

6. Y-12 Environmental Monitoring Programs

Compliance and environmental monitoring programs required by federal and state regulation and by DOE orders are conducted at the Y-12 National Security Complex for air, water, and groundwater environmental media.

6.1 Y-12 COMPLEX RADIOLOGICAL AIRBORNE EFFLUENT MONITORING

The release of radiological contaminants, primarily uranium, into the atmosphere at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12 Complex) occurs almost exclusively as a result of plant production, maintenance, and waste management activities. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations for radionuclides require continuous emission sampling of major sources (a “major source” is considered to be any emission point that potentially can contribute more than 0.1 mrem/year effective dose equivalent to an off-site individual). During 2001, 43 of the 55 monitored stacks were judged to be major sources. Eighteen of the stacks with the greatest potential to emit significant amounts of uranium are equipped with alarmed breakthrough detectors, which alert operations personnel to process-upset conditions or to a decline in filtration-system efficiencies, allowing them to investigate and correct the problem before a significant release occurs. As of January 1, 2001, the Y-12 Complex had continuous monitoring capability on a total of 57 stacks, 48 of which were active and 9 of which were temporarily shut down. Two of these stacks that were temporarily shut down, US-002 and UB-111, were permanently shut down in 2001.

Emissions from unmonitored process and laboratory exhausts, categorized as minor emission sources, are estimated according to calculation methods approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 2001, there were 41 unmonitored processes operated by Y-12. These are included as minor sources in the Y-12 Complex source term.

Uranium and other radionuclides are handled in millicurie quantities at facilities within the

boundary of the Y-12 Complex as part of Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC (BJC), ORNL, and BWXT Y-12 laboratory activities. Twenty-eight minor emission points were identified from laboratory activities at facilities within the boundary of the Y-12 Complex as being operated by BWXT Y-12. In addition, the BWXT Y-12 Analytical Chemistry Organization laboratory is operated in a leased facility that is not within the ORR boundary and is located approximately 1/3 mile east of the Y-12 Complex on Union Valley Road. The emissions from the Analytical Chemistry Organization Union Valley laboratory are included in the Y-12 Complex source term. Eight minor emission points were identified at the laboratory. The releases from these emission points are minimal, however, and have negligible impact on the total Y-12 Complex dose.

Emissions from Y-12 Complex room ventilation systems are estimated from radiation control data collected on airborne radioactivity concentrations in the work areas. Areas where the monthly average concentration exceeded 10% of the DOE derived air concentration worker-protection guidelines are included in the annual emission estimate. One emission point in Building 9212 was identified in 2001 where room ventilation emissions exceeded 10% of the guidelines. However, because this enclosure exhausted to stack UB-110, its contribution was not specifically identified and was included in the stack emissions.

6.1.1 Sample Collection and Analytical Procedure

Uranium stack losses were measured continuously on monitored operating process exhaust stacks in 2001. Particulate matter (including uranium) was filtered from the stack emissions. Filters at each location were changed routinely, from one to three times per week, and were

analyzed for total uranium. In addition, the sampling probes and tubing were removed quarterly and were washed with nitric acid; the washing was analyzed for total uranium. At the end of the year, the probe-wash data were included in the final calculations in determining total emissions from each stack.

6.1.2 Results

An estimated $1.44E \times 10^{-2}$ Ci (3.4 kg) of uranium was released into the atmosphere in 2001 as a result of Y-12 activities. The specific activity of enriched uranium is much greater than that of depleted uranium, and about 87% of the curie release was composed of emissions of enriched uranium particulate, even though approximately 6% of the total mass of uranium released was enriched material (Figs. 6.1 and 6.2).

6.2 Y-12 COMPLEX NONRADIOLOGICAL AIRBORNE EMISSIONS MONITORING

The release of nonradiological contaminants into the atmosphere at the Y-12 Complex occurs as a result of plant production, maintenance, waste management operations, and steam generation. Most process operations are served by ventilation systems.

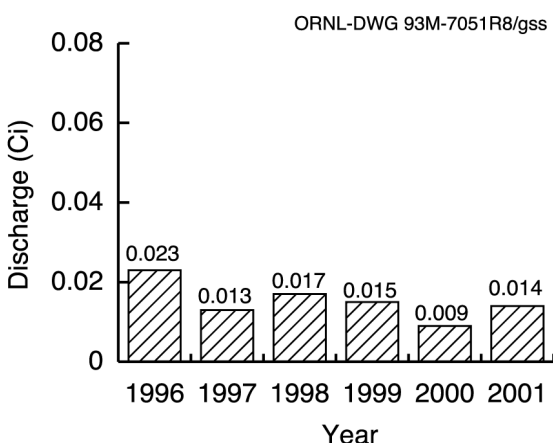


Fig. 6.1. Total curies of uranium discharged from the Y-12 Complex to the atmosphere, 1996–2001.

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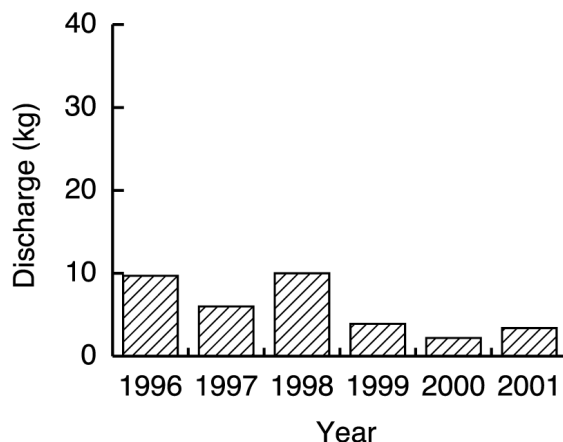


Fig. 6.2. Total kilograms of uranium discharged from the Y-12 Complex to the atmosphere, 1996–2001.

In CY 2001, the Y-12 Complex had 36 individual air permits. Approximately two-thirds of the permitted air sources release primarily non-radiological contaminants. The remaining one-third of the permitted sources process primarily radiological materials. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) air permits for the nonradiological sources do not require stack sampling or monitoring except for the opacity monitors used at the steam plant to ensure compliance with visible emission standards. For nonradiological sources where direct monitoring of airborne emissions is not required, monitoring of key process parameters is done to ensure compliance with all permitted emission limits. In the future, when the Y-12 Complex is issued its first-ever major source (Clean Air Act Title V) operating permit, reporting of key process parameters is expected to increase. Also, it is anticipated that a future permit condition for the steam plant will require continuous emission monitoring for nitrogen oxides beginning in 2003.

The 2001 Y-12 Complex annual emission fee was calculated based on 10,033 tons per year of allowable emission of regulated pollutants, with an annual emission fee of \$130,429. In accordance with TDEC regulations, Rule 1200-3-26-.02(9)(i), when there is no applicable standard or permit condition for a pollutant, the allowable emissions are based on the maximum actual emissions calculations (maximum design capacity for 8760 h/year). More than 90% of the Y-12 Com-

plex pollutant emissions to the atmosphere are attributed to the operation of the steam plant. The emission fee rate was based on \$13 per ton of regulated-pollutant allowable emissions. The actual emissions are much lower than the allowable amount; however, major sources are required to pay their annual emission fees based on allowable emissions until the issuance of the major source operating permit.

6.2.1 Results

The primary source of criteria pollutants at the Y-12 Complex is the steam plant, where coal and natural gas are burned. Information regarding actual vs allowable emissions from the steam plant is provided in Table 6.1. In addition, the annual toxic release inventory report (required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, Sect. 313) provides information on other nonradiological Y-12 Complex air emissions (Sect. 2.2.16).

The east and west Y-12 Steam Plant stack opacity monitors were each operational more than 99% of the time in 2001. Both systems were taken out of service for annual calibration/certification on April 17 and 18, 2001. The annual opacity cali-

bration error test reports were submitted to TDEC in July 2001. During 2001, there were two 6-min periods of excess emissions and two occasions when the monitors were out of service. Quarterly reports of the status of the Y-12 Steam Plant opacity monitors are submitted to personnel at TDEC within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. Table E.4 in Appendix E is a record of excess emissions and out-of-service conditions for the east and west stack opacity monitors for 2001.

6.3 Y-12 COMPLEX AMBIENT AIR MONITORING

In 1994, Y-12 Complex personnel issued *Evaluation of the Ambient Air Monitoring Program at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant* (MMES 1994b) and worked with DOE and TDEC in reviewing the ambient air program for applicability and usefulness of the data. There are no federal regulations, state regulations, or DOE orders that require this monitoring. All ambient air monitoring systems at the Y-12 Complex are operated as a best management practice. With the reduction of plant operations and improved emission and administrative controls, levels of

Table 6.1. Actual vs allowable air emissions from the Oak Ridge Y-12 Complex, 2001

Pollutant	Emissions (tons/year)		Percentage of allowable
	Actual	Allowable	
Particulate	20	931	2.2
Sulfur dioxide	1,954	20,803	9.4
Nitrogen oxides ^a	900	7,718	11.7
Volatile organic compounds ^a	2.4	37	6.5
Carbon monoxide ^a	33	543	6.1

^aWhen there is no applicable standard or enforceable permit condition for some pollutants, the allowable emissions are based on the maximum actual emissions calculation as defined in Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Rule 1200-3-26-.02(2)(d)3 (maximum design capacity for 8,760 h/year). The emissions for both the actual and allowable emissions were calculated based on the latest EPA compilation of air pollutant emission factors. (EPA 1995. *Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors AP-42, Fifth Edition, Volume 1: Stationary Point and Area Sources*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, N.C. January 1995.)

measured pollutants have decreased significantly during the past several years. In addition, major processes that result in emission of enriched and depleted uranium are equipped with stack samplers that have been reviewed and approved by EPA to meet requirements of the NESHAP regulations. ORR air sampling stations, operated by ORNL in accordance with DOE orders, are located around the reservation. Their locations were selected so that areas of potentially high exposure to the public are monitored continuously for parameters of concern.

With agreement from TDEC personnel, the ambient air-sampling program at the Y-12 Complex was significantly reduced, effective at the end of 1994. All sampling for fluoride, total suspended particulates, and particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) was discontinued, and all but 3 of the 12 uranium samplers were shut down. Effective April 1, 1999, an agreement was reached according to which TDEC personnel took over responsibility for sampling and analysis of the three remaining uranium samplers at the Y-12 Complex. The uranium samplers were operated by the TDEC during 2001. On December 6, 1999, DOE submitted to TDEC a letter providing justification for reducing the number of on-site mercury-monitoring stations from four to two. Effective January 1, 2000, operation of the two monitors located in the interior of the Complex (near Buildings 9805-1 and 9422-13) was discontinued.

The two boundary mercury-monitoring stations (stations 2 and 8) remain in operation. The locations of these monitoring stations are shown in Fig. 6.3. During 2001, modeling was performed to determine whether monitoring for fluorides would be prudent commensurate with the restart of the hydrogen fluoride system at Building 9212. These data are still being analyzed.

6.3.1 Mercury

The Y-12 Complex ambient air monitoring program for mercury was established in 1986 as a best management practice. The objectives of the program are to establish a historical database of mercury concentration in ambient air at the Y-12 Complex, identify spatial and temporal trends in mercury vapor concentrations at Y-12, and demonstrate protection of the environment and human health from releases of mercury from Y-12 to the atmosphere. Beginning in CY 2000, the number of program monitoring stations was reduced from four to two (see discussion in Sect. 6.3). The two stations, Ambient Air Station No. 2 and Ambient Air Station No. 8, are located near the east and west boundaries of the Y-12 Complex, respectively (see Fig. 6.3). Since their establishment in 1986, stations 2 and 8 have monitored mercury in ambient air continuously with the exception of short periods of downtime due to power or equipment outages. In addition to

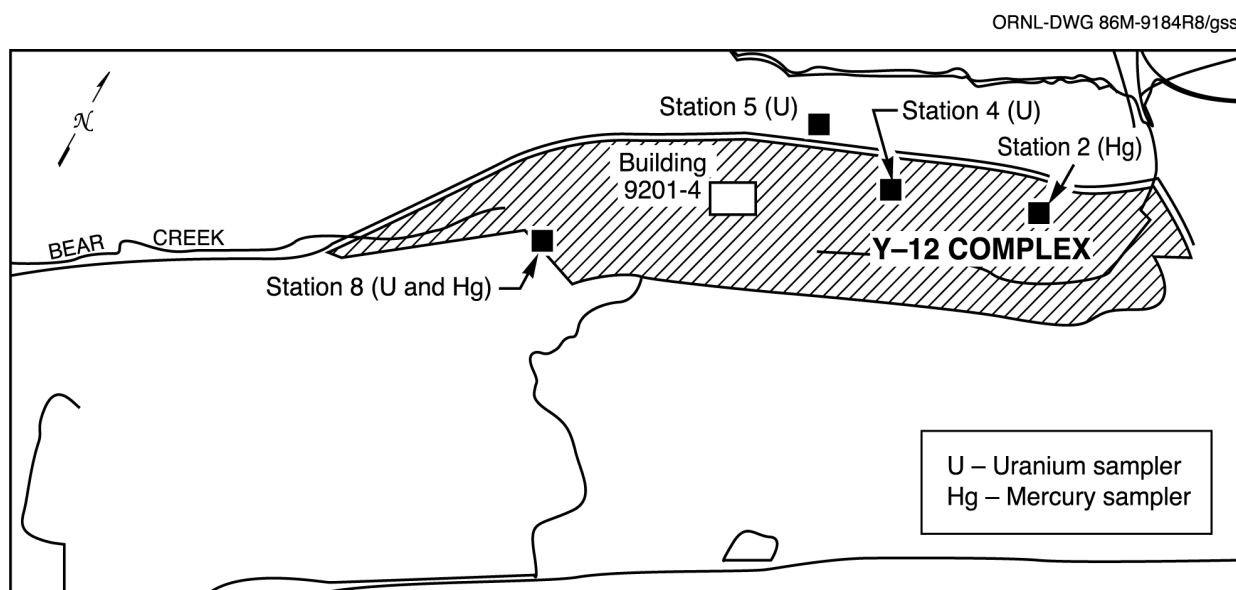


Fig. 6.3. Locations of ambient air monitoring stations at the Y-12 Complex.

the Y-12 Complex monitoring stations, a control or reference site was operated on Chestnut Ridge in the Walker Branch Watershed (Rain Gauge No. 2) for a 20-month period in 1988 and 1989 to establish background concentrations.

At each of the monitoring sites, airborne mercury vapor is collected by pulling ambient air through a sampling train consisting of a Teflon filter, a flow-limiting orifice, and an iodated charcoal glass sampling tube or trap. The flow-limiting orifice restricts air flow through the sampling train to ~1L/min, although actual flow rates are measured weekly with a calibrated flowmeter. The iodated charcoal sampling tubes are changed out routinely, every 7 days. The charcoal in each trap is then analyzed for total mercury by using cold vapor atomic fluorescence after acid digestion. Average concentration of mercury vapor in air for each 7-day sampling period is calculated by dividing the total quantity of mercury collected on the charcoal by the total volume of air pulled through the charcoal trap during the sampling period. During the first few years of the program, the Teflon filters in the sampling train were analyzed for particulate mercury, but this practice was discontinued in 1989 after results revealed very low to undetectable levels of particulate mercury.

As reported in previous annual site environmental reports, over the 16 years of the monitoring program, average annual mercury vapor concentrations at the Y-12 Complex mercury monitoring sites have declined, especially since the initial 3 years of the monitoring program (1986 through 1988). Average mercury vapor concentrations at Ambient Air Station 8 have

declined almost tenfold and threefold at Station 2 since the 1986–1988 period. Recent average annual concentrations at the two boundary stations located at the east and west ends of the Y-12 Complex are comparable to those measured in 1988 and 1989 at the Chestnut Ridge reference site and are only slightly elevated above concentrations reported for continental background (i.e., ~0.002 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Annual average mercury concentration during 2001 at Station 2 was 0.0034 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (N = 51; standard error = ± 0.0003) and at Station 8, 0.0042 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (N = 51; standard error = ± 0.0003). Table 6.2 summarizes the CY 2001 mercury results and provides the results from the 1986–1988 period for comparison. Figure 6.4 illustrates temporal trends in mercury concentrations for the two active ambient air mercury-monitoring sites since the inception of the program in 1986 through December 2001.

