Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Weldon Spring Site
Remedial Action Project Office
7295 Highway 94 South
St. Charles, Missouri 63304

July 18, 1996

Mr. Jerry Brabander
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
608 East Cherry Street
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Dear Mr. Brabander:

PROPOSAL OF REMOVAL ACTION IN THE SOUTHEAST DRAINAGE

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project, is conducting remedial activities at its Weldon Spring NPL site located approximately 48 km west of St. Louis, Missouri (see enclosed Figure 1). As you know, the DOE has had several informal consultations with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding potential impacts of proposed remedial activities to federally listed or proposed species or critical habitats at, or in the vicinity of, the Weldon Spring Site. As part of these past consultations, the FWS has identified a number of listed or proposed species and critical habitats that could occur in the vicinity of the site, and reviewed a Biological Assessment prepared specifically for the chemical plant portion of the site (Feasibility Study for Remedial Action at the Chemical Plant Area of the Weldon Spring Site, Vol. II, U.S. DOE 1992).

As part of the overall cleanup of the Weldon Spring Site, the DOE is proposing to conduct a removal action in a small stream basin referred to as the Southeast Drainage. This drainage is a small, 1st-order intermittent stream that originates in the vicinity of the Weldon Spring chemical plant area and discharges into the Missouri River (see enclosed Figure 2). Biotic surveys conducted as part of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the proposed removal action found a very high quality forest community to occur within the drainage basin of the stream, but only a very limited aquatic community. This limited aquatic community is likely a result of the temporal and intermittent nature of natural flow in the stream. No federal listed threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or C2 species were observed in the drainage, and none of the species previously identified by your office as occurring in the general area are expected to utilize habitats within the drainage.

The removal action proposed by the DOE is designed to remove radiologically contaminated sediment from the stream channel at selected locations within the drainage. Removal of contaminated sediment would occur with the use of tracked excavation equipment, and the excavated materials would be transported to the chemical plant area of the Weldon Spring Site using covered off-road trucks. Excavated materials would be stored temporarily at an existing on-site storage area, with final disposal in the planned engineered disposal cell for the Weldon Spring Site.

Excavation within the drainage would occur at select locations and proceed to depths of approximately 0.9 to 2.4 meters below the surface. To minimize disturbance of the forest community (and other ecological resources) that occur within the basin, equipment access into the drainage would utilize existing, currently disturbed utility right-of-way corridors as well as existing roads and trails (see enclosed Figure 3). Potential minor and temporary impacts to ecological resources would be incurred primarily from the clearing of understory vegetation along the existing right-of-way corridors. Potential impacts within the drainage channel would be restricted to the immediate areas of excavation. No impacts to ecological resources outside of the drainage basin are expected, while impacts within the drainage basin would be largely temporary, resulting from noise and human activity. Mitigation measures would be implemented to control erosion and runoff into the stream proper and minimize fugitive dust generation. Upon completion of the removal action, excavated areas would be restored by backfilling with clean fill, grading to appropriate contours, and revegetation, as appropriate.

In support of the proposed removal action, and in compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the DOE is requesting of the FWS a list of any listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present at or in the immediate vicinity of the Southeast Drainage. If listed species or critical habitat are present at this location, any information (or references thereto) regarding these species and critical habitats would be appreciated. Based on our evaluation of previous species lists provided to the DOE by FWS staff from your office, and on the results of biotic surveys conducted within the drainage basin by the DOE, we do not expect the proposed removal action to adversely affect any listed or proposed species or habitats that may be in the area.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Karen Reed, DOE, at (314)926-7008 or Yvonne Deyo, PAI Corporation, at (314)926-7034.

Sincerely,

Jerry S. Van Fossen

Jerry S. Van Fossen
Deputy Project Manager
Weldon Spring Site
Remedial Action Project

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
Mary Picel, ANL
Ken Warbritton, PMC

