



45825 Highway 96 East
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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A NORTHWEST ACCESS ROAD
FOR THE PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION
PILOT PLANT**

Pueblo Chemical Depot
Pueblo, CO

January 2004



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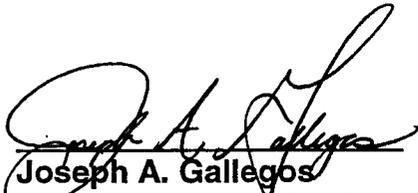
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Pueblo, Colorado**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APEN	Air Pollution Emissions Notice
AR	Army Regulation
ASA	Ammunition Storage Area
ACP	Access Control Point
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CSDF	Chemical Stockpile Disposal Facility
CWA	Clean Water Act
DOT	Department of Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PCAPP	Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant
PCD	Pueblo Chemical Depot
POC	Point of Contact
PSB	Personnel Support Building
RSC	Regional Support Command
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TSP	Total Suspended Particulates
USACE	United States Army Corp of Engineers
USAR	United States Army Reserve (Command)
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 USC 4321-4370c, its implementing regulations published by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Department of the Army's Regulation (AR) 200-2 "Environmental Effects of Army Actions." National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR 1500-1508, and AR 200-2 collectively establish a process by which Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) considers the potential environmental impacts of its proposed actions and invites the involvement of interested members of the public.

This EA evaluates the extent of potential environmental effects for the construction of a northwest access road, access control point (ACP), chain fence, electrical and plumbing for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). The purpose of the northwest access road and related infrastructure projects is to provide secure, efficient access to and egress from the PCAPP, an industrial facility dedicated to the demilitarization of chemical weapons at PCD.

A new access road provides an efficient access and egress in emergency situations. Running Route 2 (Figure 2) is currently used by security and emergency services originating from the south end of the Depot. This route intersects both alternative routes 1 and 2 (Figure 2) considered in this EA. Use of any of these alternatives could cause congestion during evacuations and emergency service movements.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to construct and maintain a northwest access road and related infrastructure projects in support of the PCAPP, in the northern portion of PCD (Figure 3). The preferred alternative for the proposed action is to build a new road beginning at the Pueblo County road that provides access to Department of Transportation (DOT) Test Track Facility at the northwest corner of the Depot just east of the Chico Creek bridge. The new road will extend along the north Depot boundary to a point north and east of the PCAPP, where it will curve to the south and end at the south side of the PCAPP facility. The road will have 30,439 linear feet (5.76 miles) of asphalt to carry two lanes of traffic, one inbound and one outbound. The traveled-way width is 24 feet with 4-foot-wide shoulders (2 ft paved and 2 ft gravel). Pavement thickness is 3 inches asphalt over 14 inches of aggregate base course.

The related infrastructure projects will include an ACP, utilities for the ACP, and a chain link security fence associated with the road and the PCAPP. A chain link fence will be constructed to form a smaller perimeter around the PCAPP. Construction of this road and related infrastructure projects would best support U.S. Army commitments to safely and effectively build a facility to dispose of chemical weapons currently stored at PCD. This EA addresses applicable legal requirements and incorporates available

“best management practices” that are consistent with the needs, goals, and objectives of the PCAPP mission.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Several criteria were used to screen alternatives. These included security, transportation efficiency, and the impact on human health, cultural resources, and the environment. Upon evaluating routing options to the PCAPP site, it became clear that security and efficiency must be vital components in the selection process. Two alternative routes were identified.

3.1 ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 1

Alternative 1 would entail turning the Northwest Access Road south at Running Route 3 and tying into the existing Running Route 3 Upgrade (Figure 2).

This route would force the ACP to be west of the railroad connecting to the DOT Facility. PCD would have to maintain control of the railroad gates entering PCD. Having to maintain control of the gates is not desirable for future Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities. In addition, keeping construction traffic away from areas outside of the PCAPP site would be much more difficult and much less safe compared to the route of the preferred alternative.

3.2 ALTERNATIVE ROUTE 2

Using alternative 2, traffic would enter PCD at the southern entrance (Figure 1) and follow the Running Route 3 upgrades north and then east connecting to the PCAPP (Figure 2).

This route requires that large volumes of traffic would be using the existing US Route 50 ramp that allows access to PCD, and would mean substantial renovation to accommodate larger vehicles and volumes of traffic. In addition, the route could pose a safety and security risk as larger volumes of traffic would be using the designated and most direct path to G Block for security and emergency services. These concerns make this alternative less efficient, safe, and secure compared to the preferred alternative.

3.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.14) prescribe inclusion of the no action alternative, which reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which Federal actions can be evaluated. For this analysis, the status quo would entail not constructing a new access road and associated infrastructure projects in support of the PCAPP and using the existing access roads that were described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Design, Construction, and Operation of One or More Pilot Test Facilities for Assembled Chemical Weapon Destruction Technologies at One or More Sites (PMACWA 2002).

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

After examination for applicability to the proposed action, certain resource areas that frequently receive attention in NEPA analyses were determined not to be impacted with the construction and use of an access road and related infrastructure. Resource areas considered, but excluded from further analysis were: climate, geology, telecommunications, solid waste disposal, and socioeconomic topics (except Environmental Justice and Protection of Children).

Because of the construction location (Figure 3) and use of the access road, resource areas considered in this Environmental Assessment include; air quality, land use, biological resources, surface water, groundwater and wetlands, cultural resources, environmental justice, and the protection of children.

4.2 PROGRAM RESOURCE AREAS

4.2.1 AIR QUALITY

The area in which PCD is situated is dominated by dry continental conditions, characterized by low humidity and precipitation, and abundant sunshine (USDoA 1991). Areas in which evaporation usually exceeds precipitation, despite maximum summer rainfall, generally characterize the steppe region in which PCD is found.

4.2.2 LAND USE

PCD is located east of Pueblo, Colorado, in Pueblo County. The smaller communities of Avondale and Boone are located immediately south and southeast respectively, of PCD, and the Arkansas River runs west to east, south of PCD.

PCD encompasses approximately 23,000 acres (~9,308 hectares). PCD is almost square in shape, averaging approximately 6.5 miles (10.5 km) north-to-south and 6 miles (9.7 km) east-to-west. The northern boundary of PCD, where most of the new construction will be required, is predominately open space, with few developed infrastructure features such as boundary roads and part of the former ammunition storage area with concrete bunkers.

4.2.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Flora. Extensive flora surveys conducted on PCD in 1995 described 19 distinct vegetation/habitat types, that comprise six primary vegetative communities: Riparian Woodland, Shortgrass Prairie, Greasewood Scrub, Northern Sandhill Prairie, Wetlands, and Disturbed/Landscaped. The vegetative

species found on PCD are consistent with native shortgrass prairie, prairie shrub, and riparian ecosystems elsewhere on the eastern plains of Colorado.

Fauna. Faunal species on PCD are consistent with shortgrass prairie and riparian systems elsewhere on the eastern plains of Colorado. Both white-tailed and mule deer are relatively abundant in wooded areas, as are pronghorn antelope in the prairie regions. Mammalian predators include coyotes, swift foxes, badgers, and long-tailed weasels. Black-tailed prairie dog density and distribution may vary from year to year. Black-tailed jackrabbits and desert cottontail rabbits are prevalent. Deer mice, Ord's kangaroo rats, and western harvest mice are common smaller rodents.