In conclusion, annual average ambient mercury concentrations during 2001 at the Y-12 east and west boundary monitoring sites are comparable to reference levels measured on Chestnut Ridge in 1988 and 1989 and approach the average values reported for continental background. These concentrations are well below the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists workplace threshold limit value of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (time-weighted average for a normal 8-h workday and 40-h work week) and the EPA reference concentration of 0.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for mercury for chronic inhalation exposure.

Table 6.2. CY 2001 summary results for the Y-12 Complex mercury in ambient air monitoring program
Results for the 1986 through 1988 monitoring period are shown for reference

Ambient air monitoring stations	Mercury vapor concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)			
	2001 Average	2001 Maximum	2001 Minimum	1986–1988 Average
Station No. 2 (east end of Y-12)	0.0034	0.0136	0.0008	0.010
Station No. 8 (west end of Y-12)	0.0042	0.0100	0.0010	0.033
Reference Site, Rain Gauge No. 2 (1988 ^a)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.006
Reference Site, Rain Gauge No. 2 (1989 ^b)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.005

^aData for period from February 9 through December 31, 1988.

^bData for period from January 1 through October 31, 1989.

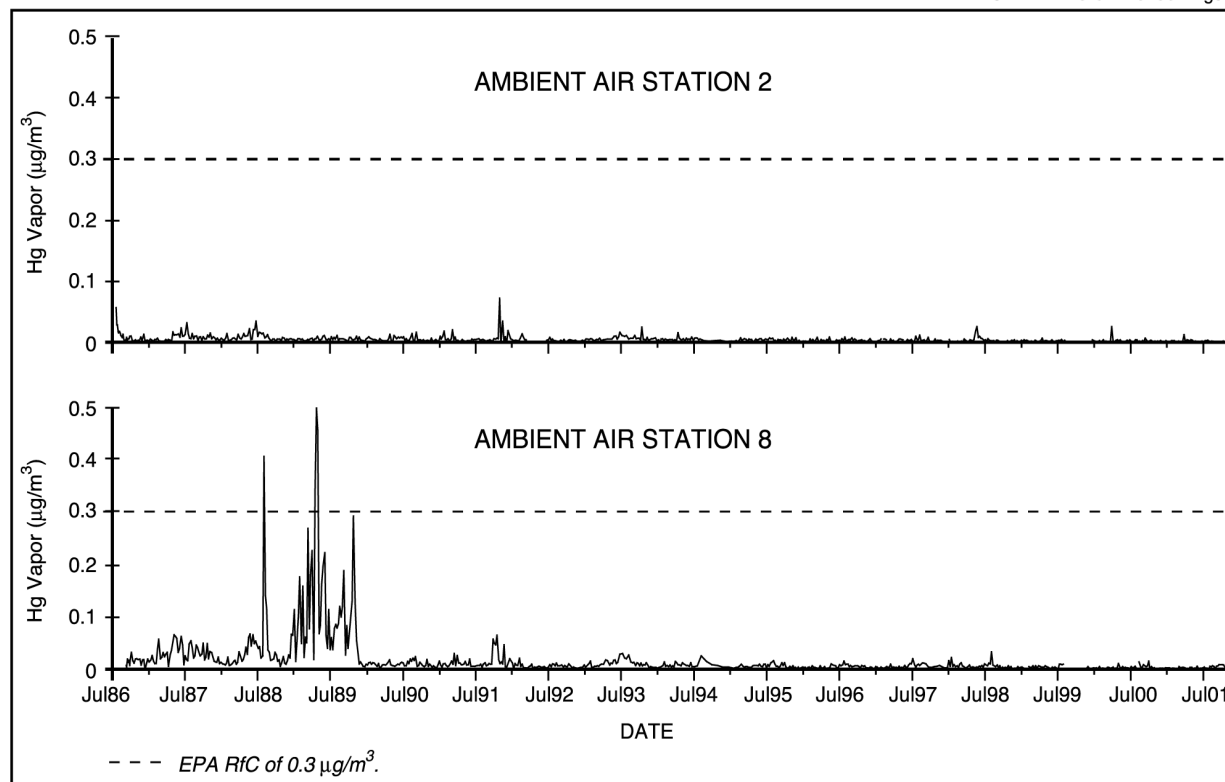


Fig. 6.4. Temporal trends in mercury vapor concentration for the four active airborne mercury monitoring sites at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Complex, July 1986 through July 2001. The dashed line represents the EPA reference concentration of $0.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

6.4 LIQUID DISCHARGES— Y-12 COMPLEX RADIO- LOGICAL MONITORING SUMMARY

A radiological monitoring plan is in place at the Y-12 Complex to address compliance with DOE orders and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (TN002968). The permit, issued in 1995, required Y-12 to reevaluate its radiological monitoring plan and to submit results from the monitoring program quarterly as an addendum to the NPDES Discharge Monitoring Report. There were no discharge limits set by the NPDES permit for radionuclides; the requirement is to monitor and report. A revised plan (LMES and H&R 1995) was fully implemented in 1995. The radiological monitoring plan was expanded at that time to allow sufficient collection of data such that an assessment of alpha, beta, and gamma emitters could be made.

The intent was to more appropriately identify parameters to be monitored and to establish analytical detection limits necessary for dose evaluations.

Based on an analysis of operational history, expected chemical and physical relationships, and historical monitoring results, the plan was updated again in October 1997 (LMES 1997b). Under the existing plan, effluent monitoring is conducted at three types of locations: (1) treatment facilities, (2) other point-source and area-source discharges, and (3) instream locations. Operational history and past monitoring results provide a basis for parameters routinely monitored under the plan (Table 6.3).

The radiological monitoring plan also addresses monitoring of the sanitary sewer. The Y-12 Complex is permitted to discharge domestic wastewater to the city of Oak Ridge publicly owned treatment works under Industrial and Commercial User Wastewater Discharge Permit No. 1-91. As required by the discharge permit,

Table 6.3. Radiological parameters monitored at the Y-12 Complex in 2001

Parameters	Specific isotopes	Rationale for monitoring
Uranium isotopes	^{238}U , ^{235}U , ^{234}U , total U, weight % ^{235}U	These parameters reflect the major activity, uranium processing, throughout the history of Y-12 and are the dominant detectable radiological parameters in surface water
Fission and activation products	^{90}Sr , ^3H , ^{99}Tc , ^{137}Cs	These parameters reflect a minor activity at Y-12, processing recycled uranium from reactor fuel elements, from the early 1960s to the late 1980s, and will continue to be monitored as tracers for beta and gamma radionuclides, although their concentrations in surface water are low
Transuranium isotopes	^{241}Am , ^{237}Np , ^{238}Pu , $^{239/240}\text{Pu}$	These parameters are related to recycle uranium processing. Monitoring has continued because of their half-lives and presence in groundwater
Other isotopes of interest	^{232}Th , ^{230}Th , ^{228}Th , ^{226}Ra , ^{228}Ra	These parameters reflect historical thorium processing and natural radionuclides necessary to characterize background radioisotopes

radiological monitoring of this discharge is conducted and reported to the city of Oak Ridge, although there are no city-established limits. Potential sources of radionuclides discharging to the sanitary sewer have been identified in previous studies at the Y-12 Complex as part of an initiative to meet the “as low as reasonably achievable” goals. The radiological monitoring needs for the sanitary sewer were reviewed and summarized in the 1997 update to the plan (LMES 1997b).

Radiological monitoring of storm water is also required by the NPDES permit. A comprehensive monitoring plan has been designed to fully characterize pollutants in storm water runoff. The most recent revision of this plan was issued in December 1998 (LMES 1998) and incorporates radiological-monitoring requirements. There are 77 storm water outfalls and monitoring points located at the Y-12 Complex, and the NPDES permit requires characterization of a minimum of 25 storm water outfalls per year.

6.4.1 Results

Radiological monitoring plan locations sampled in 2001 are noted in Fig. 6.5. Table 6.4 identifies the monitored locations, the frequency of monitoring, and the sum of the percentages of

the DOE derived concentration guides (DCGs) for radionuclides measured in 2001. Radiological data were well below the allowable DCGs.

In 2001, the total mass of uranium and associated curies released from the Y-12 Complex at the easternmost monitoring station, Station 17 on Upper East Fork Poplar Creek, and the westernmost monitoring station, at Bear Creek kilometer (BCK) 4.55 (the former NPDES Outfall 304), was 218 kg, or 0.108 Ci (Table 6.5). Figure 6.6 illustrates a 5-year trend of these releases. The total release is calculated by multiplying the average concentration (grams per liter) by the average flow (million gallons per day). Converting units and multiplying by 365 days per year yields the calculated discharge.

The City of Oak Ridge Industrial and Commercial User Wastewater Discharge Permit allows the Y-12 Complex to discharge wastewater to be treated at the Oak Ridge publicly owned treatment works through the East End Sanitary Sewer Monitoring Station, also identified as SS-6 (Fig. 6.5). Compliance samples are collected at this location. No single radionuclide in the Y-12 contribution to the sanitary sewer exceeded 4% of the DCGs. Summed percentages of DCGs calculated from the Y-12 contribution to the sewer are less than one. Results of radiological monitoring

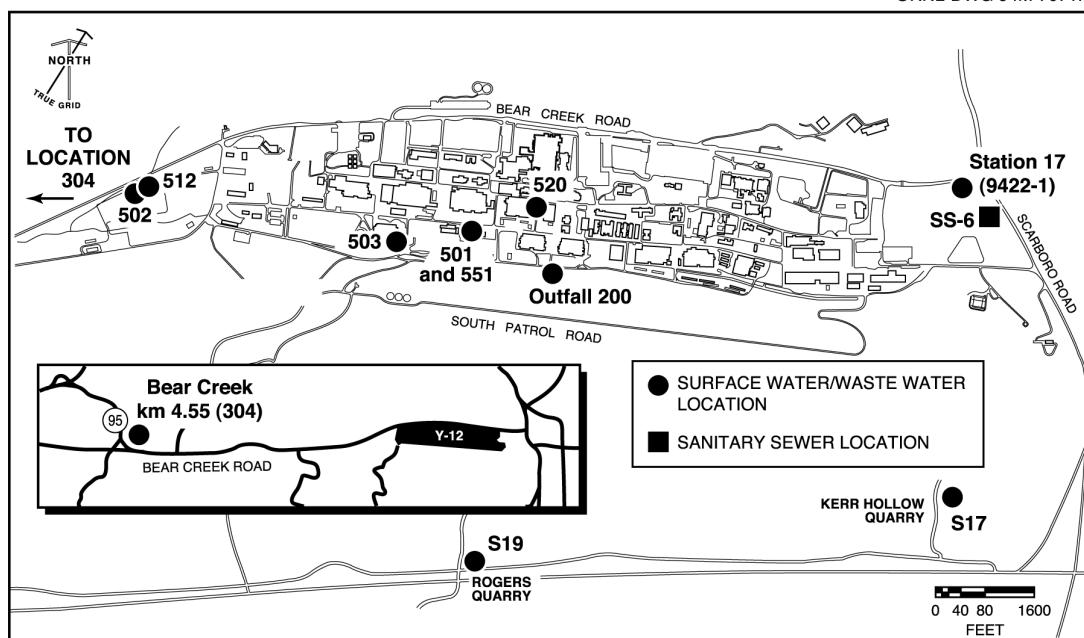


Fig. 6.5. Surface water and sanitary sewer radiological sampling locations at the Y-12 Complex.

Table 6.4. Summary of Y-12 Complex radiological monitoring plan sample requirements

Outfall No.	Location	Sample frequency	Sample type	Sum of DCG ^a percentage
<i>Y-12 Complex wastewater treatment facilities</i>				
501	Central Pollution Control Facility	1/week	Composite during batch operation	2.8
502	West End Treatment Facility	1/week	24-hour composite	No flow
503	Steam Plant Wastewater Treatment Facility	1/week	24-hour composite	No flow
512	Groundwater Treatment Facility	1/week	24-hour composite	3.3
520 (402) ^b	Steam condensate	1/week	Grab	2.4
551	Central Mercury Treatment Facility	1/month	24-hour composite	2.3
<i>Other Y-12 Complex point and area source discharges</i>				
S17 (301) ^b	Kerr Hollow Quarry	1/month	24-hour composite	2.2
S19 (302) ^b	Rogers Quarry	1/month	24-hour composite	1.5
<i>Y-12 Complex instream locations</i>				
BCK 4.55 (304) ^b	Bear Creek, plant exit (west)	1/week	7-day composite	4.0
Station 17	East Fork Poplar Creek, plant exit (east)	1/week	7-day composite	2.6
200	North/south pipes	1/week	24-hour composite	3.3
<i>Y-12 Complex Sanitary Sewer</i>				
SS-6	East End Sanitary Sewer Monitoring Station	1/week ^c	7-day composite	83.6 ^d

^aDCG = the derived concentration guide found in DOE Order 5400.5.

^bOutfall identifications were changed by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit effective July 1, 1995. Former outfall identifications are shown here in parentheses.

^cGamma emitters are analyzed once per year.

^dValue due to one measurement with a high margin of error.

Table 6.5. Release of uranium from the Y-12 Complex to the off-site environment as a liquid effluent, 1997–2001

Year	Quantity released	
	Ci ^a	kg
<i>Station 17</i>		
1997	0.098	184
1998	0.076	127
1999	0.070	123
2000	0.063	126
2001	0.043	82
<i>Outfall 304</i>		
1997	0.116	199
1998	0.091	148
1999	0.096	183
2000	0.093	168
2001	0.065	136

^a1 Ci = 3.7E+10 Bq.

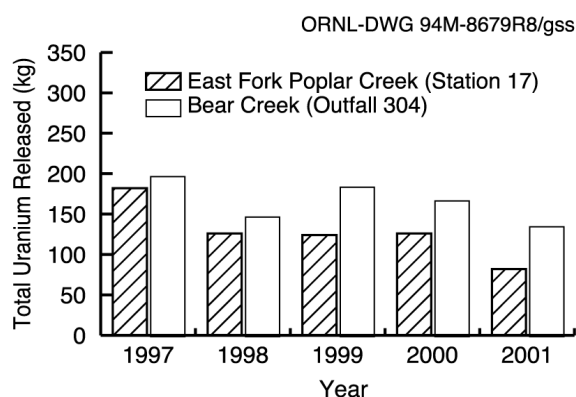


Fig. 6.6. Five-year trend of Y-12 Complex release of uranium to surface water.

were reported to the city of Oak Ridge in quarterly monitoring reports.

Table 6.6 presents a summary of 2001 storm water data that exceeded screening levels. More detailed results are given in *Environmental Monitoring on the Oak Ridge Reservation: 2001 Results* (DOE 2002a). (See <http://www.ornl.gov/aser>.) Uranium remains the dominant radiological constituent and increases during storm flow. This increase is likely due to increased groundwater

flow and storm water runoff from historically contaminated areas.

6.5 NONRADIOLOGICAL LIQUID DISCHARGES—Y-12 COMPLEX SURFACE WATER AND LIQUID EFFLUENTS

The current Y-12 NPDES permit, issued on April 28, 1995, and effective on July 1, 1995, requires sampling, analysis, and reporting for approximately 95 outfalls. Major outfalls are noted in Fig. 6.7. The number is subject to change as outfalls are eliminated or consolidated or if permitted discharges are added. Currently, Y-12 has outfalls and monitoring points in the following water drainage areas: East Fork Poplar Creek, Bear Creek, and several unnamed tributaries on the south side of Chestnut Ridge. These creeks and tributaries eventually drain to the Clinch River.

Discharges to surface water allowed under the permit include storm drainage, cooling water, cooling tower blowdown, steam condensate, and treated process wastewaters, including effluents from wastewater treatment facilities. Groundwater inflow into sumps in building basements and infiltration to the storm drain system are also permitted for discharge to the creek. The monitoring data collected by the sampling and analysis of permitted discharges are compared to NPDES limits if a limit exists for each parameter. Some parameters, defined as “monitor only,” have no specified limits.