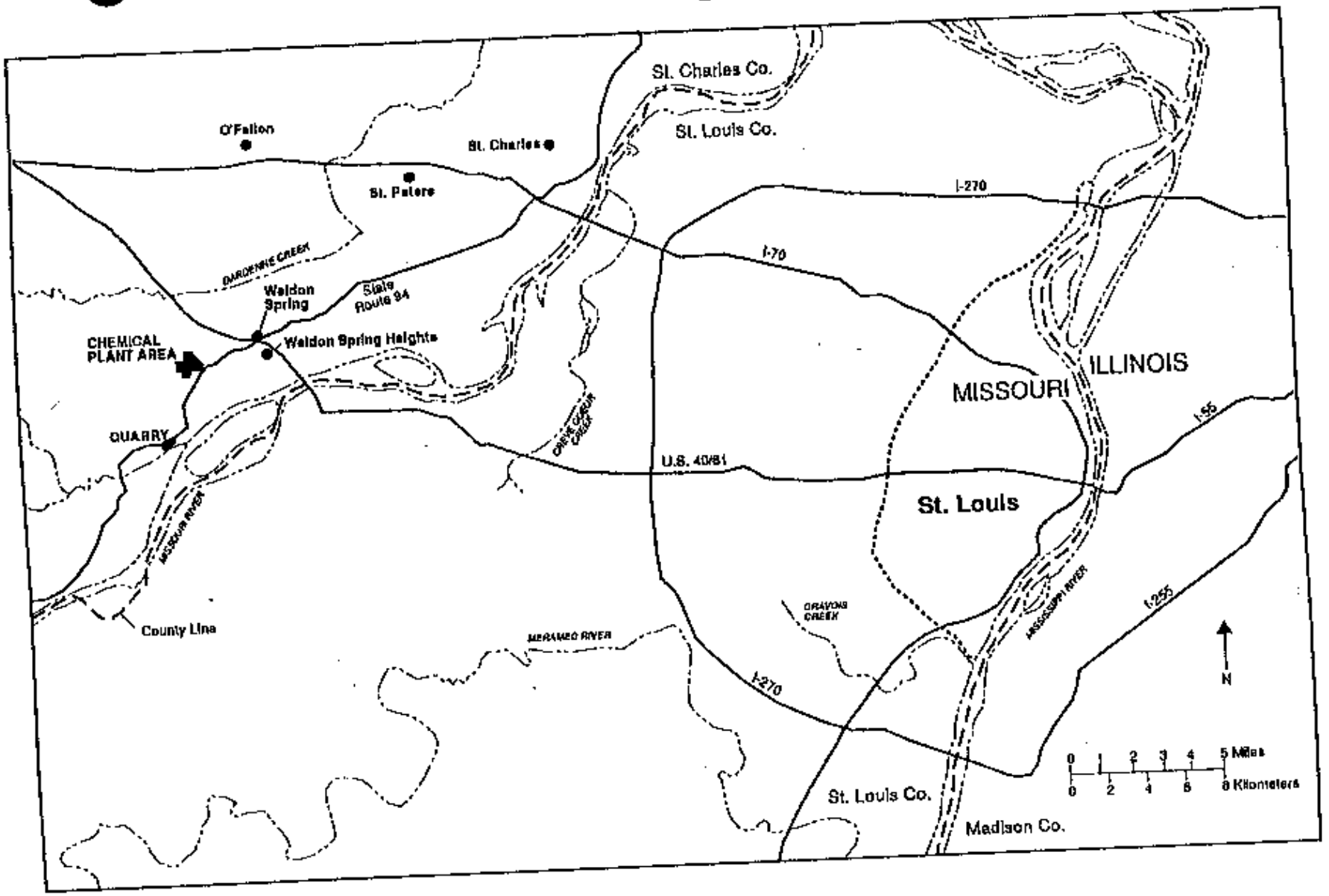
St. Charles Co.
St. Louis Co.
O'Fallon
St. Charles
St. Peters
I-270
I-70
DARDENNE CREEK
Weldon Spring
State Route 94
CHEMICAL PLANT AREA
Weldon Spring Heights
QUARRY
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
I-55
U.S. 40/61
St. Louis
MISSOURI RIVER
County Line
MERAMEC RIVER
GRAVOIS CREEK
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
I-255
I-270
N
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
0 2 4 6 8 Kilometers
St. Louis Co.
Madison Co.

