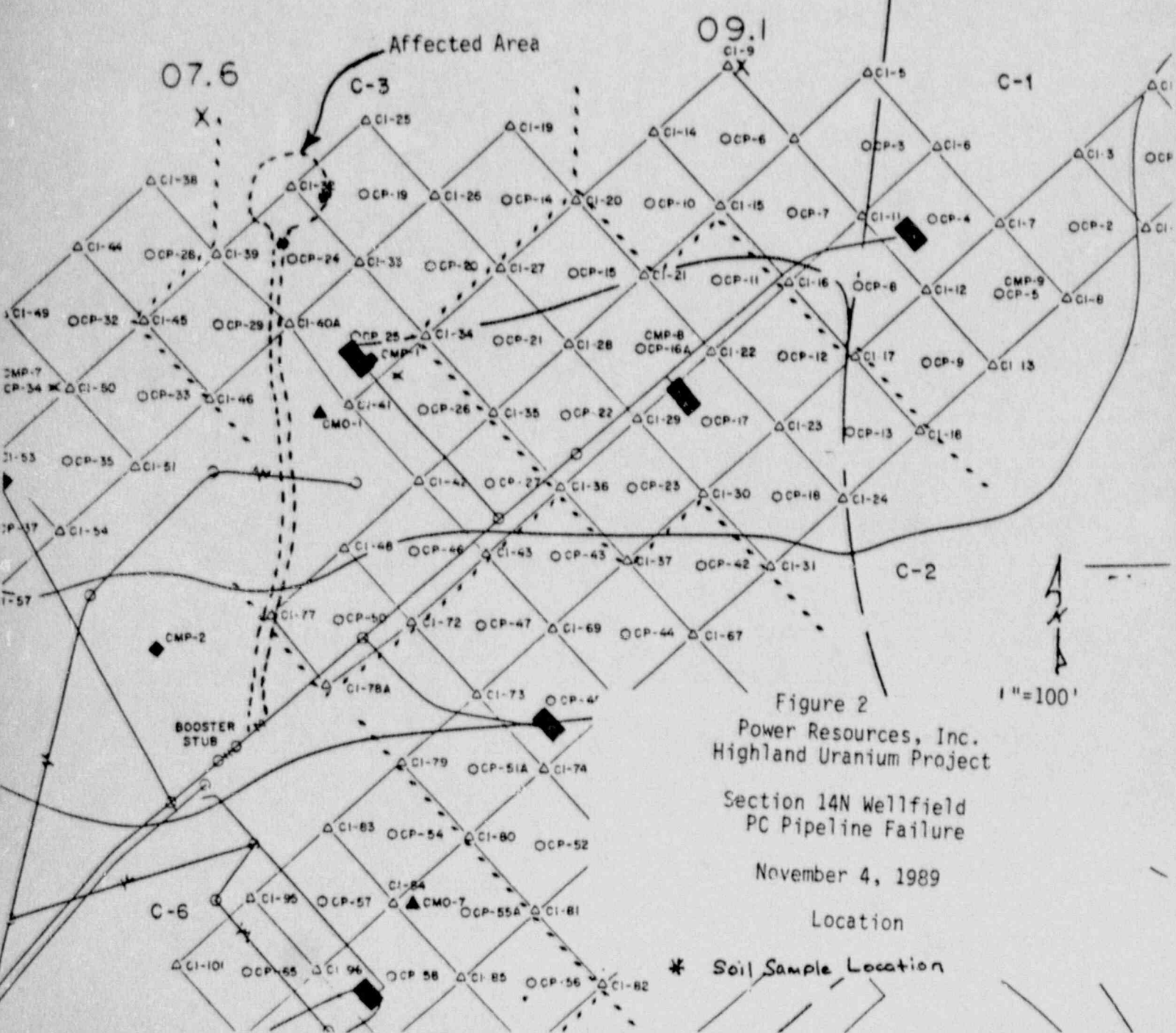
Power Resources, Inc.
Highland Uranium Project

Section 14N Wellfield
PC Pipeline Failure

November 4, 1989

General Location





09.1
CI-9

07.6

Affected Area

Figure 2
Power Resources, Inc.
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Section 14N Wellfield
PC Pipeline Failure

November 4, 1989

Location

* Soil Sample Location

1"=100'