The water quality of surface streams in the vicinity of the Y-12 Complex is affected by current and historical legacy operations. Discharges from the Y-12 Complex processes flow into East Fork Poplar Creek before the water exits the Y-12 Complex. East Fork Poplar Creek eventually flows through the city of Oak Ridge to Poplar Creek and into the Clinch River. Bear Creek water quality is affected by area source runoff and groundwater discharges. The NPDES permit requires regular monitoring and storm water characterization in Bear Creek and several of its tributaries.

Oak Ridge Reservation

Table 6.6. Summary of storm water data above screening levels at the Y-12 Complex

Parameter	Outfalls														
	11	17	19	20	41	42	54	99	102	110	114	125	213	S06	S09
Fecal coliform			X		X	X			X		X				
Total suspended solids	X				X										
Zinc			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				
Copper					X		X				X	X			
Lead					X										
Cadmium														X	
Mercury					X						X		X		X
Manganese														X	
Phosphorus	X		X		X						X				
Polychlorinated biphenyls				X							X				
Nitrate (nitrogen)		X												X	
Alpha activity														X	
²³⁷ Np														X	
²³⁸ U														X	

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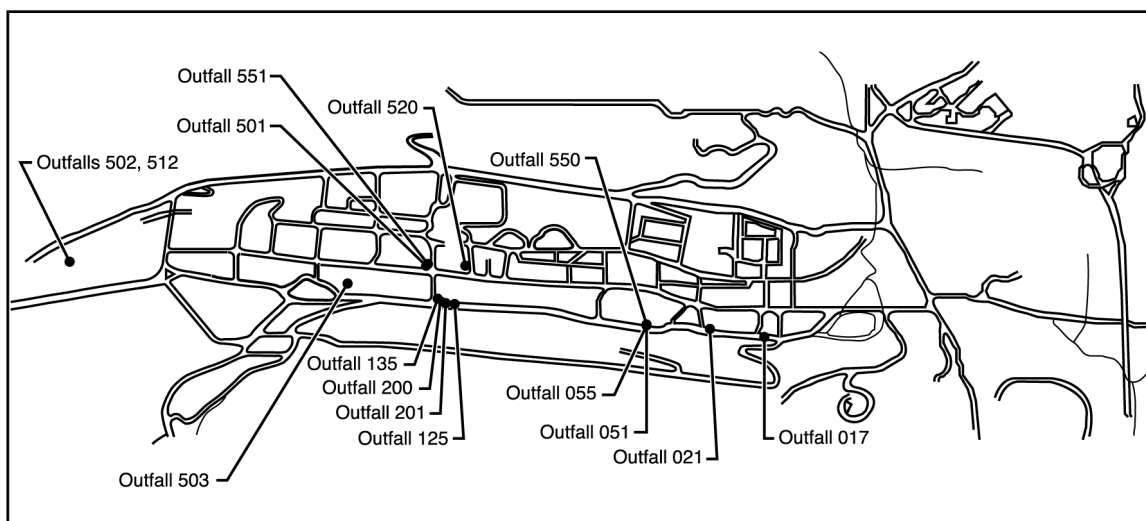


Fig. 6.7. Major Y-12 Complex NPDES outfalls.

The effluent limitations contained in the permit are based on the protection of water quality in the receiving streams. The permit emphasizes storm water runoff and biological, toxicological, and radiological monitoring. Some of the requirements in the permit and the status of compliance are as follows:

- chlorine limitations based on water quality criteria at the headwaters of East Fork Poplar Creek (monitoring ongoing);
- instream pH limitations on tributaries to Bear Creek and various other tributaries on the south side of Chestnut Ridge (monitoring ongoing);
- a radiological monitoring plan requiring monitoring and reporting of uranium and other isotopes at pertinent locations (see Sect. 6.4);

- implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan and sampling and characterization of storm water at a minimum of 25 locations per year (see Sect. 6.5.2.);
- a requirement to manage the flow of East Fork Poplar Creek such that a minimum flow of 7 million gal/day is guaranteed by adding raw water from the Clinch River to the headwaters of East Fork Poplar Creek (see Sect. 6.5.4);
- toxicity limitation for the headwaters of East Fork Poplar Creek (see Sect. 6.6); and
- quarterly toxicity testing at the wastewater treatment facilities and storm drain locations (see Sect. 6.6).

An agreed-to consent order, dated September 27, 1999, resolved outstanding appeals to the NPDES permit by deleting mercury monitoring requirements and instream limits from the permit and deferring them to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program. The CERCLA record of decision will define any mercury remediation requirements for East Fork Poplar Creek. As required, an NPDES permit application was submitted in October 1999, six months prior to the expiration date of the current permit (April 28, 2000). Since April 28, 2000, the Y-12 Complex has continued operation under the current permit.

6.5.1 Sanitary Wastewater

Sanitary wastewater from the Y-12 Complex is discharged to the city of Oak Ridge publicly owned treatment works under Industrial and Commercial Users Wastewater Permit Number 1-91. Monitoring is conducted under the terms of the permit for a variety of organic and inorganic pollutants. During 2001, the wastewater flow in this system averaged about 587,000 gal/day (2,218,860 L/day).

Compliance sampling is conducted at the East End Sanitary Sewer Monitoring Station (SS-6, Fig. 6.5) weekly. This monitoring station is also used for 24-h flow monitoring. As part of the city of Oak Ridge pretreatment program, city person-

nel use this monitoring station to perform compliance monitoring as required by pretreatment regulations.

6.5.2 Storm Water

The development and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan at the Y-12 Complex is designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff. This plan requires (1) characterization of storm water by sampling during storm events, (2) implementation of measures to reduce storm water pollution, (3) facility inspections, and (4) employee training.

Storm water outfalls at the Y-12 Complex are located in subbasins (drainage areas) and are routinely sampled as required by the NPDES permit. The outfalls are categorized into four categories based on characteristics of the discharged water and are grouped within each category based on similarity as to land use of area drained and possible pollutants. A full chemical and radiological characterization of the discharge during a rain event is not required of all storm water outfalls each year. Representative sampling is permitted due to similarity within the same outfall groupings. A minimum of 25 storm water outfalls is required to be sampled and characterized each year during storm events, including both grab and composite sampling.

Each year approximately 1500 chemical analyses are conducted on storm water samples at the Y-12 Complex. By assessing the quality of storm water discharges from the site and by determining potential sources of pollutants affecting storm water, effective controls can be identified and put into place to reduce or eliminate these pollutant sources.

The storm water pollution prevention plan is reviewed at least annually and is updated as necessary to reflect changes in operations and to incorporate revised monitoring strategies based on data from past years. The most recent revision of this plan was issued in December 1998. The next revision is anticipated to be released in CY 2002.

6.5.3 Results and Progress in Implementing Corrective Actions

In 2001, the Y-12 Complex experienced nine NPDES excursions. There were five excursions in 2000, four excursions in 1999, and nine in 1998. Additional details on all Y-12 NPDES permit excursions recorded in 2001 and the associated corrective actions are summarized in Appendix D, Table D.1. Table 6.7 lists the NPDES compliance monitoring requirements and the 2001 compliance record.

During 2001, the Y-12 Complex experienced no exceedances of the Industrial and Commercial Users Wastewater Permit for discharge of sanitary wastewater to the city of Oak Ridge publicly owned treatment works. Table 6.8 lists the Industrial and Commercial Users Wastewater Permit compliance monitoring requirements and the 2001 compliance record.

Review of storm water data from past years indicates that pollutant loads increase during storm events and that water quality may be affected by uncovered scrap metal storage sites. For example, some outfalls are showing levels above screening limits of total suspended solids, fecal coliform, bacteria, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), nitrates, and metals (Pb, Cd, Zn, P, Cu, U, Mn, and Hg) during storm events (see Table 6.6). However, some monitored pollutants are not present at specific outfalls. Detailed storm water data summary tables are given in *Environmental Monitoring on the Oak Ridge Reservation: 2001 Results* (DOE 2002a). (See <http://www.ornl.gov/aser/>.)

6.5.4 Flow Management (or Raw Water) Project

Because of concern about maintaining water quality and stable flow in the upper reaches of East Fork Poplar Creek, the NPDES permit requires addition of Clinch River water to the headwaters of East Fork Poplar Creek (North/South Pipe-Outfall 200 area) so that a minimum flow of 7 million gal/day (26.5 million L/day) is maintained at the point where East Fork Poplar Creek leaves the reservation (Station 17). The

permit required that this project be implemented by March 1997, but the work was completed ahead of schedule (August 1996). With the completion of this project, instream water temperatures decreased approximately 5°C (from approximately 26°C at the headwaters).

During CY 2001 the flow of upper East Fork Poplar Creek was maintained in accordance with the permit conditions. The average daily flow during CY 2001 was 8.5 million gal/day.

6.6 BIOMONITORING PROGRAM

In accordance with the 1995 NPDES permit (Part III-C, p. 39), a biomonitoring program that evaluates an East Fork Poplar Creek instream monitoring location (Outfall 201), wastewater treatment system discharges, and locations in the storm sewer system is required. Table 6.9 summarizes the results of biomonitoring tests conducted during 2001 on effluent samples from wastewater treatment systems and storm drainage systems. The results of the biomonitoring tests are expressed as the concentration of effluent that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms (LC₅₀) during a 48-hour period. Thus, the lower the value, the more toxic an effluent. The LC₅₀ is compared to the effluent's calculated instream waste concentration to determine the likelihood that the discharged effluent would be harmful to aquatic life in the receiving stream. If the LC₅₀ is much greater than the instream waste concentration, it is less likely that there is an instream impact.

Effluent samples from three of the four wastewater treatment system discharges were tested at least three times during 2001 using *Ceriodaphnia dubia*; the West End Treatment Facility did not release effluents and so was not tested during 2001. With LC₅₀s greater than 100%, effluents from the Central Pollution Control Facility were consistently nontoxic throughout the year. With LC₅₀s greater than 100% in three of four tests, effluents from the Central Mercury Treatment System were generally nontoxic as well. The LC₅₀s for effluent from the Groundwater Treatment Facility ranged from 36.7 to greater than 100%. In all cases the calculated instream waste concentrations of the effluent were less than the LC₅₀s, suggesting that

Table 6.7. NPDES compliance monitoring requirements and record for the Y-12 Complex
January through December 2001

Discharge point	Effluent parameter	Effluent limits				Percentage of compliance	No. of samples
		Daily avg (lb/d)	Daily max (lb/d)	Daily avg (mg/L)	Daily max (mg/L)		
Outfall 066	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
Outfall 068	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
Outfall 117	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
Outfall 073	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	7
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	100	7
Outfall 077	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	12
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	100	12
Outfall 122	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	<i>b</i>	0
Outfall 133	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	<i>b</i>	0
Outfall 125	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	15
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	100	12
Category I outfalls (storm water, steam condensate, cooling tower blowdown, and groundwater)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	69
Category I outfalls (Outfalls S15 and S16)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	10.0	100	4
Category II outfalls (cooling water, steam condensate, storm water, and groundwater)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	139
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	100	83
Category II outfalls (S21, S22, S25, S26, S27, S28, and S29)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	10.0	100	26
Outfall S19 (Rogers Quarry)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	13
Category III outfalls (storm water, cooling water, cooling tower blowdown, steam condensate, and groundwater)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	173
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	100	136
Outfall 201 (below the North/South pipes)	Total residual chlorine			0.011	0.019	99	159
	Temperature, °C			<i>a</i>	30.5	100	157
	pH, standard units		8.5	<i>a</i>		100	157
Outfall 200 (North/South pipes)	Oil and grease			10	15	99	156

Oak Ridge Reservation

Table 6.7 (continued)

Discharge point	Effluent parameter	Effluent limits				Percentage of compliance	No. of samples	
		Daily avg (lb/d)	Daily max (lb/d)	Daily avg (mg/L)	Daily max (mg/L)			
Outfall 021	Total residual chlorine			0.080	0.188	100	156	
	Temperature, °C			<i>a</i>	30.5	100	158	
	pH, standard units				9.0	100	158	
Outfall 017	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	54	
	Ammonia as N			32.4	64.8	100	52	
Outfall 055	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	104	
	Mercury				0.004	100	104	
	Total residual chlorine				0.5	100	104	
Outfall 55A	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0	
	Mercury				0.004	<i>b</i>	0	
Outfall 550	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	52	
	Mercury			0.002	0.004	100	52	
Outfall 551	pH, standard units			0.002	9.0	100	52	
	Mercury				0.004	92	52	
Outfall 051	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	99	109	
Outfall 501 (Central Pollution Control Facility)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	6	
	Total suspended solids			31.0	40.0	100	6	
	Total toxic organics				2.13	100	0	
	Oil and grease			10	15	100	6	
	Cadmium	0.16	0.4	0.075	0.15	100	6	
	Chromium	1.0	1.7	0.5	1.0	100	6	
	Copper	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.0	100	6	
	Lead	0.26	0.4	0.1	0.2	100	6	
	Nickel	1.4	2.4	2.38	3.98	100	6	
	Nitrate/nitrite				100	100	6	
	Silver	0.14	0.26	0.05	0.05	100	6	
	Zinc	0.9	1.6	1.48	2.0	100	6	
	Cyanide	0.4	0.72	0.65	1.20	100	6	
	Polychlorinated biphenyls				0.001	100	0	
	Outfall 502 (West End Treatment Facility)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
		Total suspended solids	18.6	36.0	31.0	40.0	<i>b</i>	0
		Total toxic organics				2.13	<i>b</i>	0
Nitrate/nitrite				100	150	<i>b</i>	0	
Oil and grease				10	15	<i>b</i>	0	
Cadmium		0.16	0.4	0.075	0.15	<i>b</i>	0	
Chromium		1.0	1.7	0.5	1.0	<i>b</i>	0	
Copper		1.2	2.0	0.5	1.0	<i>b</i>	0	
Lead		0.26	0.4	0.10	0.20	<i>b</i>	0	
Nickel		1.4	2.4	2.38	3.98	<i>b</i>	0	
Silver		0.14	0.26	0.05	0.05	<i>b</i>	0	
Zinc		0.9	1.6	1.48	2.0	<i>b</i>	0	
Cyanide		0.4	0.72	0.65	1.20	<i>b</i>	0	
Polychlorinated biphenyls				0.001	<i>b</i>	0		

Table 6.7 (continued)

Discharge point	Effluent parameter	Effluent limits				Percentage of compliance	No. of samples
		Daily avg (lb/d)	Daily max (lb/d)	Daily avg (mg/L)	Daily max (mg/L)		
Outfall 503 (Steam Plant Wastewater Treatment Facility)	pH, standard units			<i>a</i>	9.0	<i>b</i>	0
	Total suspended solids	125	417	30.0	40.0	<i>b</i>	0
	Oil and grease	62.6	83.4	10	15	<i>b</i>	0
	Iron	4.17	4.17	1.0	1.0	<i>b</i>	0
	Cadmium			0.075	0.15	<i>b</i>	0
	Chromium	0.83	0.83	0.20	0.20	<i>b</i>	0
	Copper	4.17	4.17	0.20	0.40	<i>b</i>	0
	Lead			0.10	0.20	<i>b</i>	0
Outfall 512 (Groundwater Treatment Facility)	Zinc	4.17	4.17	1.0	1.0	<i>b</i>	0
	pH			<i>a</i>	9.0	100	130
	Iron				1.0	100	131
	Polychlorinated biphenyls				0.001	100	12
Outfall 520	pH, standard units				9.0	100	12
Outfall 05A	pH				9.0	<i>b</i>	0

^aNot applicable.^bNo discharge.Table 6.8. Y-12 Complex Discharge Point SS6, Sanitary Sewer Station 6
January through December 2001

Effluent parameter	Number of samples	Daily average value (effluent limit) ^a	Daily maximum value (effluent limit) ^b	Percentage of compliance
pH, standard units	54	<i>c</i>	9/6 ^d	100
Silver	52	0.05	0.1	100
Arsenic	52	0.01	0.015	100
Benzene	12	0.01	0.015	100
Biochemical oxygen demand	52	200	300	100
Cadmium	52	0.0033	0.005	100
Chromium	52	0.05	0.075	100
Copper	52	0.14	0.21	100
Cyanide	12	0.041	0.062	100
Iron	52	10	15	100
Mercury	52	0.023	0.035	100
Kjeldahl nitrogen	52	45	90	100
Methylene chloride	12	0.027	0.041	100
Nickel	52	0.021	0.032	100
Oil and grease	52	25	50	100
Lead	52	0.049	0.074	100
Phenols—total recoverable	50	0.3	0.5	100
Suspended solids	52	200	300	100
Toluene	12	0.01	0.02	100
Trichloroethene	12	0.018	0.027	100
Zinc	52	0.35	0.75	100

^aUnits in milligrams per liter unless otherwise indicated.^bIndustrial and Commercial Users Wastewater Permit limits.^cNot applicable.^dMaximum value/minimum value.