Bird species also are consistent with shortgrass prairie and riparian systems in the region. Common species include western meadowlarks, horned larks, Swainson's, ferruginous, and red-tailed hawks; American kestrels; great-horned owls; great blue herons, and lark, vesper, and white-crowned sparrows. Burrowing owls and mountain plovers may be abundant, but because they rely on prairie dog colonies on the depot for suitable habitat, their numbers may fluctuate with the varying abundance of their mammalian host. Rock doves, or pigeons, are an abundant exotic species, especially around the structures in the developed areas. Waterfowl are attracted to Lynda Ann Reservoir, a man-made feature, and are especially numerous in the spring and fall. Canada geese, ruddy ducks, canvasbacks, mallards, pintails, western and pied-billed grebes, and coots are common.

Reptiles and amphibians have not been surveyed on PCD. However, prairie rattlesnakes and bullsnakes are quite common, as are coachwhips. The massasauga, a smaller species of rattlesnake, which is considered imperiled by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, has been found immediately adjacent to the Depot's northeastern boundary. Prairie and lesser earless lizards are readily seen, as well as the triploid-checked whiptail. Ornate box turtles may be found on the prairie, and a painted turtle was observed in the spring pond near the upper end of Boone's Creek. For amphibians, plains leopard frogs and tiger salamanders are commonly observed in and around aquatic systems. Bullfrogs, a non-native species, are common around almost all water sources on the depot.

The fish found on PCD are a mixture of native and introduced species, the latter coming from a number of sources. Native fish include fathead minnows, stonerollers, red and sand shiners, and black bullheads in Chico Creek. Introduced species include southern red-bellied dace in the Ammunition Workshop pond, and channel catfish and Snake River cutthroat trout in Lynda Ann Reservoir. Although these species are introduced, they are indigenous to the western states. Exotic species in ponded areas along Chico Creek include largemouth bass and yellow perch.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species. PCD is home to a number of federal and/or state Candidate, Proposed, Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species. In addition, some species of special concern may pass through or forage in the area as migrants or visitors, and not breed on site, for example the bald eagle. Full lists of these species are found in the EIS and incorporated here by reference. For additional information on the federally listed species, refer to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); for state-listed species, refer to Colorado Wildlife Commission.

4.2.4 SURFACE WATER, GROUNDWATER, AND WETLANDS

The three primary drainage systems on the depot are Chico Creek, Boone Creek, and Haynes Creek. Chico Creek runs from north to south along PCD's western boundary, primarily on depot property. Boone Creek starts near the southeast corner of Munitions Storage Area G and runs almost due south to Lynda Ann Reservoir, then south again to PCD's boundary. Haynes Creek enters the depot along the northern boundary, courses across the northeastern corner of the site, and exits the east side.

PCD is underlain by two distinct alluvial aquifers: the Terrace alluvial aquifer and the Chico Creek alluvial aquifer. The source of groundwater for these aquifers is predominantly underflow from the north at approximately 900 acre-feet per year (1.24 cubic feet per second [cfs]). (Rust, 1998). Generally, the influence of precipitation on these aquifers is negligible due to the small amount of annual precipitation combined with the high evaporation potential in the area. Much of the moisture that does infiltrate the soil during the growing season is taken up by vegetation.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) office conducted a wetlands inventory for PCD, producing a map detailing the wetland resources for the area in 1999 (Figure 4).

4.2.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Class III Pedestrian Surveys and Test Excavations: Three Class III cultural resource pedestrian surveys were conducted in the north and northeast portions of PCD. In 1993-1994 most of the east side of the depot was surveyed by Larson-Tibesar Associates, Inc. (Larson and Penny 1995). A small portion of the east side and the majority of the west side were surveyed by Foothill Engineering Consultants, Inc., in 1995 (Hoefler III et al. 1998). Finally, K-Block and the area north of Blocks A and C were surveyed in 2003 by RMC Consultants, Inc. (Larmore et al. 2003). In addition, several sites discovered during the pedestrian surveys were tested by RMC to determine their eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (Hoefler III 2003).

Historic Structures Survey: A historic structures survey was conducted on the depot in 1995 and 1996 by Front Range Research Associates, Inc., wherein all pre-1946 historic resources were surveyed, along with buildings in potential historic districts regardless of construction year (Simmons and Simmons 1996). Resources were evaluated for individual as well as district eligibility for the NRHP. One World War II era historic district was identified, as well as three Cold War Era districts. In addition, the post headquarters, Building 1, was considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Discovery of Significant Cultural Resources: As a result of these surveys and test excavations, PCD has determined that the proposed action will have no effect on known significant cultural resources. There exists, however, the potential for affecting unknown subsurface cultural resources. Soil-disturbing activities will be conducted in close coordination with the PCD Cultural Resource Manager. If resources are discovered during the course of excavations or other soil disturbing activities, all activities in those areas will cease and the PCD Cultural Resource Manager will be notified immediately. Activities in those areas will not resume until it has been determined that further actions will not affect significant cultural resources, or mitigative steps have been taken to protect those resources.

4.2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*. The Executive Order is designed to focus the attention of Federal agencies on the human health and environmental conditions in minority communities and low-income communities. Environmental justice analyses are performed to identify potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts to these target populations from proposed Federal actions and to identify alternatives that might mitigate these impacts. The Region of Influence (ROI) for this action is located within the boundaries of properties controlled by PCD.

4.2.7 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Executive Order 13045 seeks to protect children from disproportionately incurring environmental health or safety risks that might arise as a result of Army policies, programs, activities and standards. The northwest access road and associated chain link fence is being constructed in the north portion of the depot. The project construction site is approximately 6 miles from PCD's family housing area. Appropriate safety measures are applied (e.g., postings, security controls) to ensure the safety of children.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Long-term effects of the proposed action will have minimal to no significant adverse effect on the environment. Short-term effects include the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action to the environment.

5.2 AIR QUALITY

An air survey (Tetra Tech 2003) was conducted in support of the proposed action, where the northwest access road construction is proposed. The primary types of impacts on air resources are increased total suspended particulate (TSP) levels from construction activities, and increased emissions of nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide from construction, maintenance and employee vehicles. Of these pollutants, TSP will be produced in the greatest quantities. However, it is extremely unlikely that TSP will exceed federal standards and any exceedance would be very temporary.

The northwest access road will not produce significant sources of air emissions. There will be no principal air resource impacts associated with the operational phase of the project. Air resource impacts include dust and gaseous emissions resulting from scheduled and emergency maintenance activities. Air resource impacts during maintenance would be highly transient and have short duration. Air emissions from employee and contractor traffic were addressed in the EIS (PMACWA 2002).

The project will employ Best Management Practices (BMP) for the control of fugitive dust during construction. These BMPs could include minimizing the exposed area, watering of exposed dirt, and replanting of disturbed areas at the completion of the project. All potential impacts on air quality from the proposed project would be low in magnitude due to their short-term, temporary nature.

An Air Pollution Emissions Notice (APEN) for the construction of the road will be obtained. A copy of the permit will be submitted to the PCAPP Contracting Officer's Representative and the PCD Environmental Management Division prior to commencement of construction activity.

5.2.1 Preferred Alternative. Construction of a northwest access road and related infrastructure will have no significant adverse effects on air quality.

5.2.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. Alternative routes 1 and 2 follow partially upgraded routes, and would require less ground disturbance. Construction of an access road following alternative route 1 or 2 would have less of an impact on air resources compared to the preferred alternative.

5.2.3 No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP. This alternative would result in no additional adverse impact to air resources.

5.3 LAND USE

Under the proposed action, approximately 30,439 linear feet (5.76 miles) of previously disturbed land would carry two lanes of traffic, one inbound and one outbound. Most land disturbance would be confined to an approximate 32-foot-wide road, including shoulder. Pavement thickness is 3 inches asphalt over 14 inches of aggregate base course.

Additionally, the project includes security fencing to control access to the northern part of the Depot. Approximately 46,000 linear feet of chain link fence will be constructed to form a smaller perimeter around the PCAPP. No significant land use impacts are expected from the construction of this barrier. These security structures and activities are aesthetically consistent with and a common visual feature of offsite conditions and will have no impact.