Figure 1

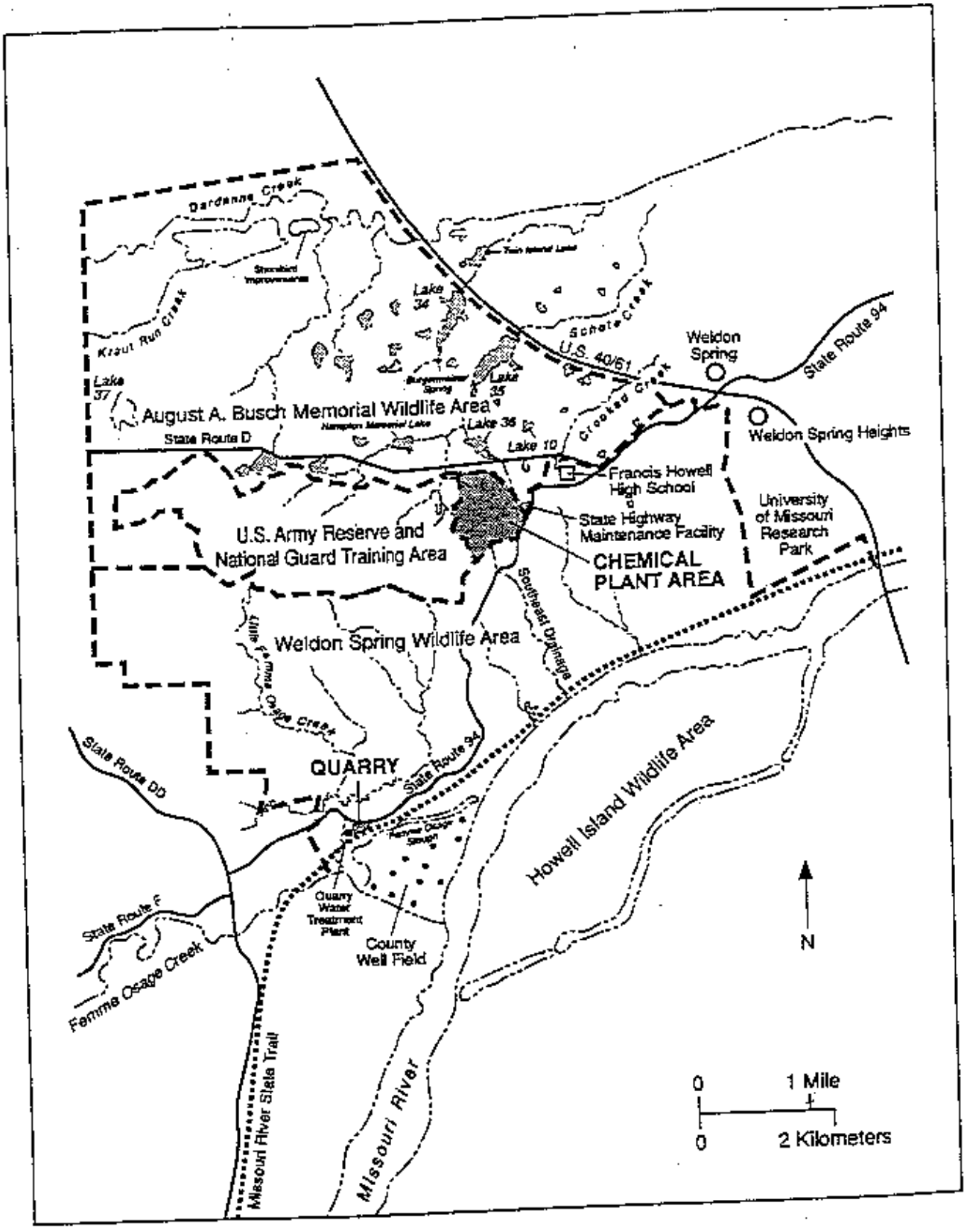
Dardenne Creek
Kraut Run Creek
Lake 37
Lake 34
Lake 35
Lake 36
Lake 10
Schote Creek
U.S. 40/61
Weldon Spring
State Route 94
Crooked Creek
Weldon Spring Heights
August A. Busch Memorial Wildlife Area
State Route D
Francis Howell High School
University of Missouri Research Park
State Highway Maintenance Facility
CHEMICAL PLANT AREA
U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Training Area
Southeast Drainage
Weldon Spring Wildlife Area
Little Femme Osage Creek
State Route DD
QUARRY
State Route 94
Howell Island Wildlife Area
Quarry Water Treatment Plant
County Well Field
State Route F
Femme Osage Creek
N
Missouri River State Trail
Missouri River
0
1 Mile
0
2 Kilometers