Table 6.9. Y-12 Complex Biomonitoring Program summary information for wastewater treatment systems and storm sewer effluents for 2001^a

Site/building	Test date	Species	48-h LC ₅₀ ^b (%)	IWC ^c (%)
SWHISS ^d south of 9204-2	1/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	57.8	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-2 (dechlorinated)	1/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	68.7	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9201-4	1/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	70.7	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9201-4 (dechlorinated)	1/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Central Mercury Treatment System	1/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.16
SWHISS south of 9201-5, 9201-4 (dechlorinated)	1/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	52.1	<i>e</i>
Groundwater Treatment Facility	1/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	93.8	0.06
SWHISS south of 9201-5, 9201-4	1/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	25.5	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-4, 9201-5	1/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	70.7	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-4, 9201-5 (dechlorinated)	1/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Central Pollution Control Facility	2/3/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.17
Storm sewer south of 9201-4	4/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	33.5	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer north of 9727-3	4/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Groundwater Treatment Facility	4/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	36.7	0.11
Central Mercury Treatment System	4/20/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.14
Central Pollution Control Facility	4/21/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.13
Storm sewer 9215/9204-2E alley (dechlorinated)	4/24/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer 9215/9204-2E alley	4/24/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	36.4	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer west of 9204-2 (dechlorinated)	4/24/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer west of 9204-2	4/24/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	40.9	<i>e</i>
Lithium Process Steam Condensate	5/24/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	6.4	<i>e</i>
Central Pollution Control Facility	7/14/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.17
Groundwater Treatment Facility	7/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	70.6	0.09
Storm sewer south of 9201-4	7/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	61.2	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer north of 9727-3	7/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Central Mercury Treatment System	7/20/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	60.6	0.18
Lithium process steam condensate	7/20/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	13.0	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer west of 9204-2	7/25/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer west of 9204-2 (dechlorinated)	7/25/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer 9215/9204-2E alley	7/25/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	70.7	<i>e</i>
Storm sewer 9215/9204-2E alley (dechlorinated)	7/25/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Lithium process steam condensate	10/2/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	14.9	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-2	10/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9201-4	10/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	46.4	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9201-4 (dechlorinated)	10/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-2 (dechlorinated)	10/18/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Central Mercury Treatment System	10/19/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.12
Lithium process steam condensate	10/22/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	<6	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9201-5, 9201-4	10/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	87.1	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9201-5, 9201-4 (dechlorinated)	10/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-4, 9201-5	10/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	100	<i>e</i>
SWHISS south of 9204-4, 9201-5 (dechlorinated)	10/23/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	<i>e</i>
Groundwater Treatment Facility	11/6/01	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	>100	0.11

^aSummarized are the effluents and their corresponding 48-h LC₅₀s and instream waste concentrations.

Note: Discharges from treatment facilities are intermittent because of batch operations.

^bThe concentration of effluent (as a percentage of full-strength effluent diluted with laboratory control water) that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms in 48 h.

^cIWC = instream waste concentration based on actual flows at Outfall 201 in East Fork Poplar Creek.

^dSWHISS = Surface Water Hydrological Information Support System.

^eThis point is in the storm sewer system; therefore, an IWC is not applicable.

effluents from the individual treatment facilities would not be acutely toxic to the aquatic life of East Fork Poplar Creek.

Various locations in the storm drainage system upstream of outfalls 200 and 201 were also monitored during the year. When chlorine was detected in a storm sewer sample, side-by-side tests were conducted with a sample that was dechlorinated. In all cases where toxicity was detected in the dechlorinated sample (LC_{50} not greater than 100%), survival was higher in the dechlorinated sample than in the nontreated sample. The improvement in survival varied from sample to sample (as indicated by an increase in the LC_{50}), indicating that the toxicity from chlorine varied from sample to sample. In most cases, the full-strength dechlorinated sample continued to reduce *Ceriodaphnia* survival, indicating sources of toxicity other than chlorine. Because flow is not measured at these storm-sewer points, it is not possible to know the contribution of each to the total flow at Outfall 201 (i.e., the instream waste concentration). It is notable, however, that the results of the biomonitoring tests at Outfall 201 (Table 6.10) demonstrated that when all discharges were combined (treated effluent, storm sewer contribution, plus flow management water) the result was a consistent absence of toxicity at Outfall 201.

Table 6.10 summarizes the “no-observed-effect concentrations” and 96-hour LC_{50} s for the instream monitoring location Outfall 201. The no-observed-effect concentration is the concentration of effluent that does not reduce survival, growth, or reproduction of the biomonitoring test organisms during a 6- or 7-day test. Thus, like the LC_{50} , the lower the value, the more toxic the effluent. Water from the instream monitoring point, Outfall 201, was tested four times in 2001 using fathead minnow larvae (*pimephales promelas*) and *Ceriodaphnia dubia*. The no-observed-effect concentrations were 100% for all *Ceriodaphnia* and fathead minnow tests; the 96-hour LC_{50} s were consistently greater than 100% for both *Ceriodaphnia* and fathead minnows.

6.7 BIOLOGICAL MONITORING AND ABATEMENT PROGRAMS

The NPDES permit issued to the Y-12 National Security Complex in 1995 mandates a Biological Monitoring and Abatement Program (BMAP) with the objective of demonstrating that the effluent limitations established for the facility protect the classified uses of the receiving stream, East Fork Poplar Creek. The BMAP consists of

Table 6.10. Y-12 Complex Biomonitoring Program summary information for Outfall 201 for 2001^a

Site	Test date	Species	NOEC ^b (%)	96-h LC_{50} ^c (%)
Outfall 201	1/17	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	100	>100
		Fathead minnow	100	>100
Outfall 201	4/18	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	100	>100
		Fathead minnow	100	>100
Outfall 201	7/18	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	100	>100
		Fathead minnow	100	>100
Outfall 201	10/17	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i>	100	>100
		Fathead minnow	100	>100

^aSummarized are the no-observed effect concentrations and the 96-h LC_{50} s for the instream monitoring location, Outfall 201.

^bNo-observed-effect concentration (NOEC) as a percent of full-strength effluent from Outfall 201 diluted with laboratory control water. The NOEC must equal one of the test concentrations and is the concentration that does not reduce *Ceriodaphnia* survival or reproduction or fathead minnow survival or growth.

^cThe concentration of effluent (as a percentage of full-strength effluent diluted with laboratory control water) that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms in 96 h.

four major tasks that reflect complementary approaches to evaluating the effects of Y-12 Complex discharges on the aquatic integrity of East Fork Poplar Creek. These tasks are (1) toxicity monitoring, (2) biological indicator studies, (3) bioaccumulation studies, and (4) ecological surveys of the periphyton, benthic macroinvertebrate, and fish communities.

Trends of increases in species richness and diversity at upstream locations over the last decade, along with similar but more subtle trends in a number of other BMAP indicators, demonstrate that the overall ecological health of East Fork Poplar Creek continues to improve. However, the pace of improvement in the health of East Fork Poplar Creek has slowed in recent years, and fish and invertebrate communities continue to be degraded in comparison with similar communities in reference streams.

6.7.1 Toxicity Monitoring

Toxicity monitoring employs EPA-approved methods with *Ceriodaphnia dubia* and fathead minnows to provide systematic information that is used to verify biological water quality of East Fork Poplar Creek at intervals throughout the year. *Ceriodaphnia* tests were conducted quarterly in 2001 for one site upstream of Bear Creek Road [East Fork Poplar Creek kilometer (EFK) 24.1]. In addition, quarterly toxicity tests with both fathead minnows and *Ceriodaphnia* were conducted at Outfall 201 as required by the Y-12 Complex's NPDES permit. Because of the close proximity of Outfall 201 (an instream NPDES location in upper East Fork Poplar Creek) to EFK 25.1, the tests of water from Outfall 201 also met the intent of the *Y-12 BMAP Plan* (Adams et al. 2000) to conduct quarterly toxicity tests at the latter location.

No evidence for toxicity was observed in any of the 2001 *Ceriodaphnia* tests (both East Fork Poplar Creek sites) or fathead minnow tests (Outfall 201). These results are consistent with the findings of previous *Ceriodaphnia* and fathead minnow tests conducted since flow management began in the latter half of 1996. These results contrast, however, with the continuing toxicity evident in chronic tests involving fish embryos and clams, which appear more sensitive to water quality conditions in East Fork Poplar Creek. Fish

embryo-larval test results are discussed in Sect. 6.7.3; clam tests are discussed in Sect. 6.7.4.

6.7.2 Bioaccumulation Studies

Mercury and PCBs were historically elevated in East Fork Poplar Creek fish relative to fish in uncontaminated reference streams. Fish are monitored regularly in East Fork Poplar Creek for mercury and PCBs to assess spatial and temporal trends in bioaccumulation associated with ongoing remedial activities and plant operations. As part of this monitoring effort, redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*) were sampled twice during 2001 from the mid to upper reaches of East Fork Poplar Creek and were analyzed for tissue concentrations of these two environmental contaminants. Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) were collected once in 2001 from two sites in East Fork Poplar Creek (Lake Reality and EFK 23.4) to monitor maximum bioaccumulation in larger piscivorous fish of the system.

Mercury concentrations remained much higher during 2001 in fish from East Fork Poplar Creek as compared with fish from reference streams. Elevated mercury concentrations in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek fish indicate that the Y-12 Complex remains a continuing source of mercury to fish in the stream. Following significant decreases in the mid-1990s, mercury concentrations in water in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek have continued to fall, although less dramatically in recent years, while mercury concentrations in fish have remained relatively constant over the last several years (Fig. 6.8).

PCB concentrations in East Fork Poplar Creek sunfish fell during 2001 within ranges typical of past monitoring efforts at these sites (Fig. 6.9). Mean PCB concentrations were again highest in Lake Reality and above Lake Reality, indicating a continuing PCB source or sources within the Y-12 Complex.

6.7.3 Biological Indicator Studies

The biological indicator task is designed to evaluate the effects of water quality and other environmental variables on the health and reproductive condition of individual fish and fish

ORNL 98-6166D/gss

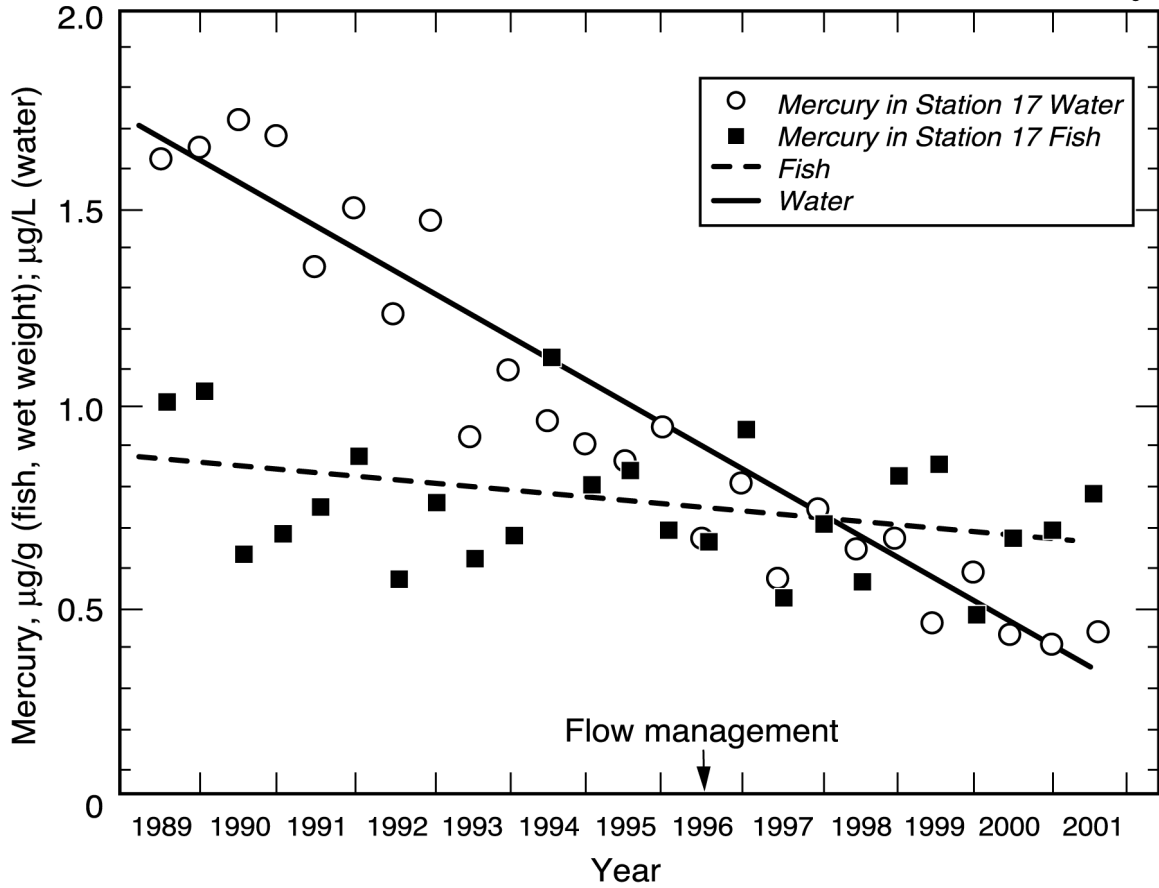


Fig. 6.8. Semiannual average mercury concentrations in muscle fillets of redbreast sunfish and water in East Fork Poplar Creek at Station 17 through spring 2001.

ORNL-DWG 99-04720C/gss

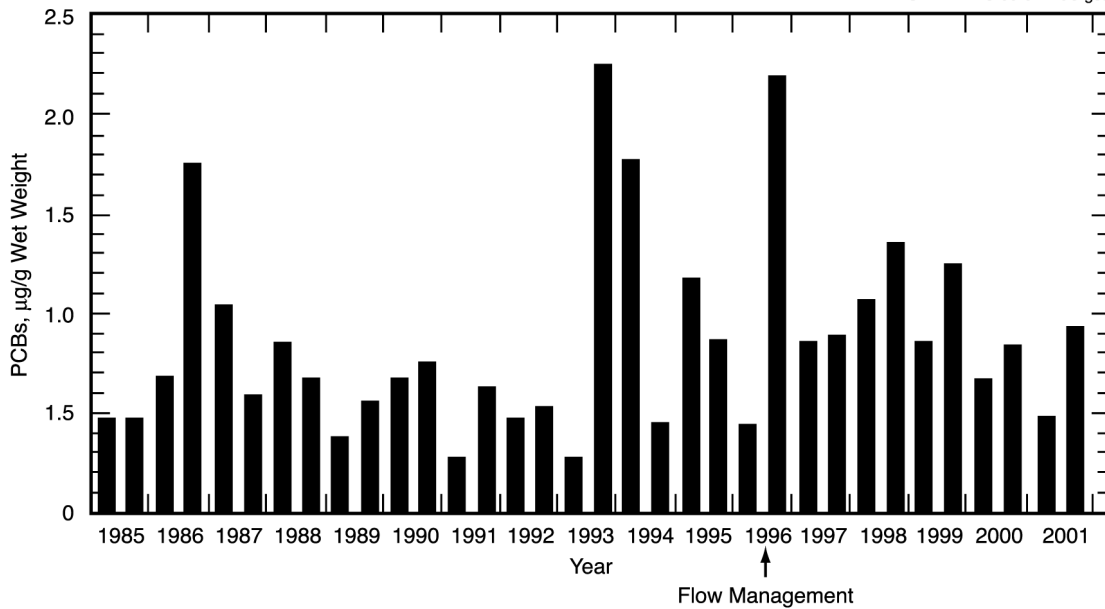


Fig. 6.9. Mean concentrations of PCBs in redbreast sunfish muscle fillets in East Fork Poplar Creek at Station 17 through spring 2001.

populations in East Fork Poplar Creek. Redbreast sunfish were sampled from three sites in East Fork Poplar Creek and from two reference streams in the spring of 2001 prior to the onset of the breeding season. Overall trends in many contamination-related bioindicators suggest that there has been a distinct improvement in overall fish health in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek in recent years. However, the health and reproductive condition of sunfish from East Fork Poplar Creek sites upstream of Bear Creek remains lower than in fish from reference sites or even downstream East Fork Poplar Creek sites.