A new ACP is scoped in accordance with Department of the Army ACP standards. This will consist of approximately 4 acres of previously undisturbed land (Figure 3). A covered inspection area, (guardhouse for guards), covered ID check area, and limited visitor pass facilities will comprise the ACP. Active vehicle barriers will be installed in each traffic lane to prevent unauthorized access to the Depot. A septic tank and leach field will be provided for sewage treatment. Area lighting and a backup electrical generator will be provided to accommodate all power needs. Utilities (water, electric power, and communications) will run from existing facilities 9,000 ft away at the existing entrance to the PCAPP. The utilities will follow previous disturbed, existing roadway (Figure 3).

Construction activities will involve minor excavation, stockpiling, and regrading of topsoil. Water will be used to control dust as necessary. Topsoil will be regraded to return the areas to pre-project conditions at completion of construction and fence installation. No contaminated soil has been identified in the proposed project area. Impacts related to construction activities will be temporary and insignificant.

Soil pollution potential would be minimized by careful handling of oils, fuel, and other chemicals used in construction. Residual impacts to soils would be short-term and minor.

5.3.1 Preferred Alternative. Construction of a northwest access road and related infrastructure would have no significant adverse effects on land use.

5.3.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. Alternative routes 1 and 2 follow partially upgraded routes and would cause less ground

disturbance. Construction of an access road following alternative route 1 or 2 would have less of an impact on land use.

5.3.3 No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP, and there would be no additional impact on land use.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

PCD conducted an inventory of the biological resources within the study area (USFWS 2001). The purpose of the study was to identify biological resources (plants and wildlife) in the proposed wildlife reuse areas of PCD.

In order to document the occurrence of animal and plant species and habitats, several existing secondary sources were consulted to include data from previous studies, project aerial photographs, pertinent regional literature, and contacts with the USFWS. In addition, a USFWS letter (Appendix A) is attached regarding a Black-tailed prairie dog colony located just off the north central boundary of PCD.

No significant adverse effects to animal and/or plant species and habitats are expected with the proposed action. No threat to the presence or continued existence of any federally listed endangered or threatened species is anticipated.

5.4.1 Preferred Alternative. Construction of a northwest access road and related infrastructure would have no significant adverse effects on biological resources.

5.4.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. Alternative routes 1 and 2 follow partially upgraded routes and would entail similar or less ground disturbance. Construction of an access road following alternative route 1 or 2 and related infrastructure will have similar or less impact, resulting in no significant adverse impacts to biological resources.

5.4.3 No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP. This action would have no significant adverse effects on biological resources.

5.5 SURFACE WATER, GROUND WATER AND WETLANDS

A wetland determination/delineation study (Odom 2003) was conducted on the wetland identified in the northwest portion of PCD, that has potential to be affected by the construction of the proposed northwest access road (Figure 4). The study was completed in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The determination was conducted in accordance with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 1987 *Wetlands Delineation Manual* (USACE 1987).

After site visits and consultation with USACE Albuquerque, Tetra Tech EM Incorporated, PCD Environmental, and USFWS, it was determined that the wetland is considered a non-jurisdictional wetland; therefore, no further action is required regarding the construction of the northwest access road or compliance with Section 404 of the CWA.

Construction activity will meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stormwater requirements. All applicable permits would be obtained as delineated by the permitting authority prior to any deliberate activities that may impact surface waters, groundwater, or wetlands.

The potential for adverse impacts on groundwater is negligible, because the access road construction requires only surface and near-surface disturbance. No significant adverse impacts to onsite or off-site surface water or groundwater or to any wetlands are expected.

5.5.1 Preferred Alternative. Construction of a northwest access road and related infrastructure would have no significant adverse effects on surface water, groundwater, or wetlands.

5.5.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. Alternative routes 1 and 2 follow partially upgraded routes and would entail similar or less ground disturbance. Construction of an access road following alternative route 1 or 2, and related infrastructure will have similar or less impact resulting in no significant impacts on surface water, groundwater, or wetlands.

5.5.3 No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP. This alternative would have similar or less impacts on water resources.

5.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

PCD frequently consults with Native American groups traditionally associated with the geographic areas occupied by PCD. There are no known Traditional Cultural Properties of significance located at PCD; however, consultation with Native American groups is required in the event of an unanticipated discovery of burial remains and grave goods.

5.6.1 Preferred Alternative. Construction of a northwest access road and related infrastructure would have no significant adverse effects on cultural resources as there are no known sites of cultural significance in the area to be disturbed. If and when cultural resources are identified, PCD's cultural resource manager must be consulted. All construction activities would be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.) and the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001, et seq.).

5.6.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. Alternative routes 1 and 2 follow partially upgraded routes and would require less ground disturbance. These alternatives also would have no significant adverse impact on cultural resources as there are no known sites along these routes.

5.6.3. No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP. This alternative would have no significant adverse impact on cultural resources.

5.7 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Construction of an access road and related infrastructure in support of the PCAPP will have no significant adverse effects on low-income or minority populations.

5.7.1 Preferred Alternative. The preferred alternative will not have a disproportionate impact on the human health or environment of minority or low-income populations in the project area. The project construction site is approximately 6 miles from PCD's family housing area and approximately 8 miles from the towns of Avondale and Boone. Both have minority and/or low-income populations.

5.7.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. These alternatives also would have no significant adverse impact on low-income or minority populations due to its distance from those communities.

5.7.3 No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP. This alternative would have no significant adverse impact on low-income or minority populations.

5.8 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Executive Order 13045 seeks to protect children from disproportionately incurring environmental health or safety risks that might arise as a result of Army policies, programs, activities and standards.

5.8.1 Preferred Alternative. The project construction site is approximately 6 miles from PCD's family housing area and approximately 8 miles from the towns of Avondale and Boone. The preferred alternative would not cause children to incur disproportionate environmental health or safety risks.

5.8.2 Other Appropriate and Reasonable Alternatives. Alternative routes 1 and 2 would not cause children to incur disproportionate environmental health or safety risks due to its distance from their location.

5.8.3 No Action Alternative. If the no action alternative were chosen, the access road would not be constructed in support of the PCAPP, and would not cause children to incur disproportionate environmental health or safety risks.

5.9 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A cumulative impact is defined as an impact on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes those actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. An example of cumulative impact is non-point source pollution of surface or ground water from several unrelated agricultural and/or industrial activities.

Cumulative impacts were considered in the environmental analysis of each alternative. Because most of the impacts of the proposed action result from the construction activities associated with the project and are temporary in nature, the cumulative impacts are not expected to contribute to significant adverse effects.

6.0 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the analyses contained in this EA, PCD has determined that the known and potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical and natural environment would be minimal.

The construction of the proposed project may cause some unavoidable low-level, short-term impacts to the environment; however, none of the impacts are considered significant. Construction activities may create short-term air quality impacts from fugitive dust and vehicle emissions. In addition, heavy vehicle and equipment movement during construction and maintenance would promote soil compaction and soil erosion. Similarly, small amounts of vegetation will be removed for the access road and related infrastructure placement. However, there will be no significant impact to surface water, groundwater, or wetlands.

PCD requires that all activities obtain applicable permits as required by the appropriate permitting authority. PCD establishes explicit safety and security measures on installation lands that satisfy applicable Federal, State, and local requirements, as well as, Army regulations and guidance.

Based on the findings and conclusions, issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate and preparing an EIS is not required.