Figure 2

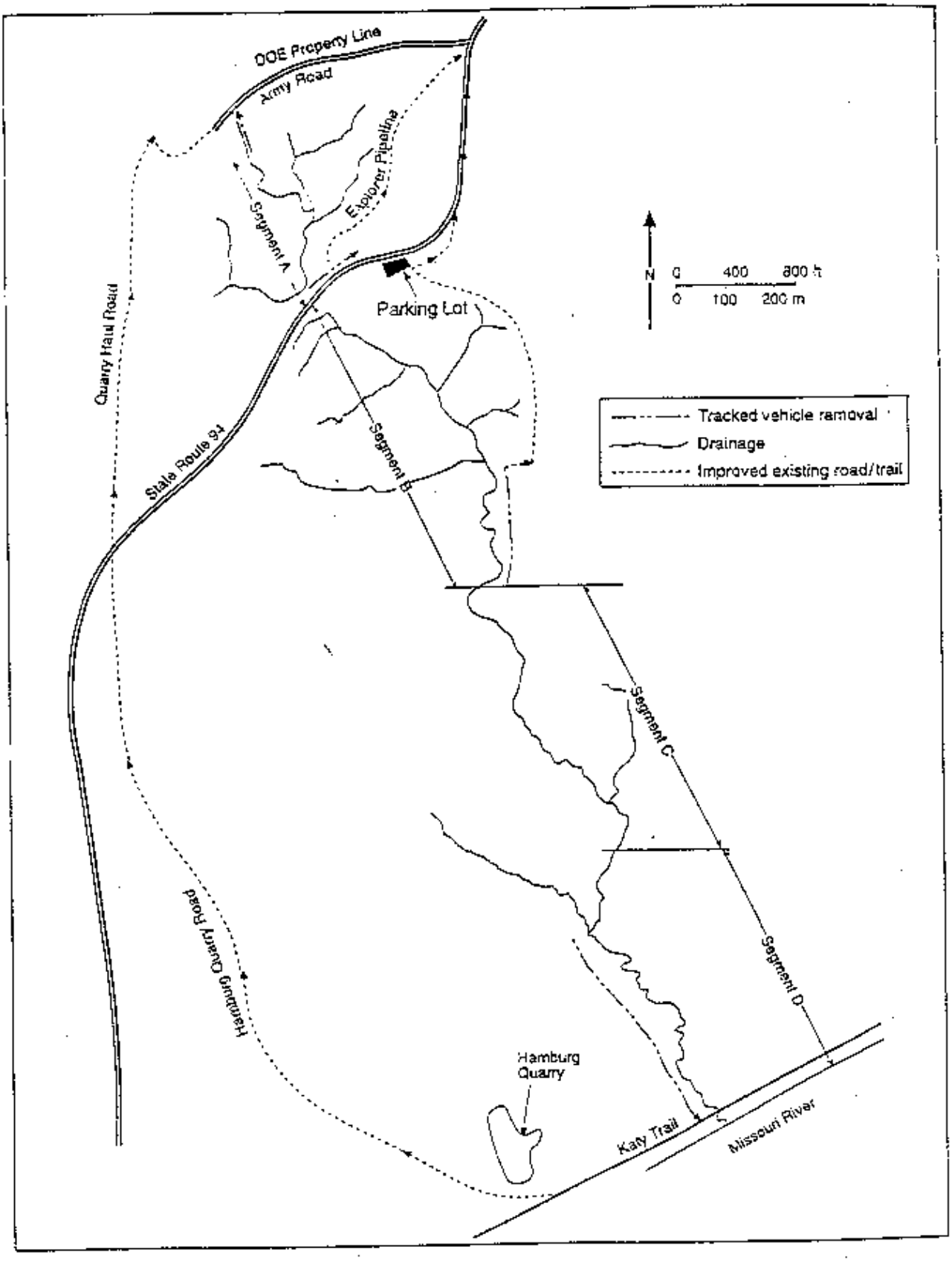
DOE Property Line
Army Road
Explorer Pipeline
Segment A
Parking Lot
Quarry Haul Road
State Route 94
Segment B
Segment C
Segment D
Hamburg Quarry Road
Hamburg Quarry
Katy Trail
Missouri River
N
0 400 800 ft
0 100 200 m
Tracked vehicle removal
Drainage
Improved existing road/trail

Figure 3