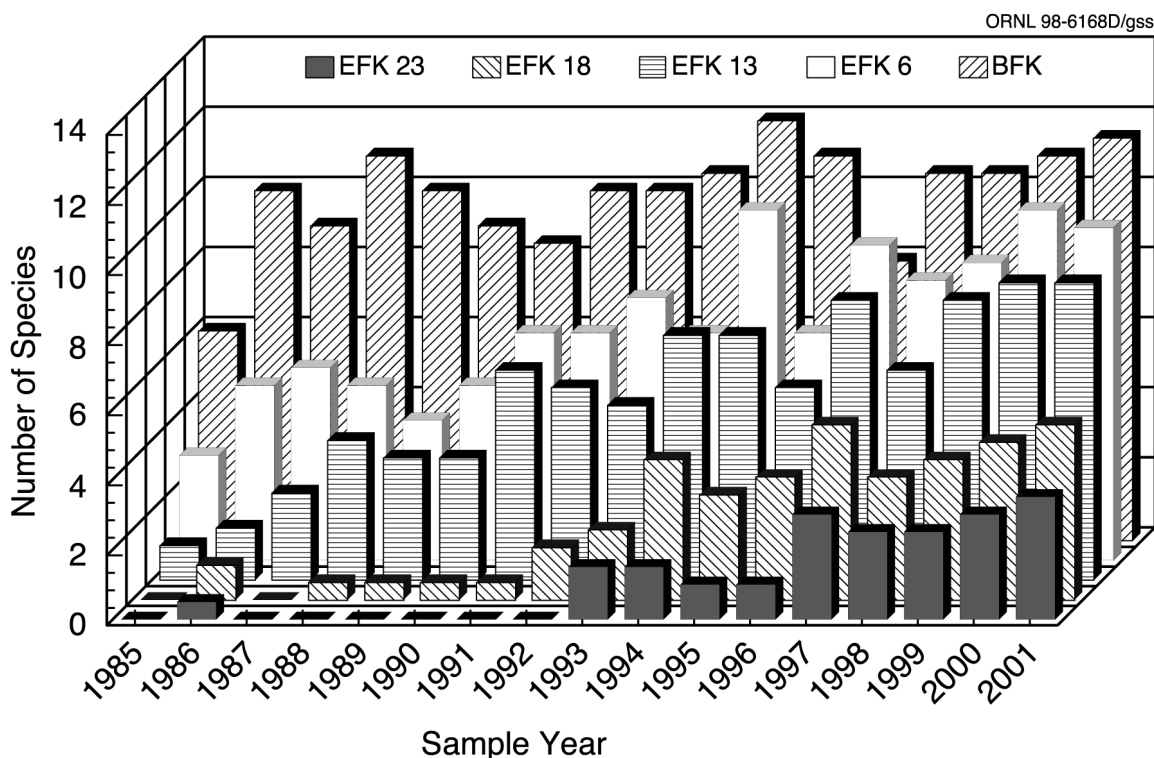
East Fork Poplar Creek water was toxic to fish embryos in the medaka embryo-larval test for developmental toxicity during 2001, although toxicity was significantly less than in previous years' tests. An explanation for this toxicity has yet to be identified, but medaka embryos, like the embryos of other fish species, are quite sensitive to many of the chemical constituents originating within the Y-12 Complex, including various metals (particularly mercury), ammonia and other

nitrogenous wastes, and even the chemical by-products of chlorination/dechlorination water treatment procedures.

6.7.4 Ecological Surveys

Periphyton were monitored quarterly during 2001 from three sites along East Fork Poplar Creek. Algal biomass and photosynthetic rates remained higher than in reference streams. Concentrations of various metals continued to be elevated in periphyton.

Fish communities were monitored twice in 2001 at five sites along East Fork Poplar Creek and at two reference streams. In recent years, overall species richness and the number of pollution-sensitive fish species have increased at all sampling locations below Lake Reality (Fig. 6.10). However, fish communities in East Fork Poplar Creek continue to lag behind reference stream communities in these and other important metrics of community health.



EFK = East Fork Poplar Creek kilometer; BFK = Brushy Fork kilometer.

Fig. 6.10. Comparison of mean abundance of sensitive fish species collected during each year from 1985 through 2001 from four sites in East Fork Poplar Creek and a reference site (Brushy Fork). Results for an additional site in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek (EFK 24.4) and a second reference site (Hinds Creek) are not shown.

Benthic macroinvertebrate communities were monitored at three sites in East Fork Poplar Creek and at two reference streams in the spring and fall of 2001. The macroinvertebrate communities at EFK 23.4 and EFK 24.4 remained significantly degraded as compared with reference communities (Fig. 6.11). Increases in total richness and the richness of pollution-tolerant taxa continue at the East Fork Poplar Creek sites, although the pace of improvement in benthic macroinvertebrate communities has slowed in recent years.

The effects of in situ exposure on clam growth and survival were tested during 2001 at three sites in East Fork Poplar Creek and at three

reference streams. As in similar tests conducted in previous years, clam survival was significantly impacted at EFK 23.4 and EFK 24.4, and growth was decreased at all tested East Fork Poplar Creek sites.

6.8 Y-12 COMPLEX AMBIENT SURFACE WATER MONITORING

Routine surface water surveillance monitoring, above and beyond that required by the NPDES permit, is performed as a best manage-

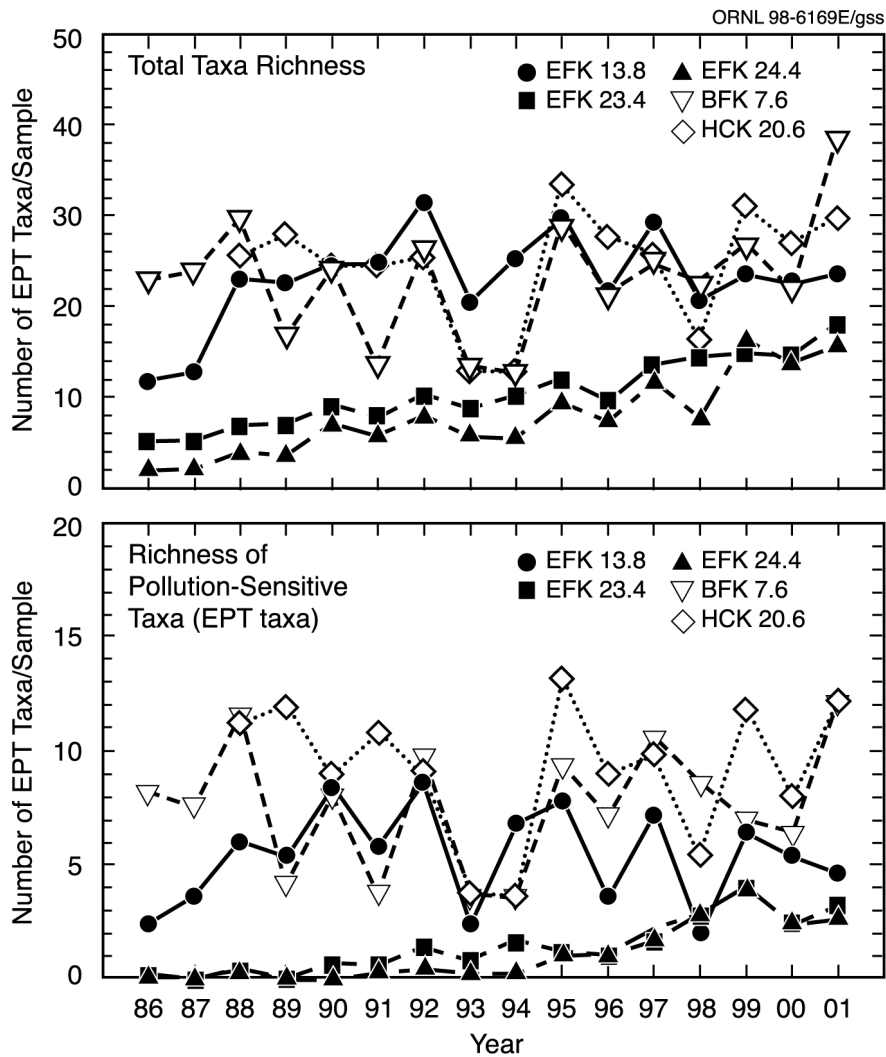


Fig. 6.11. Total taxonomic richness (mean number of taxa/sample) and total taxonomic richness of the Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (mean number of EPT taxa/sample) of the benthic macroinvertebrate communities in East Fork Poplar Creek and two reference sites, one on Brushy Fork and one on Hinds Creek (BFK 7.6 and HCK 20.6), spring data only. (EPT taxa include relatively pollution-sensitive species.)

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ment practice. The Y-12 Environmental Compliance Department staff monitor the surface water as it exits from each of the three hydrogeologic regimes that serve as an exit pathway for surface water (Fig. 6.12).

Monitoring is conducted in East Fork Poplar Creek at Station 17 (9422-1) near the junction of Scarboro and Bear Creek roads. The current sampling program consists of two 48-h composites plus a 3-day weekend composite. These samples are analyzed for mercury, ammonia-N, inductively coupled plasma (ICP) metals, and total suspended solids.

Monitoring is conducted in Bear Creek at BCK 4.55 (former NPDES Station 304), which is at the western boundary of the Y-12 Complex area of responsibility. A surveillance sample (a 7-day composite sample) is collected monthly for analysis for mercury; anions (sulfate, chloride, nitrate, nitrite); ICP metals; total phenols; and total suspended solids.

The exit pathway from the Chestnut Ridge Hydrogeologic Regime is monitored via NPDES location S19 (former NPDES Station 302) at Rogers Quarry. S19 is an instream location of McCoy Branch and is sampled monthly (a 24-h composite) for ICP metals. The NPDES require-

ment for this location is to monitor and report metals data only.

In addition to these exit pathway locations, a network of real-time monitors is located at instream locations along Upper East Fork Poplar Creek and at key points on the storm drain system that flows to the creek. The Surface Water Hydrological Information Support System is available for real-time water quality measurements, such as pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and chlorine. The locations are noted in Fig. 6.13. Not all locations or parameters are operated on a routine basis.

For nonradiological parameters that are sampled and detected above the analytical method reporting detection limit, the data are compared with Tennessee water quality criteria. The most restrictive of either the freshwater fish and aquatic life criterion maximum concentration or the recreation concentration for organisms only standard (10^5 risk factor for carcinogens) is used. This comparison serves as a record of water quality, and the comparison to state water quality criteria limits is for informational purposes only; as such, no attempt is made to achieve the lowest possible detection limit for all parameters.

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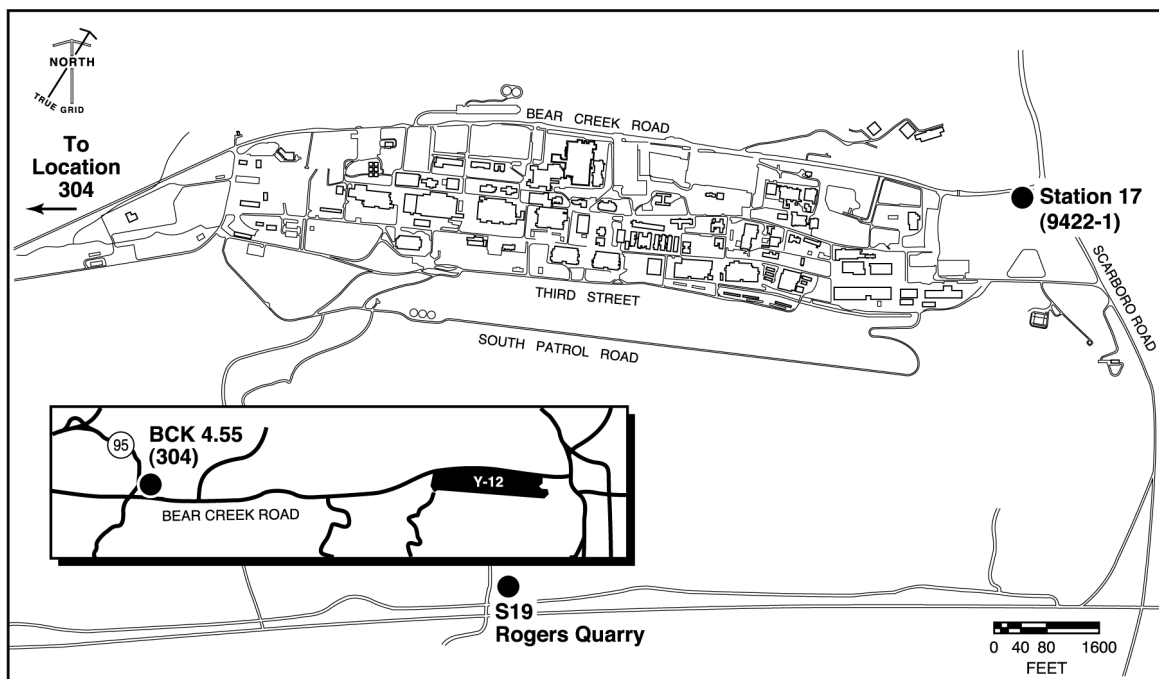


Fig. 6.12. Locations of Y-12 Complex surface water surveillance sampling stations.

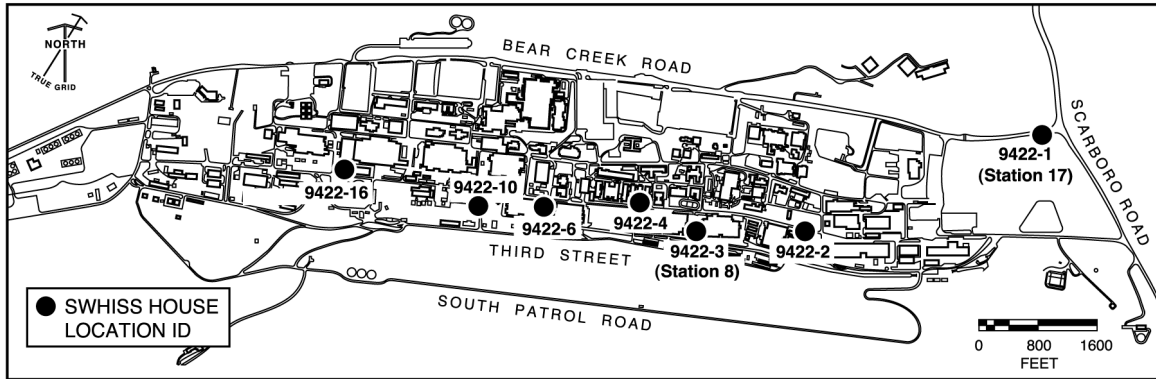


Fig. 6.13. Surface Water Hydrological Information Support System monitoring locations.