7.0 AGENCIES CONSULTED

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
State Historic Preservation Office

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Native American tribes

All persons and organizations having a potential interest in the proposed action, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in the decision-making process. Public participation opportunities, with respect to the proposed action, are guided by AR 200-2, *Environmental Effects of Army Actions*, and by Major Command guidance. The final EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be made available to the public. PCD will then observe a 30-day comment period, during which time any further comments submitted by agencies, organizations, or members of the public on the proposed action will be considered.

8.0 REFERENCES

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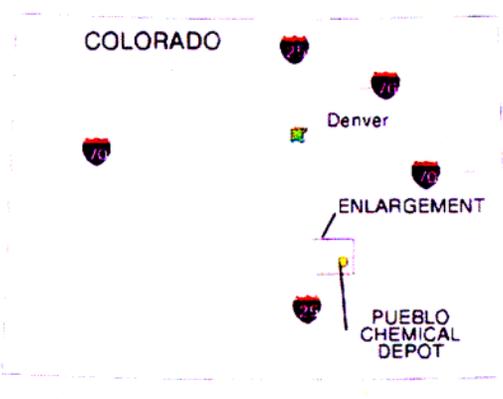
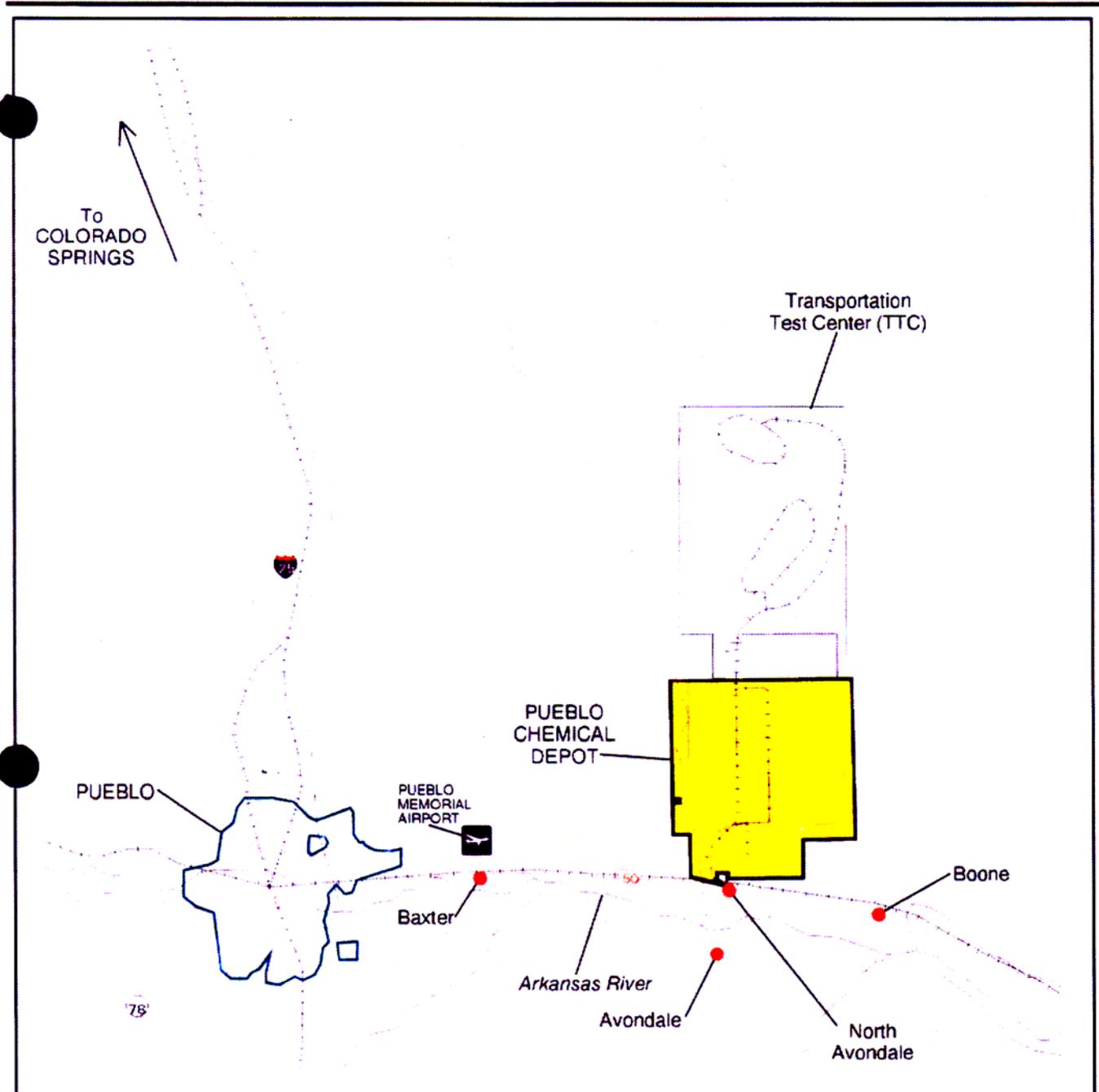
Table 1

Effects of the Proposed Action on Statutory Resources

Types of Resources	Authorities	Evaluation of Effects
Air Quality	Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1857h-7, et seq.)	No permanent or long-term adverse effects. Would be in compliance with applicable air quality regulations.
Children	Executive Order 13045 of April 21, 1997 - Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks	No effect anticipated.
Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitat	Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.)	No threat to the presence or continued existence of any federally listed endangered or threatened species is anticipated
Floodplains	Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management	No significant impacts anticipated.
Historic and Cultural Properties	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.)	No significant impacts anticipated.
Migratory Birds	Migratory Bird Act	No significant impacts anticipated.
Prime and Unique Farmlands	CEQ Memorandum of August 1980; Analysis of Impacts on Prime or Unique Agricultural Lands in Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. Farmland Protection Policy Act	No effect.
Water Quality	Clean Water Act of 1977, as Amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.)	No waters of the U.S. affected.
Wetlands	Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977	Minimal to no significant impact.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.)	Not present in planning area.

FIGURES

FIGURE 1
PCD Location Map



DISCLAIMER
 This document may be subject to revision based on new or more accurate information.

PROJECTION:
 Colorado State Plane
 Coordinate System
 South Zone (2501) NAD 27

SOURCES:
 PCD Boundary from USACE 1996. Other data from Digital Chart of the World, ESRI, Inc. 1983 and ArcUSA 1.2M, ESRI, Inc. 1992.

2 0 2 4 MILES
 (Scale of Enlargement)
 2500 0 2500 5000 7500 METERS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OMAHA, NEBRASKA

FILE NAME: 181
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Drawn By: jnh\am pod\loc\gra
Checked By:
Approved By:

Date: January 21, 1999
Revision Number: 0

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT COLORADO

**SITE LOCATION MAP
 PCD LOCATION MAP**

FIGURE 2
PCD Routes Considered Map

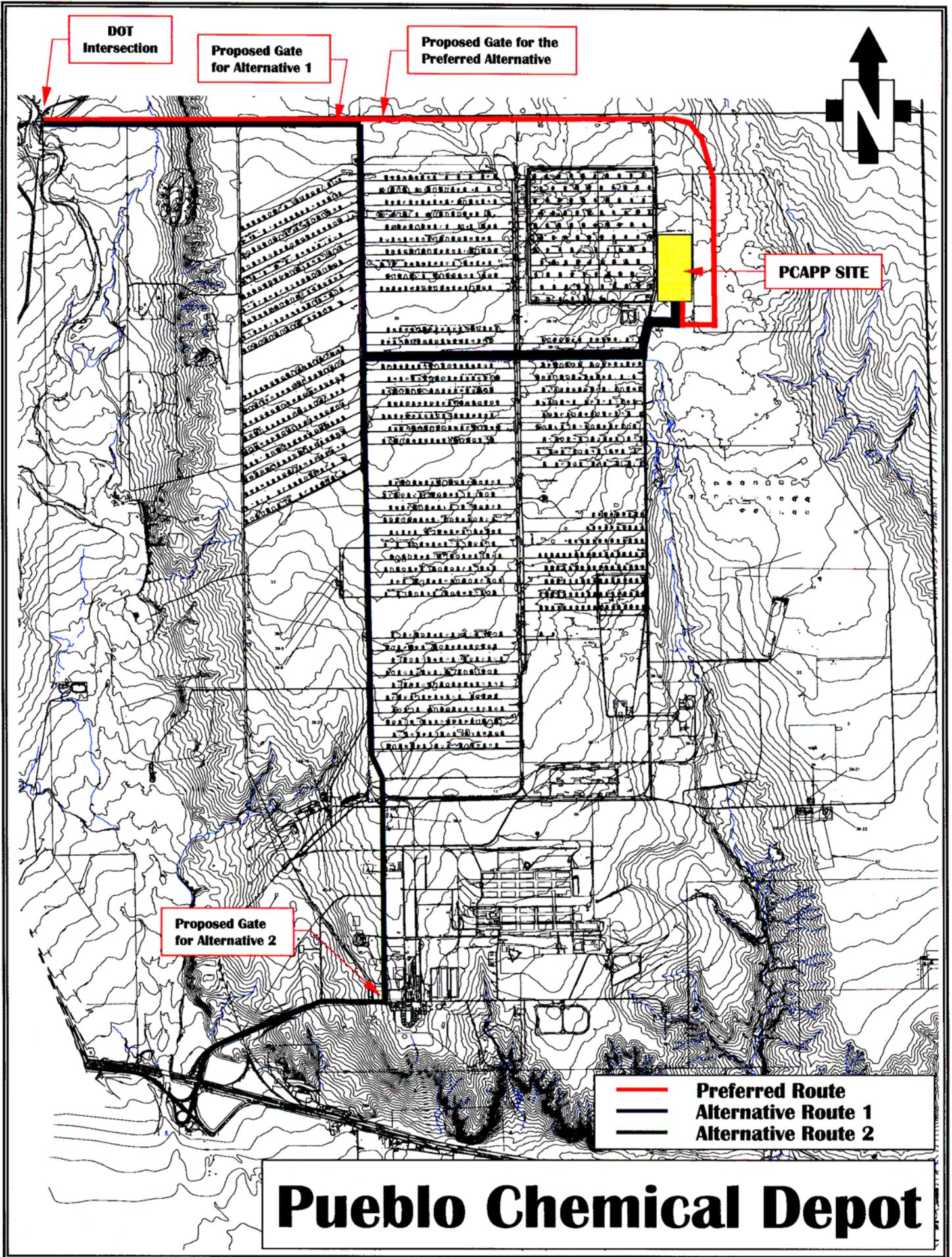


FIGURE 3
PCD Infrastructure/Preferred Route Map

DOT road

Entrance

Primary Access Control Gate

Septic system

PCAPP

RR 2

RR 3

RR 1



10/16/2003

	Utilities
	Class "A" chain fence
	New road
RR	Running Route

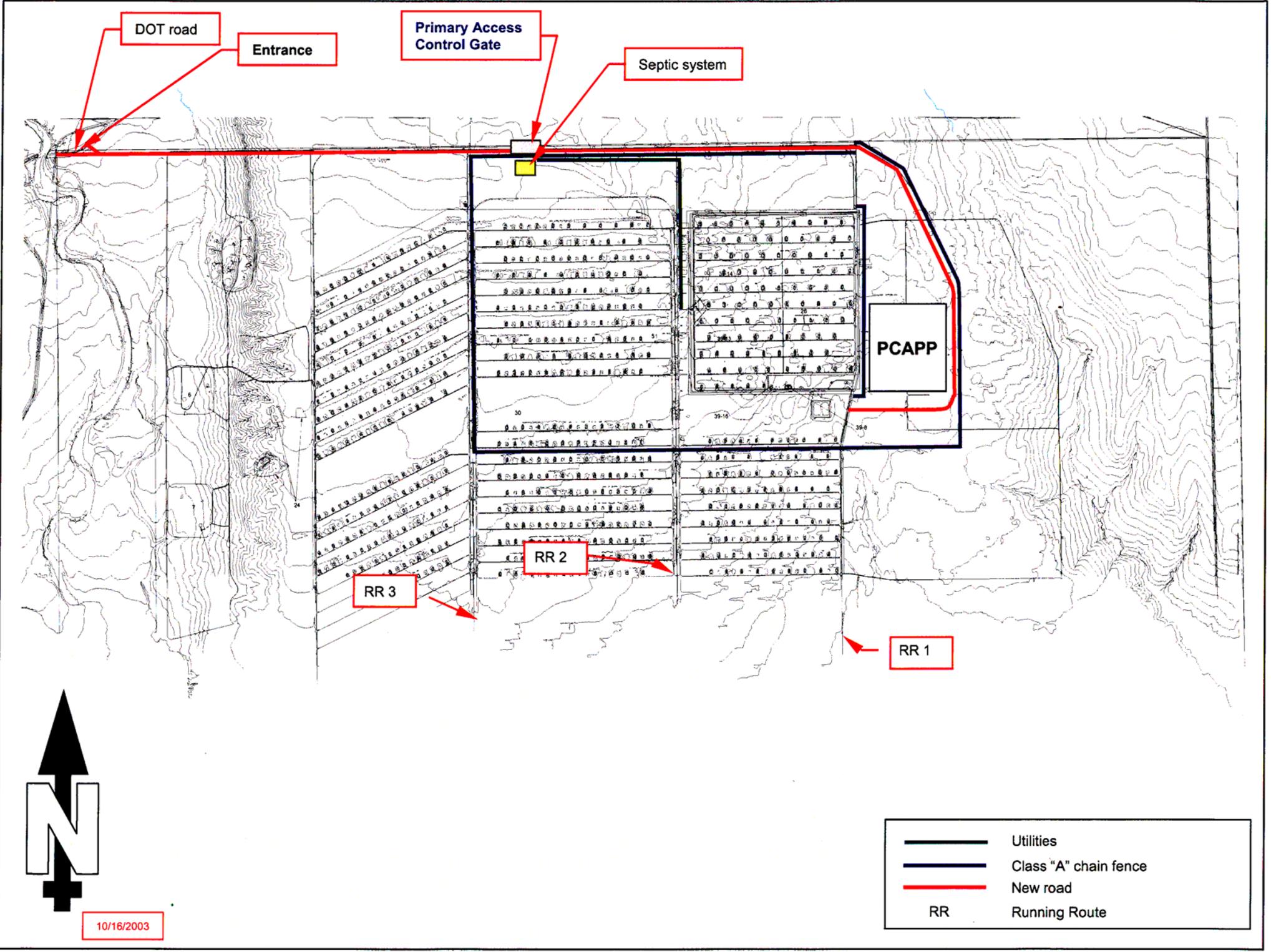
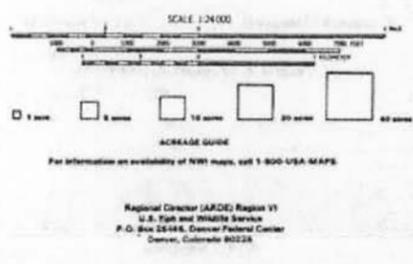
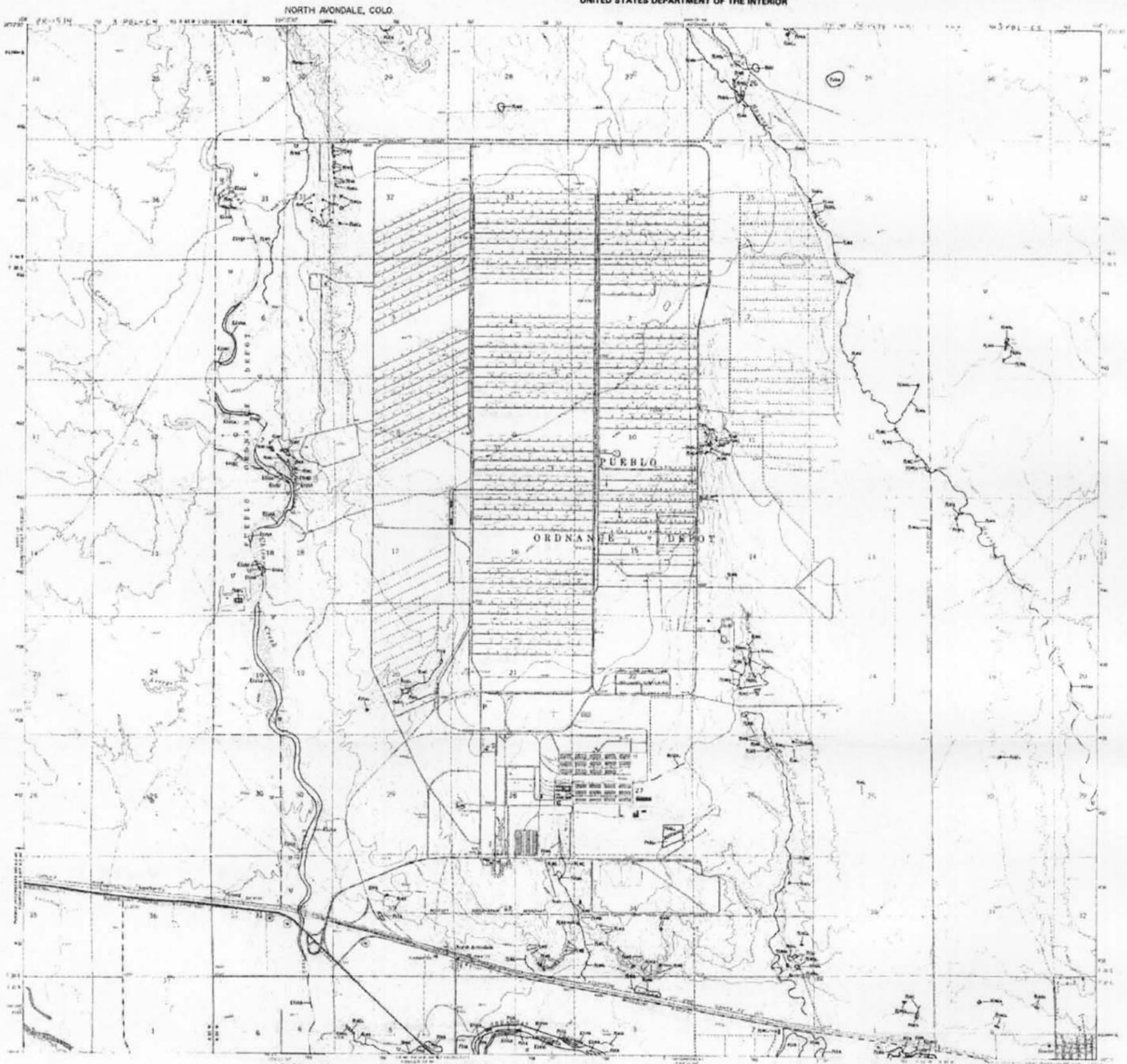


