



APR 9 1986

Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Commander, Seneca Army Depot
Attention: Thomas Stincic, Safety Officer
Romulus, New York 14541

Dear Mr. Stincic:

As you are aware, the Department of Energy is evaluating the radiological condition of sites formerly used by Department predecessors during the early years of nuclear energy development, and a portion of the Seneca Army Depot was identified as one such site. While our preliminary investigations did identify residual radioactive material on the site, it is our understanding that the Department of Army assumed responsibility for this residual radioactivity and has completed remedial action. We have not received a final report of this work and would appreciate receiving a copy for our file. The Department of Energy has eliminated the Seneca Army Depot from consideration for inclusion in our Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. A copy of the site summary for the Seneca site, which we will make available to the public, is enclosed. By copy of this letter, we are notifying the State of New York of the Department's elimination of this site from our program.

Information documenting the Department's activities in regard to the Seneca Army Depot will be archived by the Department of Energy and will also be made available, in the future, for public review at the Department's Public Reading Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions regarding this action or the enclosed site summary, please contact me at 301-353-4716.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward G. DeLaney".

Edward G. DeLaney, Director
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

Enclosure

cc:
J. Spath, NY State ERDA

SENECA ARMY DEPOT
Romulus, New York

Site Function

About 2000 barrels of pitchblende ore were stored in 11 munitions bunkers during a short period in the early 1940s. The bunkers have since been used for storage of nonradioactive materials and are occupied for only brief periods by Army personnel.

Site Description

The depot covers about 10,000 acres and is west of the town of Romulus, New York. The area where the ore was stored consists of 11 munitions bunkers, and the surrounding area includes a rail spur over which the ore was transported (Figure 1).

Owner History

The site is owned and operated by the U.S. Army.

Radiological History and Status

From September 10 to 23, 1976, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) personnel surveyed the 11 munitions bunkers and their surroundings. Residual radioactivity appeared to be confined almost entirely to the interiors of eight of the bunkers and to the outdoor areas near the entrances to three bunkers. The levels measured did not appear to represent a radiation safety problem to personnel under current conditions of use and limited occupancy. The nature of the radionuclides present, however, required their long-term control in the event of significantly altered use or demolition and disposal of these structures in the future. An additional radiological survey performed by personnel from the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency in 1978 resulted in readings similar to the ORNL survey.

Personnel from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Mound Facility monitored levels of radon concentration in and around several of the bunkers during August 1980 for the Seneca Army Depot in order to provide additional data to further characterize the bunkers for future remedial actions. This monitoring represented the final DOE activity at the Seneca Army Depot. The Department of the Army completed decontamination at the site in 1985. DOE has eliminated the site from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

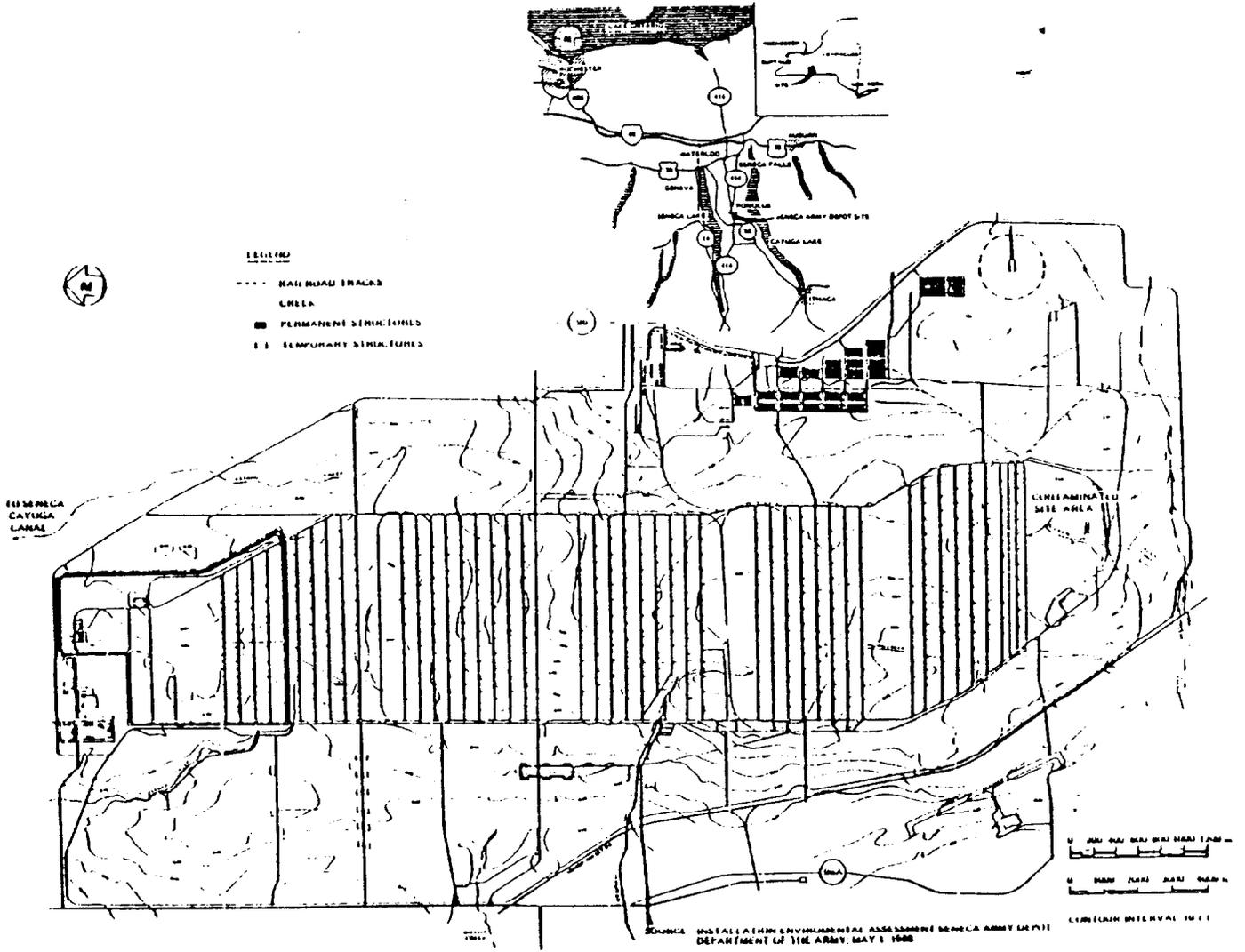


Figure 1. Topographic Map of Seneca Army Depot