More than 5400 surface water surveillance samples were collected in 2001. Comparisons with Tennessee water quality criteria indicate that only mercury, copper, and zinc from samples collected at Station 17 were detected at values exceeding a criteria maximum. Results are shown in Table 6.11. Of all the parameters measured in the surface water as a best management practice, mercury is the only demonstrated contaminant of concern.

Additional surface-water sampling is conducted on Bear Creek in accordance with the Y-12 Groundwater Protection Program to monitor trends throughout the Bear Creek Hydrogeologic Regime (see Sect. 6.10.3.3).

6.9 Y-12 SEDIMENT SAMPLING

Historical data have shown that mercury, PCBs, and isotopes of uranium are present at detectable levels in sediment. Therefore, as a best management practice, the Y-12 Complex maintains an annual sampling program to determine whether these constituents are accumulating in the sediments of East Fork Poplar Creek and Bear Creek as a result of Y-12 Complex discharges. Results of the most recent monitoring activity are given in Table 6.12. The monitoring results indicate that the levels of mercury, PCBs, and isotopes of uranium and thorium have not significantly changed.

This activity is also used to comply with DOE Order 5400.5, which states in Chapter II.3.a.2 that measures be taken to prevent the buildup of radionuclides in sediments caused by releases of

waste streams to natural waterways. The order limits the amount of activity that may be present in released settleable solids. Because waste streams from the Y-12 Complex have very low settleable-solid contents, this sampling program to measure activity in the sediments of East Fork Poplar Creek and Bear Creek is used to determine whether a buildup of radionuclide concentrations is occurring.

6.10 GROUNDWATER MONITORING AT THE Y-12 COMPLEX

More than 200 sites have been identified at the Y-12 Complex that represent known or potential sources of contamination to the environment as a result of past waste management practices. Figure 6.14 depicts the major facilities considered as known and/or potential contaminant source areas for which groundwater monitoring was performed during CY 2001. Because of this contamination, extensive groundwater monitoring is required to comply with regulations and DOE orders.

During CY 2001, routine groundwater monitoring at Y-12 was conducted by two programs, the Y-12 Groundwater Protection Program, managed by BWXT Y-12 L.L.C., and the Water Resources Restoration Program, managed by BJC. Each program is responsible for monitoring groundwater to meet specific compliance requirements. In CY 2001, the Groundwater Protection Program performed monitoring to comply with

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Table 6.11. Surface water surveillance measurements exceeding Tennessee water quality criteria at the Y-12 Complex, 2001

Parameter detected	Location	Number of samples	Concentration (mg/L)			Water quality criteria (mg/L)	Number of measurements exceeding criteria
			Detection limit	Max	Avg		
Copper	Station 17	150	0.02	<0.08	<0.02	0.0177	2
Mercury	Station 17	398	0.00021	0.0053	<0.0005	0.000051	369
Zinc	Station 17	150	0.05	0.208	<0.05	0.117 ^a	1

^aThe standard is a function of total hardness. This value corresponds to a total hardness value of 100 mg/L.

Table 6.12. Results of Y-12 Complex sediment monitoring

Parameter	1999	+/-	MDA ^a	2000	+/-	MDA	2001	+/-	MDA
<i>Station 17</i>									
²²⁶ Ra (pCi/g)	2.4	0.31	0.026	-0.67	0.48	0.30	-0.020	0.91	0.065
²²⁸ Th (pCi/g)	0.57	0.082	0.022	0.072	0.15	0.27	0.039	0.056	0.098
²³⁰ Th (pCi/g)	0.50	0.074	0.008	0.79	0.3	0.16	0.11	0.064	0.062
²³² Th (pCi/g)	0.48	0.077	0.003	0.10	0.099	0.13	0.042	0.043	0.062
²³⁴ U (pCi/g)	2.7	0.29	0.002	1.4	0.19	0.017	1.5	0.26	0.063
²³⁵ U (pCi/g)	0.11	0.025	0.003	0.078	0.03	0.007	0.050	0.041	0.023
²³⁸ U (pCi/g)	2.8	0.3	0.006	3	0.37	0.014	1.2	0.22	0.044
Mercury (µg/g)	14.6			18.5			6.67		
Total polychlorinated biphenyls (µg/kg)	280			180			270		
<i>BCK 9.4</i>									
²²⁶ Ra (pCi/g)	2.5	0.24	0.057	0.92	0.5	0.41	1.0	0.77	0.075
²²⁸ Th (pCi/g)	0.52	0.065	0.009	0.54	0.19	0.16	0.51	0.13	0.038
²³⁰ Th (pCi/g)	0.24	0.034	0.004	0.38	0.15	0.11	0.21	0.075	0.016
²³² Th (pCi/g)	0.41	0.058	0.002	0.28	0.13	0.078	0.41	0.11	0.016
²³⁴ U (pCi/g)	3.6	0.45	0.020	3.5	0.42	0.016	1.1	0.21	0.083
²³⁵ U (pCi/g)	0.20	0.059	0.010	0.16	0.047	0.0079	0.11	0.061	0.022
²³⁸ U (pCi/g)	7.6	0.89	0.008	6.7	0.77	0.0064	2.5	0.37	0.042
Mercury (µg/g)	0.215			0.262			0.187		
Total polychlorinated biphenyls (µg/kg)	350			340			550		

^aMinimum detectable activity.

DOE orders, while the Water Resources Restoration Program performed groundwater monitoring in compliance with CERCLA, RCRA, and TDEC Division of Solid Waste Management regulations.

Although the Groundwater Protection Program and the Water Resources Restoration Program have differing technical objectives and responsibilities, considerable efforts are made to maintain consistency in groundwater monitoring

activities at the Y-12 Complex. Communication between the two programs has been crucial in eliminating any redundancies in monitoring activities. In addition, communication and mutual cooperation provided for more consistent and efficient data collection, evaluation, and overall quality. All groundwater monitoring data obtained by both programs is evaluated to provide comprehensive reporting by the Groundwater Protection Program.

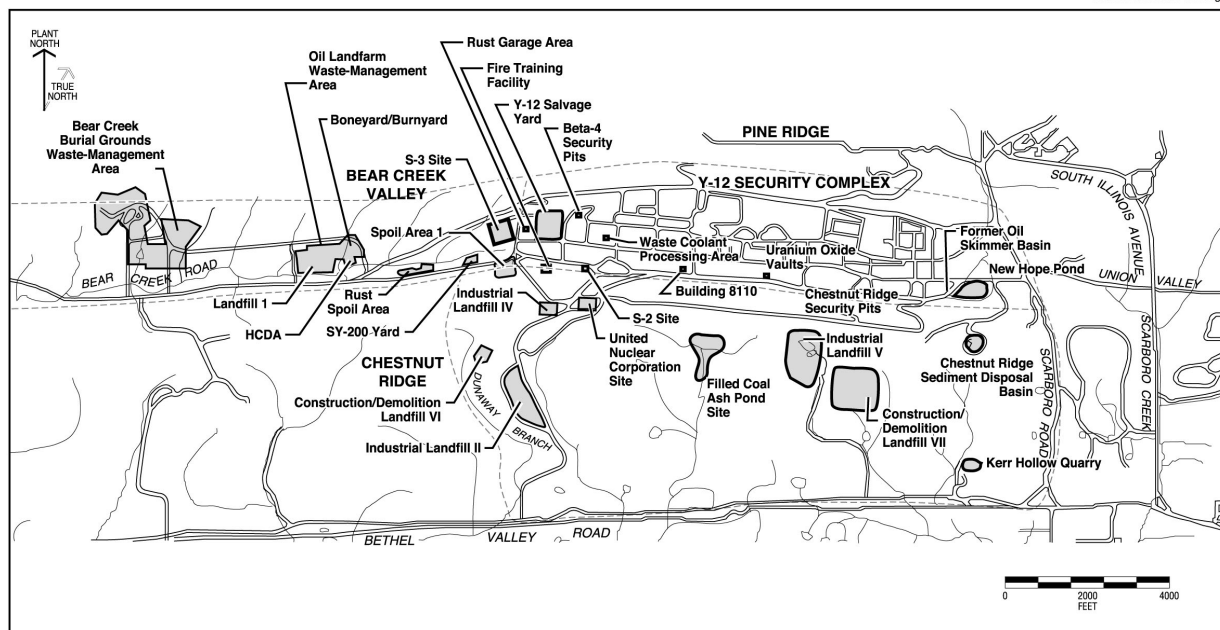


Fig. 6.14. Known or potential contaminant sources for which groundwater monitoring was performed during CY 2001.

6.10.1 Hydrogeologic Setting

The Y-12 Complex is divided into three hydrogeologic regimes, which are delineated by surface water drainage patterns, topography, and groundwater flow characteristics. The regimes are further defined by the waste sites they contain. These regimes include the Bear Creek Hydrogeologic Regime, the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Hydrogeologic Regime, and the Chestnut Ridge Hydrogeologic Regime (Fig. 6.15). Most of the Bear Creek and Upper East Fork Poplar Creek regimes are underlain by the ORR Aquitards. The extreme southern portion of these two regimes is underlain by the Maynardville Limestone, which is part of the Knox Aquifer. The entire Chestnut Ridge regime is underlain by the Knox Aquifer (Fig. 1.6).

In general, groundwater flow in the water table interval follows topography. Shallow groundwater flow in the Bear Creek regime and the Upper East Fork regime is divergent from a topographic and groundwater table divide located near the western end of the Y-12 Complex. The flow directions of shallow groundwater east and west of the divide are predominantly easterly and westerly, respectively. This divide defines the

boundary between the Bear Creek and Upper East Fork regimes. In addition, flow converges toward the primary surface streams from Pine Ridge and Chestnut Ridge. In the Chestnut Ridge regime, a groundwater table divide exists that approximately coincides with the crest of the ridge. Shallow groundwater flow, therefore, tends to be toward either flank of the ridge, with discharge primarily to surface streams and springs located in Bethel Valley to the south and Bear Creek Valley to the north.

In Bear Creek Valley, groundwater in the intermediate and deep intervals moves predominantly through fractures in the ORR Aquitards, converging toward and moving through fractures and solution conduits in the Maynardville Limestone. Karst development in the Maynardville Limestone has a significant impact on groundwater flow paths in the water table and intermediate intervals. In general, groundwater flow parallels the valley and geologic strike. Groundwater flow rates in Bear Creek Valley vary widely; they are very slow within the deep interval of the ORR aquitards but can be quite rapid within solution conduits in the Maynardville Limestone.

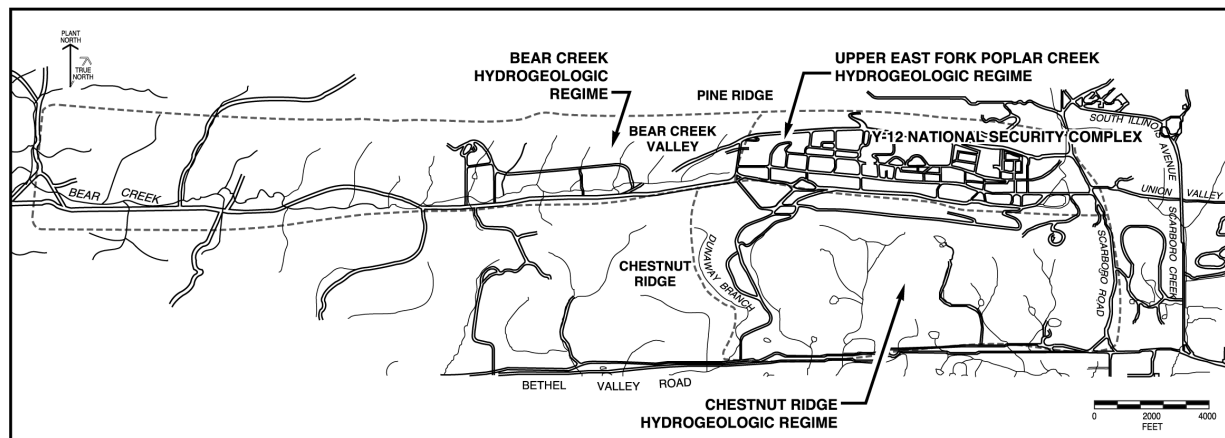


Fig. 6.15. Hydrogeologic regimes at the Y-12 Complex.

The rate of groundwater flow perpendicular to geologic strike from the ORR aquitards to the Maynardville Limestone has been estimated to be very slow below the water table interval. Most contaminant migration appears to be via surface tributaries to Bear Creek or along utility traces and buried tributaries in the Upper East Fork regime. In the Bear Creek regime, strike-parallel transport of some contaminants can occur within the ORR aquitards for significant distances. Continuous elevated levels of nitrate within the ORR Aquitards are known to extend east and west from the S-3 Site for thousands of feet. Volatile organic compounds at source units in the ORR Aquitards, however, tend to remain close to source areas because they tend to adsorb to the bedrock matrix, diffuse into pore spaces within the matrix, and degrade prior to migrating to exit pathways, where rapid transport for long distances does occur. Regardless, extensive volatile organic compound contamination occurs throughout groundwater in both the Bear Creek and Upper East Fork regimes.

Groundwater flow in the Chestnut Ridge regime is almost exclusively through fractures and solution conduits in the Knox Group. Discharge points for intermediate and deep flow are not well known. Groundwater is currently presumed to flow primarily toward Bear Creek Valley to the north and Bethel Valley to the south. Groundwater from intermediate and deep zones may discharge at certain spring locations along the flanks of Chestnut Ridge. Following the crest of the ridge, water table elevations decrease from west to east,

demonstrating an overall easterly trend in groundwater flow.

6.10.2 CY 2001 Monitoring Program

Groundwater monitoring in CY 2001 was performed to comply with DOE Orders and regulations by the Groundwater Protection Program and Water Resources Restoration Program. Compliance requirements were met by the monitoring of 153 wells, 18 springs, and 36 surface water locations (Table 6.13). Figure 6.16 shows the locations of ORR perimeter/exit pathway groundwater monitoring stations as specified in the *ORR Environmental Monitoring Plan*.

Comprehensive water quality results of monitoring activities at Y-12 in CY 2001 are presented in the annual *Groundwater Monitoring Report* (BWXT Y-12 2002).

Details of monitoring efforts performed specifically for CERCLA baseline and remediation evaluation are published in the FY 2001 and FY 2002 *Water Resources Restoration Program Sampling and Analysis Plans* (BJC 2000b and BJC 2001b) and the *2002 Remediation Effectiveness Report* (DOE 2002b).

Groundwater monitoring compliance reporting to meet RCRA post-closure permit requirements can be found in the RCRA annual reports (BJC 2002b, BJC 2002c, and BJC 2002d).