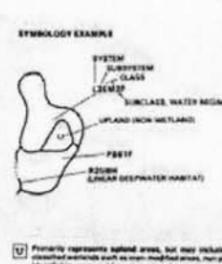
FIGURE 4
PCD USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map

NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



SPECIAL NOTES
 This inventory was prepared primarily for inventory purposes of high-priority areas. Wetlands were identified on the photographs based on vegetation, water features, and geographic characteristics with Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States (FWS/OBS-82/31) September 1978. The aerial photographs typically reflect conditions during the spring and summer months. It is possible that a change in the size of the wetland or the amount of water may occur in a different season. In addition, some small wetlands and those obscured by other features may not be included on this inventory.

WATER QUALITY
 Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no assurance that the inventory is a substitute for the jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or local government or its agencies. The geographic scope of the regulatory jurisdiction of governmental agencies varies according to geographic boundaries, and the boundaries within or adjacent to wetlands may change with the action of appropriate Federal, State, or local agencies. Inventorying agencies may have different programs and regulatory jurisdictions that may affect such activities.



NOTES TO THE USER

- Wetlands, Class, Subclass, and Water Region or Water Quality designations for NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY mapping.
- Wetlands designated as TIDAL, ESTUARINE, or INTERMITTENT STREAMS may not meet the definition of wetland.
- This map uses the latest Unpublished Shoreline Data. On other NWI maps that data was designated as 'Final' or 'Final II'. Subclasses within the same system are shown.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

DATE: 7-88
 SCALE: 1:40,000
 TYPE: CIR



SYSTEM	1 - TIDAL	2 - LOWER PERENNIAL	3 - UPPER PERENNIAL	4 - INTERMITTENT	5 - SEASONAL PERENNIAL	6 - ESTUARINE	7 - LACUSTRINE	8 - UPLAND (NON WETLAND)	9 - PRAIRIE	10 - RIVERINE	11 - MARINE
CLASS	1A - TIDAL MARSH 1B - TIDAL FLATS 1C - TIDAL SAVANNAH 1D - TIDAL SWAMP 1E - TIDAL WOODLAND	2A - LOWER PERENNIAL MARSH 2B - LOWER PERENNIAL FLATS 2C - LOWER PERENNIAL SAVANNAH 2D - LOWER PERENNIAL SWAMP 2E - LOWER PERENNIAL WOODLAND	3A - UPPER PERENNIAL MARSH 3B - UPPER PERENNIAL FLATS 3C - UPPER PERENNIAL SAVANNAH 3D - UPPER PERENNIAL SWAMP 3E - UPPER PERENNIAL WOODLAND	4A - INTERMITTENT MARSH 4B - INTERMITTENT FLATS 4C - INTERMITTENT SAVANNAH 4D - INTERMITTENT SWAMP 4E - INTERMITTENT WOODLAND	5A - SEASONAL PERENNIAL MARSH 5B - SEASONAL PERENNIAL FLATS 5C - SEASONAL PERENNIAL SAVANNAH 5D - SEASONAL PERENNIAL SWAMP 5E - SEASONAL PERENNIAL WOODLAND	6A - ESTUARINE MARSH 6B - ESTUARINE FLATS 6C - ESTUARINE SAVANNAH 6D - ESTUARINE SWAMP 6E - ESTUARINE WOODLAND	7A - LACUSTRINE MARSH 7B - LACUSTRINE FLATS 7C - LACUSTRINE SAVANNAH 7D - LACUSTRINE SWAMP 7E - LACUSTRINE WOODLAND	8A - UPLAND (NON WETLAND) MARSH 8B - UPLAND (NON WETLAND) FLATS 8C - UPLAND (NON WETLAND) SAVANNAH 8D - UPLAND (NON WETLAND) SWAMP 8E - UPLAND (NON WETLAND) WOODLAND	9A - PRAIRIE MARSH 9B - PRAIRIE FLATS 9C - PRAIRIE SAVANNAH 9D - PRAIRIE SWAMP 9E - PRAIRIE WOODLAND	10A - RIVERINE MARSH 10B - RIVERINE FLATS 10C - RIVERINE SAVANNAH 10D - RIVERINE SWAMP 10E - RIVERINE WOODLAND	11A - MARINE MARSH 11B - MARINE FLATS 11C - MARINE SAVANNAH 11D - MARINE SWAMP 11E - MARINE WOODLAND

