

THE AEROSPACE CORPORATION



PA.15-2

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7117-03.85.aw.44
6 August 1985

Mr. Arthur Whitman
Division of Remedial Action Projects, NE-24
U.S. Department of Energy
Germantown, Maryland 20545

Dear Mr. Whitman:

VANADIUM CORPORATION OF AMERICA PLANT
NEAR BRIDGEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Enclosed please find a brief summary on the Former VCA vanadium plant in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. This site was used under contract, during the MED era, to support activities at several UMTRAP sites.

In view of the relationship of this site to the UMTRAP sites, it is recommended that you evaluate it for consideration for inclusion as a vicinity property under UMTRAP. Aerospace will await your direction before conducting any additional site specific investigations.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wallo, III
Project Engineer
Environmental Controls and
Analysis Directorate
Government Support Division

AW/sb

Enclosure

cc: E. DeLaney
R. Lewis (w/o)
Whitman file

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An Affirmative Action Employer

GENERAL OFFICES LOCATED AT 2350 EAST EL SEGUNDO BOULEVARD, EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA

SUMMARY FOR THE VCA
(VANADIUM CORPORATION OF AMERICA)
PLANT, BRIDGEVILLE, PA

This site conducted work for the Manhattan Engineer District in the early to mid 1940's to support processing being performed at several sites covered under the uranium mill tailings Remedial Action program. These include Canonsburg, Naturita and Mexican Hat.

The facility was utilized to grind pitchblende ore being processed at Canonsburg. The material was trucked under guard from Vitro Canonsburg to the Bridgeville plant, was ground and generally returned the same day. Records suggest in at least one instance the material was stored at Bridgeville over night. The material was highgrade pitchblende (greater than 50% U_3O_8 and the uranium was in equilibrium with its daughters). It was processed in quantities of hundreds of tons at a time. The period of time the processing was performed is not known.

The site also conducted developed research for the VCA processing plants at Naturita and Mexican Hat. The work was paid for by the government and was conducted between July 1944 and September 1946. The work included lab and benchscale separation tests and roasting and leaching testing on western ores from the Naturita or Mexican Hat area. Atomic Energy Commission Memoranda from the period contain detailed discussions concerning the work and its relation to the western milling operations and whether or not the Commission should pay for the research. They ultimately decided that the research was in direct support of Commission projects and paid for the research.

Site Location

The site was located near Bridgeville, Pennsylvania off PA Route 50 near Interstate 79 about 6 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. It is located in Collier Township at Kirwan Heights. The plant is now owned by Cyclops Corporation and is in an industrial area near a General Electric glass plant. The location of the plant with respect to Canonsburg is shown in Figure 1.

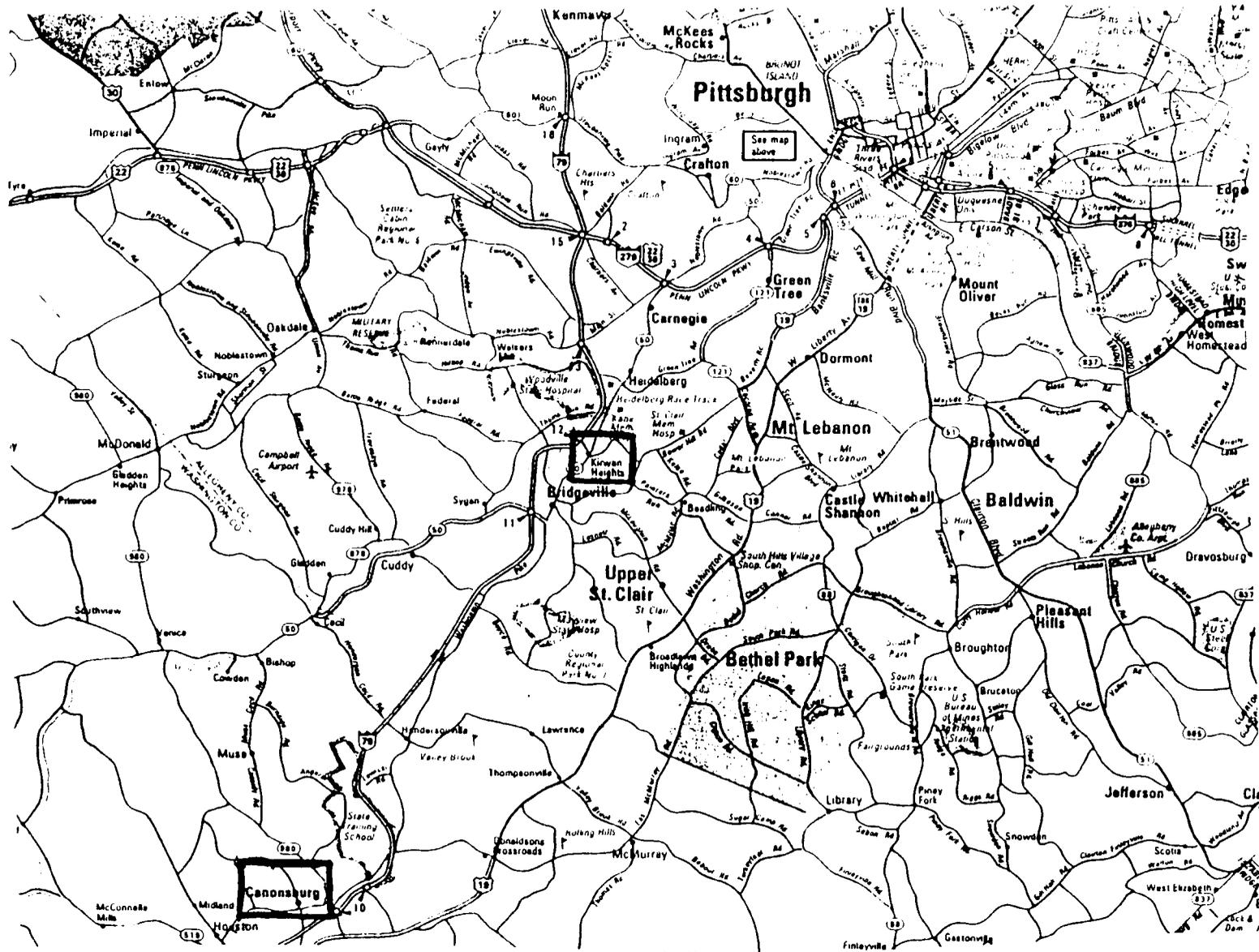


Figure 1. Location of Bridgeville Site in Respect to Canonsburg