Table 6.13. Types and numbers of groundwater monitoring stations sampled at the Y-12 Complex during CY 2001

	Bear Creek	Chestnut Ridge	Upper East Fork Poplar Creek	Total
Conventional wells	56	48	48	152
Multiport wells	0	0	1	1
Surface water	19	7	10	36
Springs	7	9	2	18
Total number of monitoring stations	82	64	61	207

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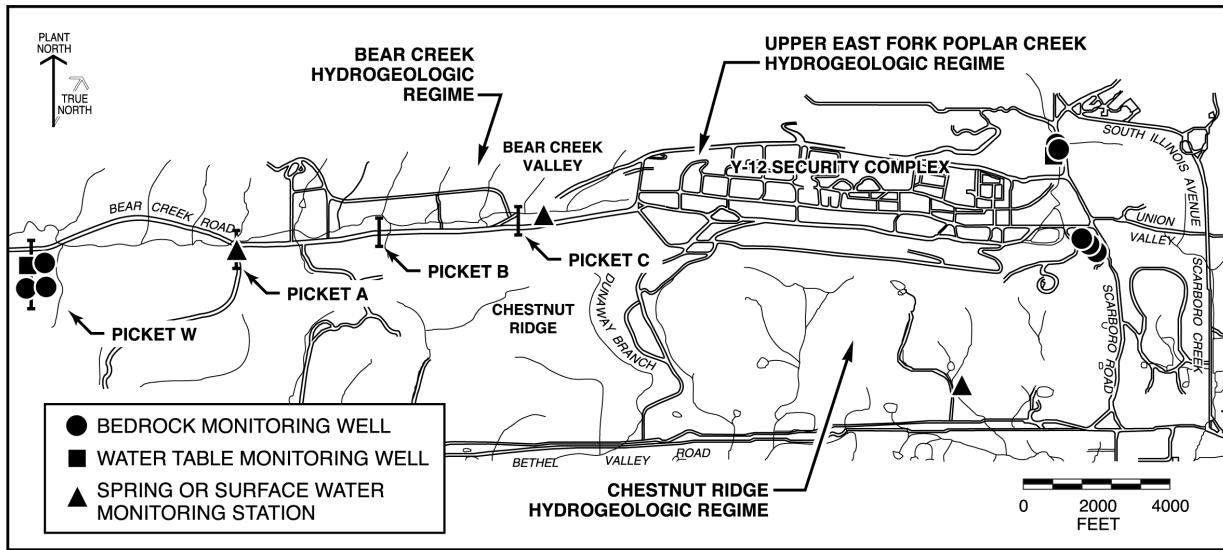


Fig. 6.16. Locations of ORR perimeter/exit pathway well, spring, and surface water monitoring stations in the Environmental Monitoring Plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

6.10.3 Y-12 Groundwater Quality

Historical monitoring efforts have shown that four types of contaminants have affected groundwater quality at Y-12: nitrate, volatile organic compounds, metals, and radionuclides. Of these, nitrate and volatile organics are the most widespread. Some radionuclides, particularly uranium and ⁹⁹Tc, are significant, principally in the Bear Creek regime and the western and central portions of the Upper East Fork regime. Trace metals, the least extensive groundwater contaminants, generally occur in a small area of low-pH groundwater at the western end of Y-12, near the S-2 and S-3

Sites. Historical data have shown that plumes from multiple source units have mixed with one another and that contaminants (other than nitrate and ⁹⁹Tc) are no longer easily associated with a single source.

6.10.3.1 Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Hydrogeologic Regime

The Upper East Fork regime contains contaminant source areas and surface water and groundwater components of the hydrogeologic system within the production complex and Union Valley to the east and off the ORR. Among the three hydrogeologic regimes at Y-12, the Upper East Fork regime encompasses most of the known

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and potential sources of surface and groundwater contamination. A brief description of waste management sites is given in Table 6.14. Chemical constituents from the S-3 Site (primarily nitrate and ⁹⁹Tc) dominate groundwater contamination in the western portion of the Upper East Fork regime, while groundwater in the eastern portion, including Union Valley, is predominantly contaminated with volatile organics.

Plume Delineation

The primary groundwater contaminants in the Upper East Fork regime are nitrates, volatile organic compounds, trace metals, and radionuclides. Sources of these contaminants monitored during CY 2001 are the S-2 Site, the Fire Training Facility, the S-3 Site, the Waste Coolant Processing Facility, the 9418-3 Uranium Oxide

Table 6.14. History of waste management units and underground storage tanks included in CY 2001 groundwater monitoring activities, Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Hydrogeologic Regime^a

Site	Historical data
New Hope Pond	Built in 1963. Regulated flow of water in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek before exiting the Y-12 Complex grounds. Sediments include PCBs, mercury, and uranium but not hazardous according to toxicity characteristic leaching procedure. Closed under RCRA in 1990
Salvage Yard Scrap Metal Storage Area	Used from 1950 to present for scrap metal storage. Some metals contaminated with low levels of depleted or enriched uranium. Runoff and infiltration are the principal release mechanisms to groundwater
Salvage Yard Oil/Solvent Drum Storage Area	Primary wastes included waste oils, solvents, uranium, and beryllium. Both closed under RCRA. Leaks and spills represent the primary contamination mechanisms for groundwater
Salvage Yard Oil Storage Tanks	Used from 1978 to 1986. Two tanks used to store PCB-contaminated oils, both within a diked area
Salvage Yard Drum Deheader Facility	Used from 1959 to 1989. Sump tanks 2063-U, 2328-U, and 2329-U received residual drum contents. Sump leakage is a likely release mechanism to groundwater
Building 81-10 Area	Staging facility. Potential historical releases to groundwater from leaks and spills of liquid wastes or mercury
Rust Garage Area	Former vehicle and equipment maintenance area, including four former petroleum USTs. Petroleum product releases to groundwater are documented
9418-3 Uranium Oxide Vault	Originally contained an oil storage tank. Used from 1960 to 1964 to dispose of nonenriched uranium oxide. Leakage from the vault to groundwater is the likely release mechanism
Fire Training Facility	Used for hands-on fire-fighting training. Sources of contamination to soil include flammable liquids and chlorinated solvents. Infiltration is the primary release mechanism to groundwater
Beta-4 Security Pits	Used from 1968 to 1972 for disposal of classified materials, scrap metals, and liquid wastes. Site is closed and capped. Primary release mechanism to groundwater is infiltration
S-2 Site	Used from 1945 to 1951. An unlined reservoir received liquid wastes. Infiltration is the primary release mechanism to groundwater
Waste Coolant Processing Area	Used from 1977 to 1985. Former biodegradation facility used to treat waste coolants from various machining processes. Closed under RCRA in 1988
Coal Pile Trench	Located beneath the current steam plant coal pile. Disposals included solid materials (primarily alloys). Trench leachate is a potential release mechanism to groundwater

^aAbbreviations

PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl.

RCRA= Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

UST = underground storage tank.

Vault, petroleum underground storage tanks, New Hope Pond, Beta-4 Security Pits, Salvage Yard, and process/production buildings throughout the Y-12 Complex. Although it is located west of the current hydrologic divide that separates the Upper East Fork regime from the Bear Creek regime, the S-3 Site, now closed under RCRA, has contributed to groundwater contamination in the western part of this regime.

Nitrate

Nitrate concentrations in groundwater at Y-12 exceed the 10 mg/L maximum drinking water contamination level (a complete list of national drinking water standards is presented in Appendix C) in a large part of the western portion of the Upper East Fork regime (Fig. 6.17). The two primary sources of nitrate contamination are the S-3 and S-2 Sites. In CY 2001, Groundwater containing nitrate concentrations as high as 11,800 mg/L (Well GW-108) occurred in the unconsolidated zone and at shallow bedrock depths just east of the S-3 Site. These results are consistent with results in previous years. The extent of the nitrate plume is essentially defined in the unconsolidated zone and the shallow bedrock zone. From data collected from monitoring wells and surface water outfalls during CY 2001 in the

aquitard and aquifer, nitrate concentrations above the drinking water standards are observed about 4500 ft (1372 m) eastward from the S-3 Site. This is approximately 2000 ft (610 m) further east than was reported in CY 2000 annual site environmental report. This is not an indication of dramatic migration over the past year, but rather a product of obtaining additional water quality results from Well GW-698 at the Building 81-10 site during CY 2001. This well was sampled twice during CY 2001 with a maximum nitrate concentration of 221 mg/L. All of the nitrate results indicate that the nitrate plume at the Y-12 Complex has remained relatively static.

Trace Metals

Concentrations of barium, beryllium, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, thallium, and uranium exceeded drinking water standards during CY 2001 in samples collected from various monitoring wells and surface water locations downgradient of the S-2 Site, the S-3 Site, the Salvage Yard, and throughout the complex. In December 2000, the EPA promulgated a drinking water standard of 0.03 mg/L for uranium. Even though it will not go into effect until 2003, this standard was used to evaluate uranium concentrations in groundwater and surface water at

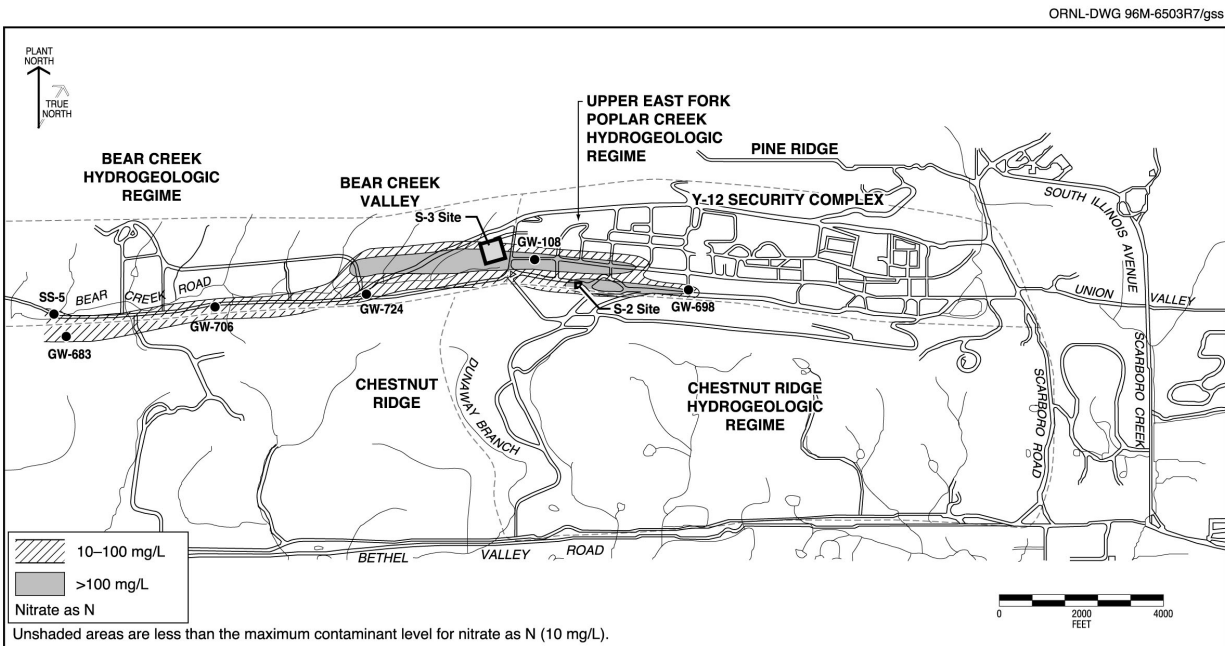


Fig. 6.17. Nitrate (as N) observed in groundwater at the Y-12 Complex.

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the Y-12 Complex. Concentrations of uranium exceed this standard in a number of source areas (e.g., the production areas and the Uranium Oxide Vault) and contribute this trace metal to Upper East Fork Poplar Creek. The trace metal strontium, which has no drinking water standard, was also observed at significant concentrations. Elevated concentrations of these metals in groundwater were most commonly observed from monitoring wells in the unconsolidated zone. Trace metals above standards tend to occur adjacent to the source areas due to low solubility in natural water systems on the ORR. However, some metals, such as uranium and mercury, are being transported through the surface water system and have been observed in concentrations above the drinking water standards.

Volatile Organic Compounds

Because of the many source areas, volatile organic compounds are the most widespread groundwater contaminants in the East Fork regime. Dissolved volatile organics in the regime primarily consist of chlorinated solvents and petroleum hydrocarbons. In CY 2001, the highest concentrations of dissolved chlorinated solvents (about 5460 $\mu\text{g/L}$) were found in groundwater at Well GW-656, near production facilities in the western portion of the Y-12 Complex (Fig. 6.18). The highest dissolved concentration of petroleum

hydrocarbons obtained in CY 2001 (about 117 $\mu\text{g/L}$ at Well GW-193) occurred in groundwater at a closed underground storage tank east of Building 9201-1 in the central portion of Y-12.

Concentrations of chlorinated volatile organics near source areas have remained relatively constant or have decreased since 1988 (Fig. 6.19). Within the exit pathway, wells west of New Hope Pond (e.g., GW-605, GW-606) continue to show a shallow, decreasing concentration trend (Fig. 6.20). Some monitoring locations (e.g., GW-151) south and east of New Hope Pond have shown increasing concentrations of volatile organics, while those farther to the east (GW-170) show a static trend or decreasing trends. Evaluations of all of these concentration trends indicate a center of mass of the carbon tetrachloride plume south of Building 9720-6 that is moving east. Data show that volatile organics are most extensive in shallow groundwater. However, when contaminants migrate into the Maynardville Limestone, they tend to concentrate at depths between 100 and 500 ft. The highest concentrations of volatile organics at the east end of Y-12 appear to be between 200 and 500 ft, as exemplified by vertical carbon tetrachloride distribution (Fig. 6.21).

The CY 2001 monitoring results generally confirm findings from the previous years of monitoring. A continuous dissolved plume of volatile organics in groundwater in the bedrock zone

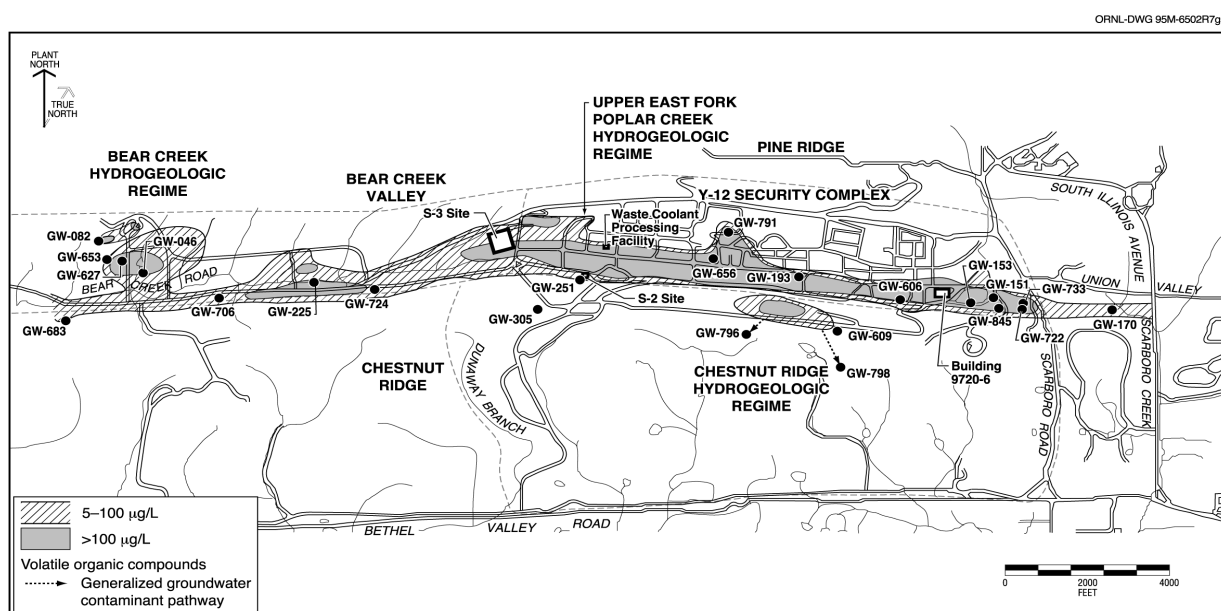


Fig. 6.18. Summed volatile organic compounds in groundwater at the Y-12 Complex.