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MODIFIERS	WATER REGION	WATER CHEMISTRY	SOIL	SPECIAL MODIFIERS
WATER REGION	1 - TIDAL 2 - ESTUARINE 3 - LACUSTRINE 4 - UPLAND (NON WETLAND)	WATER CHEMISTRY	1 - SALINE 2 - FRESHWATER 3 - BRACKISH	1 - PRIORITY 2 - NATIONAL 3 - STATE 4 - LOCAL

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

November 24, 2003

Environmental Management Division

Ms. Susan C. Linner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services - Colorado Field Office
755 Parfet Street, Suite 361
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

Dear Ms. Linner:

The U.S. Army, Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) is planning to establish a primary travel corridor along its northern boundary to provide access from an existing Department of Transportation road to the proposed chemical demilitarization site in the northeastern portion of the depot (Figure 1.). Approximately 2 miles of the proposed road will be new construction; approximately 3.5 miles will be the improvement of an existing blacktop road, which has fallen into disrepair. Upon completion, the proposed road and its associated ditches will be approximately 48 feet wide. An Environmental Assessment is being developed to address this action.

A small prairie dog colony is found on private land adjacent to the existing road corridor (Figure 1.). The colony has been declining the past couple years and is currently sparsely populated, although there still appear to be active burrows within its perimeter (Figure 2.). There have been no known prairie dog mortalities on the existing right-of-way as a result of historic traffic flow, although some prairie dogs may be killed on the road once it is upgraded and traffic flow is increased. Based on the history of this road and the associated colony, and the sparse density of the colony, the Army feels there will be little to no affect to prairie dogs as a result of the construction and use of the proposed road. However, in order to conduct this action in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and 32 CFR Part 651.33(p), we respectfully request your concurrence with our decision.

You may fax your concurrence or nonconcurrence to this office at (719) 549-4318. If you have any questions or need further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our Natural Resources Manager, Max Canestorp, at (719) 549-4228.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter; I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Kathryn R. Cain
Chief, Environmental Management Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished:

Mr. K. Max Canestorp, USFWS, PCD, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo CO 81006-9330
PCD Document Tracking, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo, CO 81006-9330

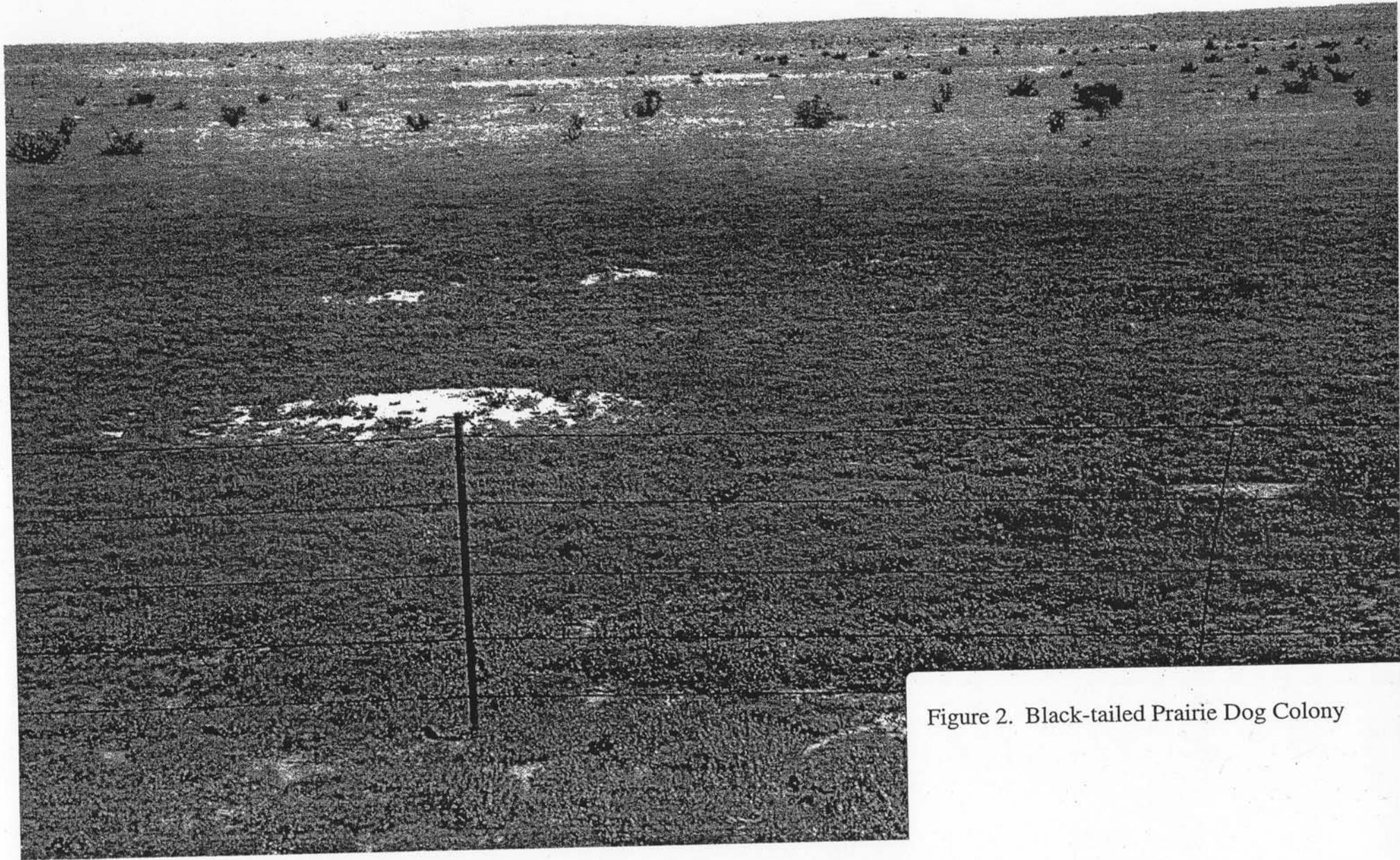
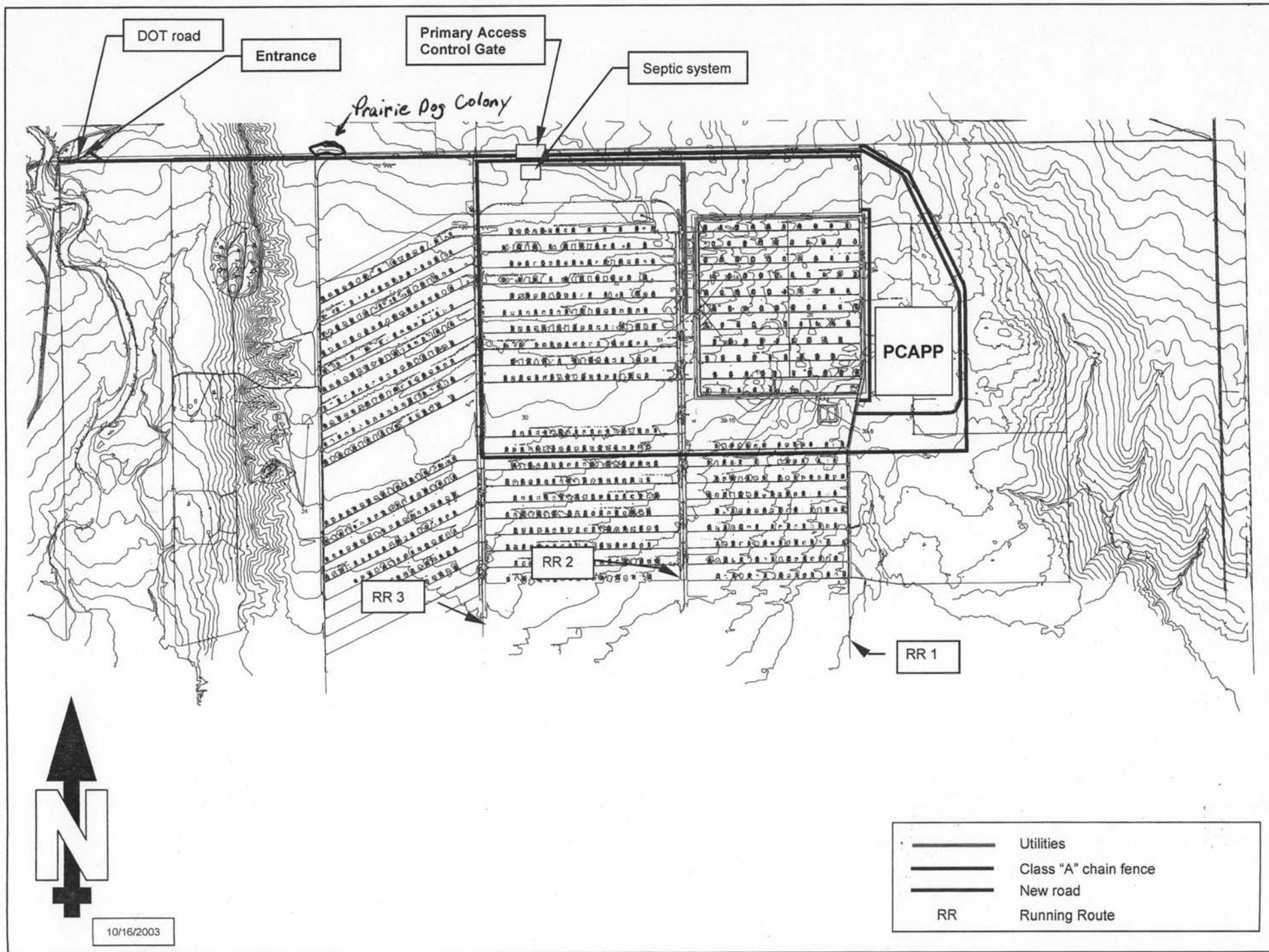


