

DRAFT

Mr. Terry McKee
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
Tri-Lakes Project Office
9307 State Hwy 121
Littleton, Colorado 80123-6901

Dear Mr. McKee:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is providing the following information, including maps, to your office for review. Please provide DOE with a determination as to whether this action is approved under a 404 Nationwide Permit or is exempt from all 404 permitting requirements.

The proposed action is the maintenance burning of heavy growths of vegetation, primarily linear stands of cattails (total is approximately 0.9 acres), in the South Interceptor Ditch (SID). The ditch is approximately 6,500' long, and is located on the south side of the Rocky Flats Plant, and immediately north of Woman Creek. The need for this project is rooted in the lack of regular maintenance, giving rise to siltation in culverts, overgrown vegetation within the channel, sloughing of ditch banks which has reduced the flow channel width, and significant deterioration of riprap, flow-control structures. Because of these conditions, current engineering estimates have concluded that the SID can handle only 15 percent of the original 100-year design flow. The reduced capacity could cause the channel to overtop during a 100-year, or smaller, event, allowing potentially contaminated water to enter Woman Creek exposing DOE to potential liabilities that may arise if Woman Creek became contaminated. This potential for contaminating the creek conflicts with the very purpose for which the SID was built - preventing the contamination of Woman Creek.

Although an overall rehabilitation effort is needed for the SID, burning the ditch vegetation will provide an immediate increase in the present carrying capacity during the upcoming non-growing season. The increased capacity will then be available during the heavy precipitation events that may occur during the spring of 1992. The burn will occur prior to the end of October 1991; this deadline is based on a permit issued by the Colorado Department of Health. Burning will occur without the use of fuels and every effort will be made to avoid impacting the plant roots located in the channel. The vegetation is expected to return during the 1992 growing season. No fill will be placed in the ditch and no dredging will occur.

Figure 1 shows the location of the SID (called the South Diversion Canal on the drawing). Figure 2 is a USGS Louisville Quadrangle map showing the location of the plant. Please note that the USGS Quad map is not up-to-date. For example, Pond C-2, and the SID which flows into Pond C-2, are not shown on the Quad map. The ditch is located in Sections 10/11/12, T2S, R70W.

If you would like to visit the SID or have any questions, please call Bruce Thatcher at 966-3532 or Tricia Powell at 966-3280. Any other maintenance activities that are proposed will be addressed in future correspondence.

R. M. Nelson, Jr., Manager
DOE, RFO

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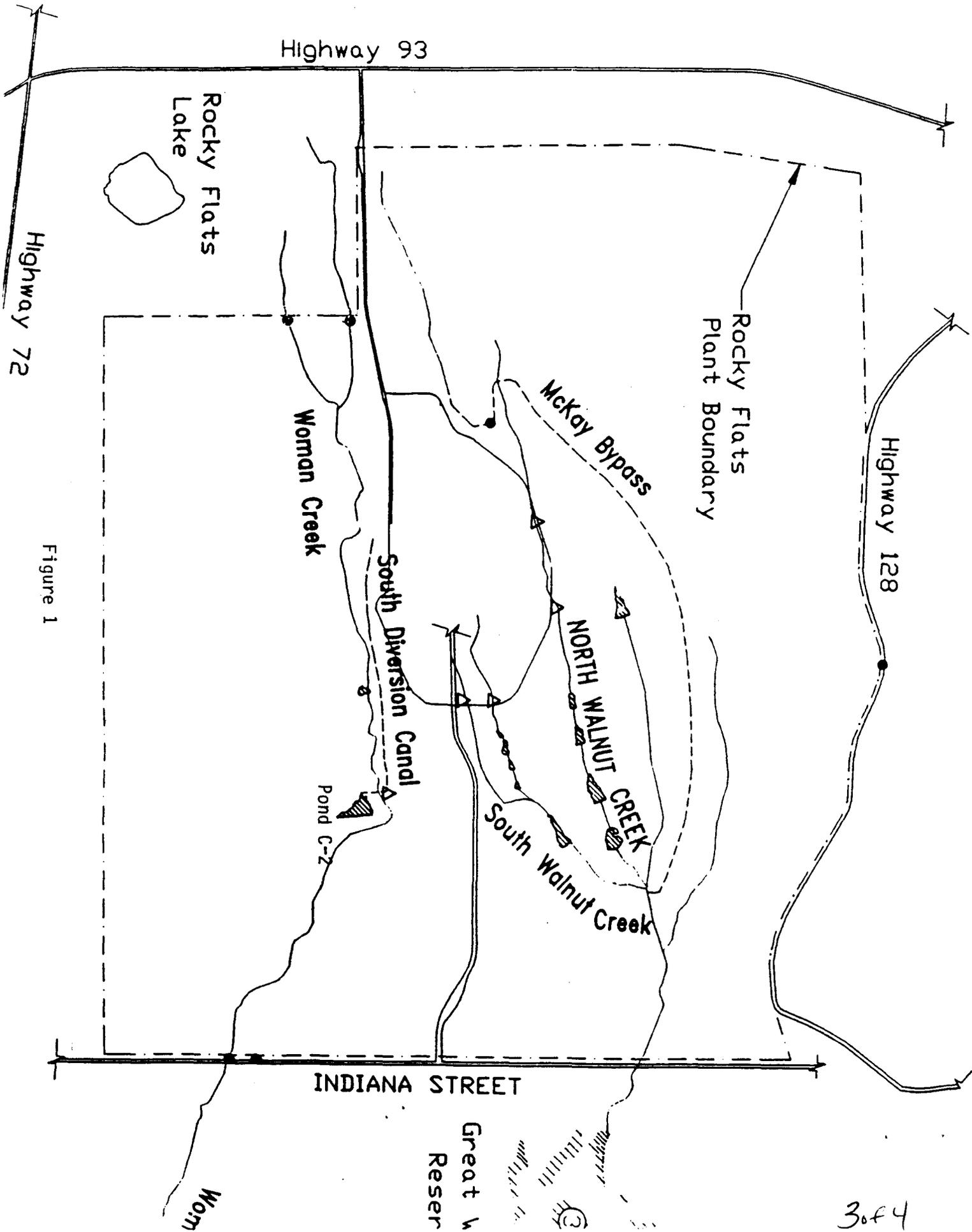


Figure 1

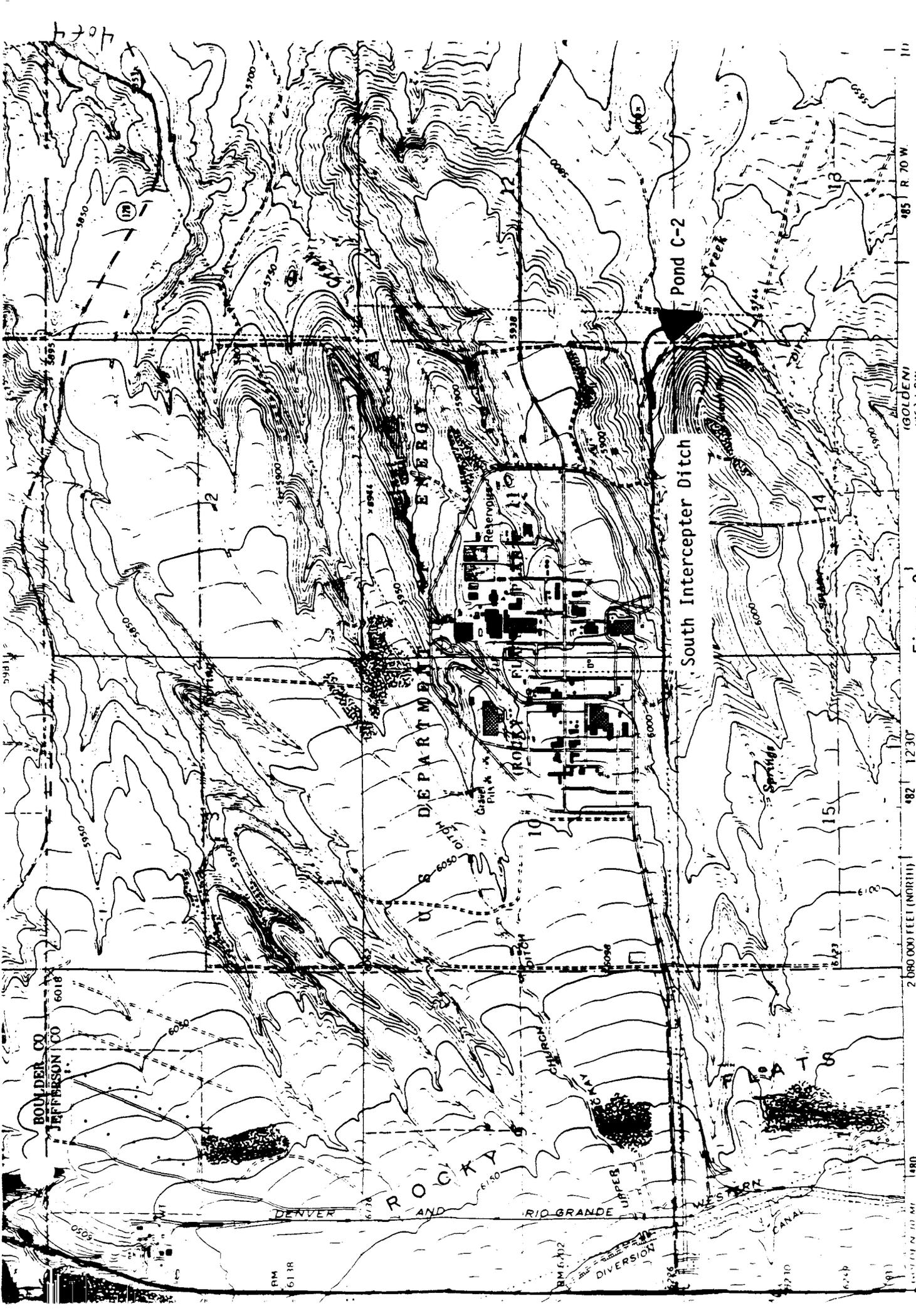


Figure 2

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