Figure 2. Black-tailed Prairie Dog Colony



APPENDIX B
State Historic Preservation Office Consultation



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 5, 2004

Environmental Management Division

Ms. Georgianna Contiguglia, SHPO
Colorado Historical Society
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203-2167

Dear Ms. Contiguglia:

Per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Becker".

John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

Copies Furnished:

Mr. K. Max Canestorp, USFWS, PCD, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo CO 81006-9330
PCD Document Tracking, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo, CO 81006-9330

APPENDIX C
Native American Tribes Consultation Letters



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Ms. Geri Small
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Post Office Box 128
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Dear Ms. Small:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Becker".

John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Robert Chapman, President
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 470
Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

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Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
Post Office Box 538
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Dear Mr. Posey:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Becker".

John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation
Post Office Box H
Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

Dear Mr. Steele:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Alonzo Chalepah, Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 1220
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Mr. Chalepah:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Robert Tabor, Chairman
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 38
Concho, Oklahoma 73022

Dear Mr. Tabor:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Wallace Coffey, Chairman
Comanche Nation
Post Office Box 908
Lawton, Oklahoma 73502

Dear Mr. Coffey:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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Mr. K. Max Canestorp, USFWS, PCD, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo CO 81006-9330
PCD Document Tracking, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo, CO 81006-9330



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Ms. Claudia J. Vigil-Muniz, President
Jicarilla Apache Tribe
Post Office Box 507
Dulce, New Mexico 87528

Dear Ms. Vigil-Muniz:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Becker".

John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Clifford McKenzie, Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 369
Carnegie, Oklahoma 73015

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Leonard C. Burch, Chairperson
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Post Office Box 737
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Dear Mr. Burch:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

January 5, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Harold Cuthair, Acting Chairperson
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
General Delivery
Towoac, Colorado 81334

Dear Mr. Cuthair:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
45825 HIGHWAY 96 EAST
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81006-9330

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 5, 2004

Environmental Management Division

Mr. Anthony A. Addison, Sr., Chairman
Northern Arapaho Tribe
Post Office Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Dear Mr. Addison:

Pueblo Chemical Depot is enclosing the draft document, "Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Northwest Access Road for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant", for your review. It describes proposed actions to be conducted in support of the development of a chemical demilitarization facility, which we discussed in meetings with your staff earlier this year.

Feel free to contact my National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, Vanessa Hinkle, at (719) 549-4317 with any comments or questions regarding this Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Becker".

John A. Becker
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

Copies Furnished:

Mr. K. Max Canestorp, USFWS, PCD, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo CO 81006-9330
PCD Document Tracking, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo, CO 81006-9330

APPENDIX D
Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NORTHWEST ACCESS ROAD
FOR THE PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT
AT
U. S. ARMY PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT
PUEBLO, COLORADO

PROPOSED ACTION: U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) proposes to construct and use a northwest access road and related infrastructure for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). The purpose of the northwest access road and related infrastructure is to provide secure, efficient access to and egress from the PCAPP, an industrial facility dedicated to the demilitarization of chemical weapons at PCD. Related infrastructure is defined as the access control point consisting of a building with associated plumbing, electrical, fencing, and communications lines.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED: Types of environmental issues considered were; Land Use, Air Quality, Noise, Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Aquatic Biology, Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species, Cultural and Native American Resources, Socio-economics, including Environmental Justice, Protection of the Children, and Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN THE ASSESSMENT: Several criteria were used to screen alternatives. These included security, transportation efficiency, and the impact on human health, cultural resources, and the environment. Upon evaluating routing options to the PCAPP site, it became clear that security and efficiency must be vital components in the selection process. This EA considers four alternatives: the proposed action, two alternate routes, and the no action alternative, which would be a continuation of the current access and security measures.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant because potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical and natural environment would be minimal.

CONCLUSION: Based upon the analyses contained in the Environmental Assessment, including, but not limited to the following:

The construction of the proposed project may cause some unavoidable low-level, short-term impacts to the environment; however, none of the impacts are considered significant. Construction activities may create short-term minor air quality impacts from fugitive dust and vehicle emissions. In addition, heavy vehicle and equipment movement during construction and maintenance would promote soil compaction and soil erosion; however, best management practices will keep these impacts to a minimum. There will be no significant impact to surface water, groundwater, or wetlands.

Based on the findings and conclusions, issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A copy of the Environmental Assessment is available for public inspection at the public repositories located at:

U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, Building 54, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo
Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 East Abriendo, Pueblo
Boone Town Hall, 712 East Main, Boone

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Based on the findings and conclusions, issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate and preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

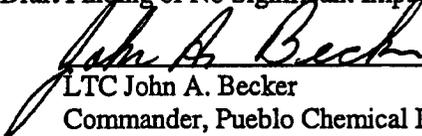
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Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 East Abriendo, Pueblo
Boone Town Hall, 712 East Main, Boone

Avondale Elementary School, 213 East Highway 50, Avondale

Any written comments on the adequacy of the assessment or on the conclusion that an EIS is not required should be sent to the Chief, Environmental Management Division, U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, 45825 Highway 96 East, Pueblo, Colorado 81006-9330 and must be received within 30 days of the publication of this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact.

APPROVED BY:


LTC John A. Becker
Commander, Pueblo Chemical Depot

12 FEB 2004
DATE