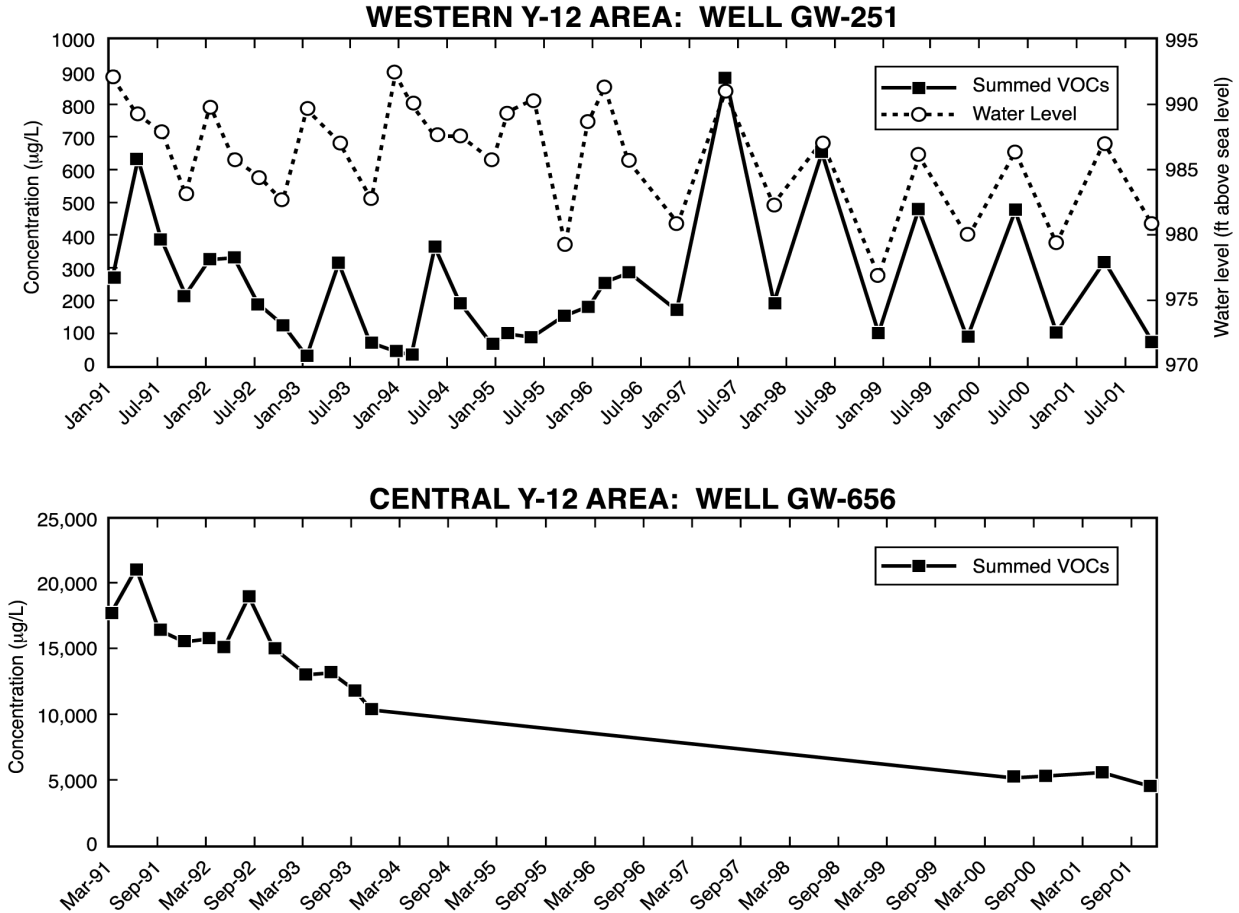


Fig. 6.19. Volatile organic compound concentrations in groundwater in selected wells near source areas in the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Hydrogeologic Regime.

extends eastward from the S-3 Site over the entire length of the regime (Fig. 6.18). The primary sources are the Waste Coolant Processing Facility and production areas throughout the Y-12 Complex.

Chloroethene compounds (tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride) tend to dominate the volatile organic plume composition in the western and central portions of Y-12. However, tetrachloroethene and isomers of dichloroethene are almost ubiquitous throughout the extent of the plume, indicating many source areas. Chloromethane compounds (carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, and methylene chloride) are the predominant volatile organics in the eastern portion of Y-12.

Radionuclides

The primary alpha-emitting radionuclides found in the East Fork regime during CY 2001 are isotopes of uranium. Groundwater with gross alpha activity greater than 15 pCi/L (the drinking water standard) occurs in scattered areas throughout the East Fork regime (Fig. 6.22). Historical data show that gross alpha activity consistently exceeds the drinking water standard and is most extensive in groundwater in the unconsolidated zone in the western portion of Y-12 near the S-3 Site. However, the highest level of gross alpha activity (685 pCi/L) observed during CY 2001 was observed in groundwater from Well GW-154, west of the Former Oil Skimmer Basin. Other areas of elevated gross alpha activity are present within the production areas in the western portion

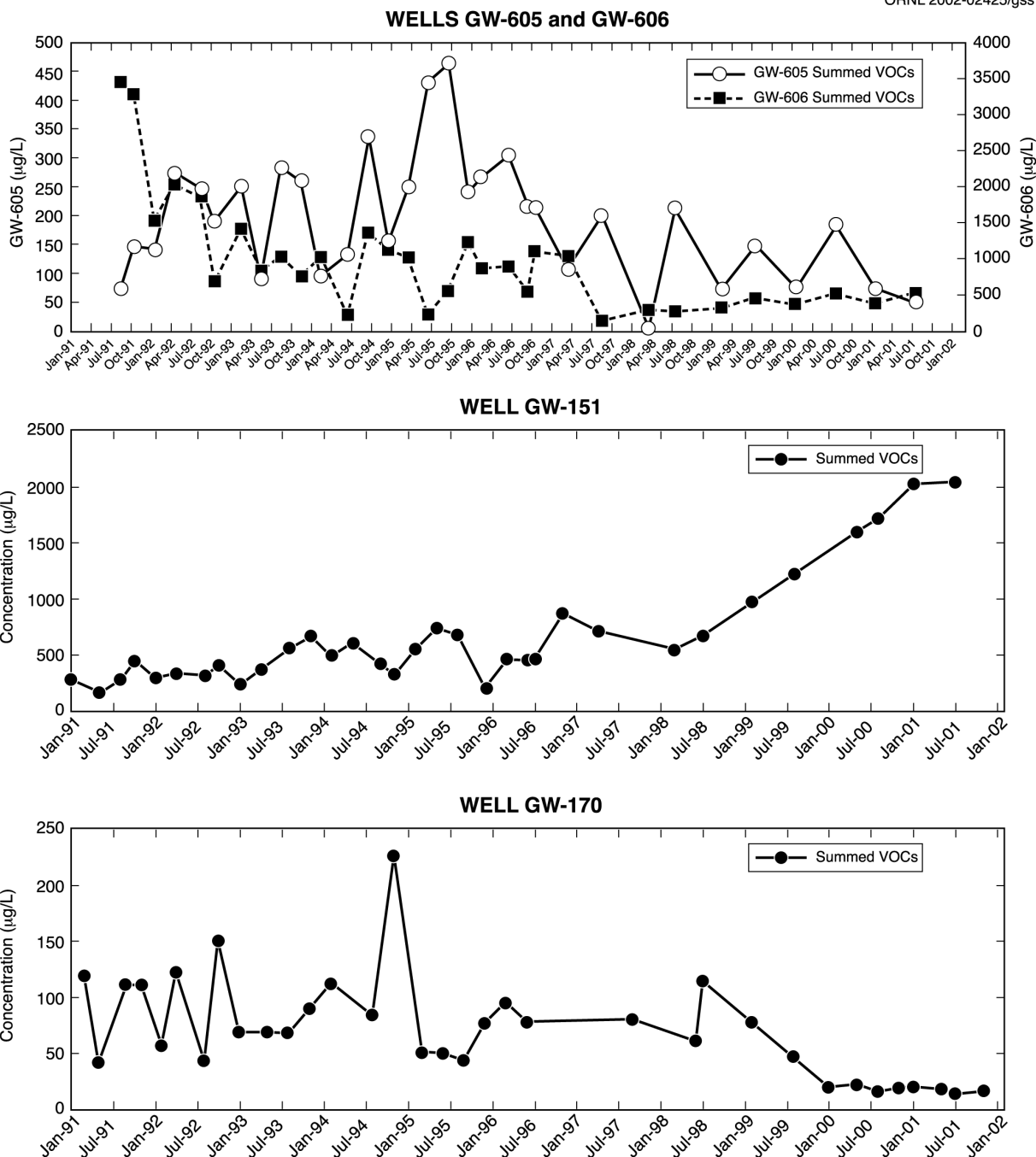


Fig. 6.20. Summed volatile organic compound concentrations in selected wells near New Hope Pond and exit pathway wells.

of Y-12, near the S-2 Site, and east of the 9418-3 Uranium Oxide Vault.

The primary beta-emitting radionuclide observed in the East Fork regime during CY 2001 is ⁹⁹Tc. Elevated gross beta activity in groundwater in the East Fork regime shows a pattern similar to that observed for gross alpha activity

(Fig. 6.23). In general, gross beta activity consistently exceeds the annual average screening level of 50 pCi/L in groundwater in the western portion of the regime, with the primary source being the S-3 Site.

Anomalous gross alpha and gross beta radiological results were observed in a single sampling

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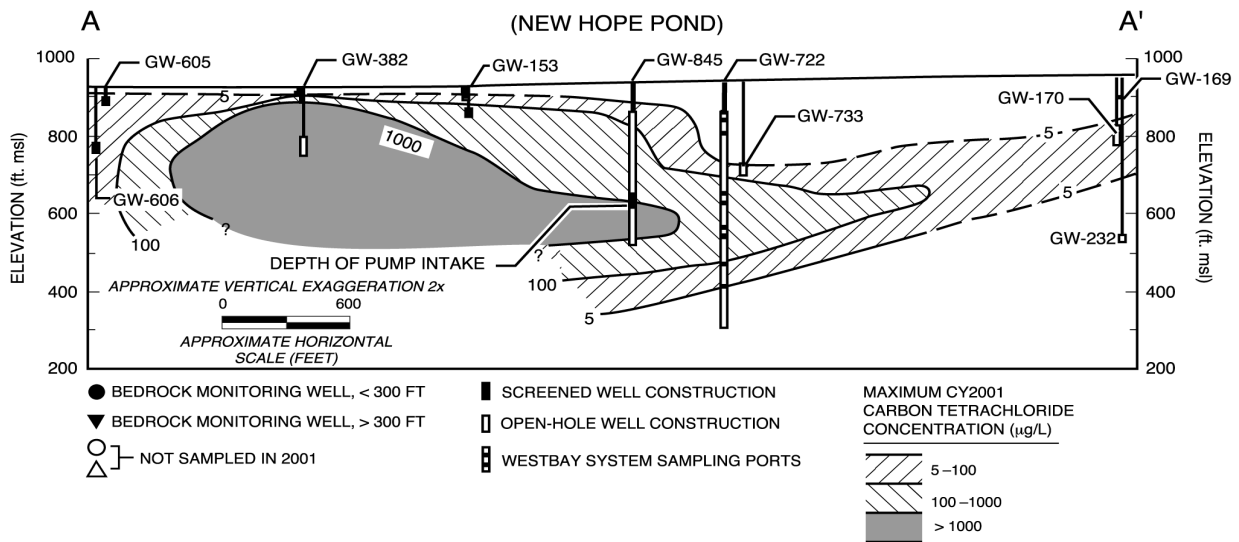
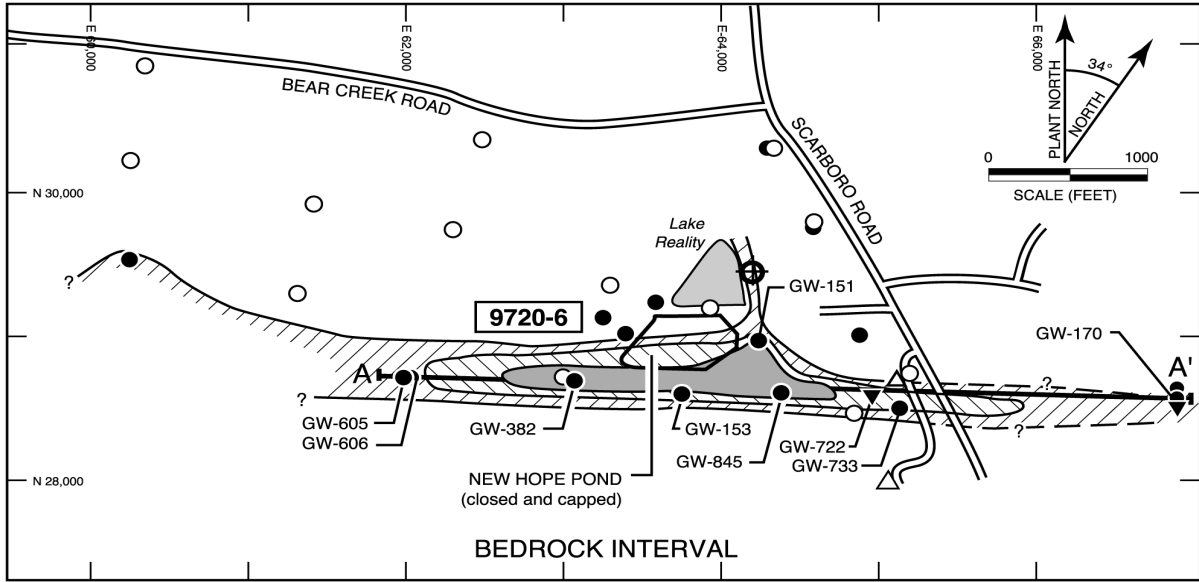


Fig. 6.21. Maximum carbon tetrachloride concentrations in Maynardville Limestone at depths between 200 and 500 ft.

event at two locations east of Scarboro Road during CY 2001. These locations are sampled as part of CERCLA monitoring efforts in Union Valley. The results ranged between 57 and 366 pCi/L; it is not certain what the reason is for these results. Historical and subsequent results, which are consistently much lower in activity (below the drinking water standards), support the evaluation of these results as anomalous.

Exit Pathway and Perimeter Monitoring

Exit pathway groundwater monitoring activities in the East Fork regime in CY 2001 involved continued collection and trending of data from exit pathway monitoring stations. Data collected to date indicate that volatile organic compounds are the primary class of contaminants that are migrating through the exit pathways in the East Fork regime. They are migrating predominantly at depths between 200 and 500 ft and appear

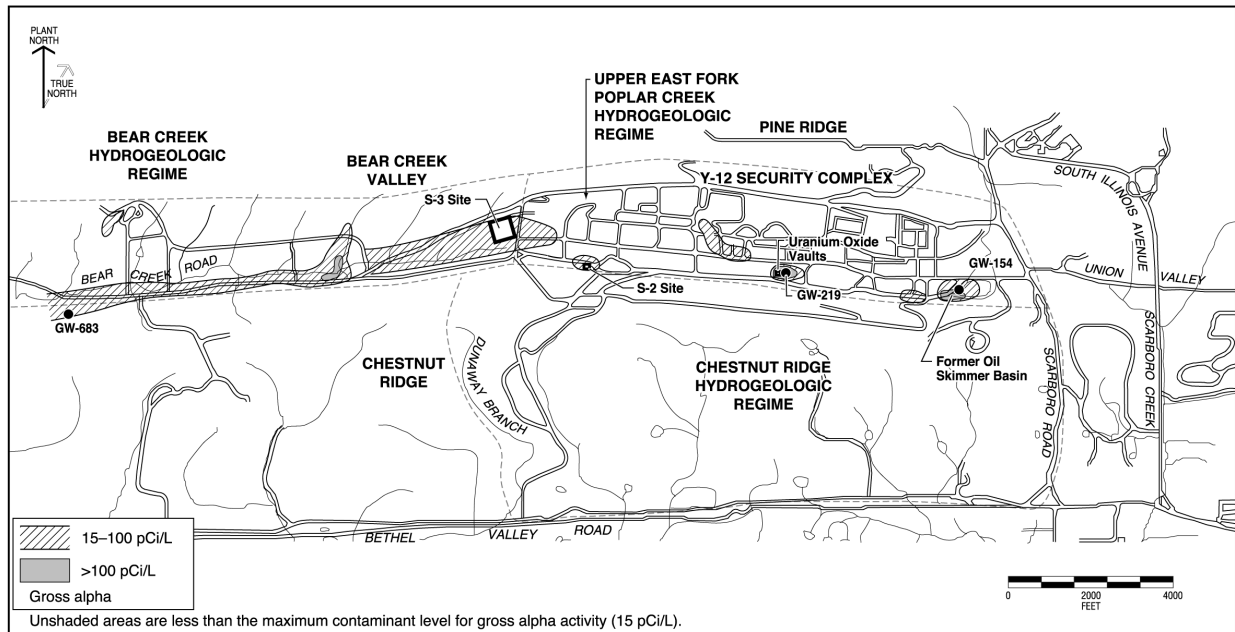


Fig. 6.22. Gross alpha activity in groundwater at the Y-12 Complex.

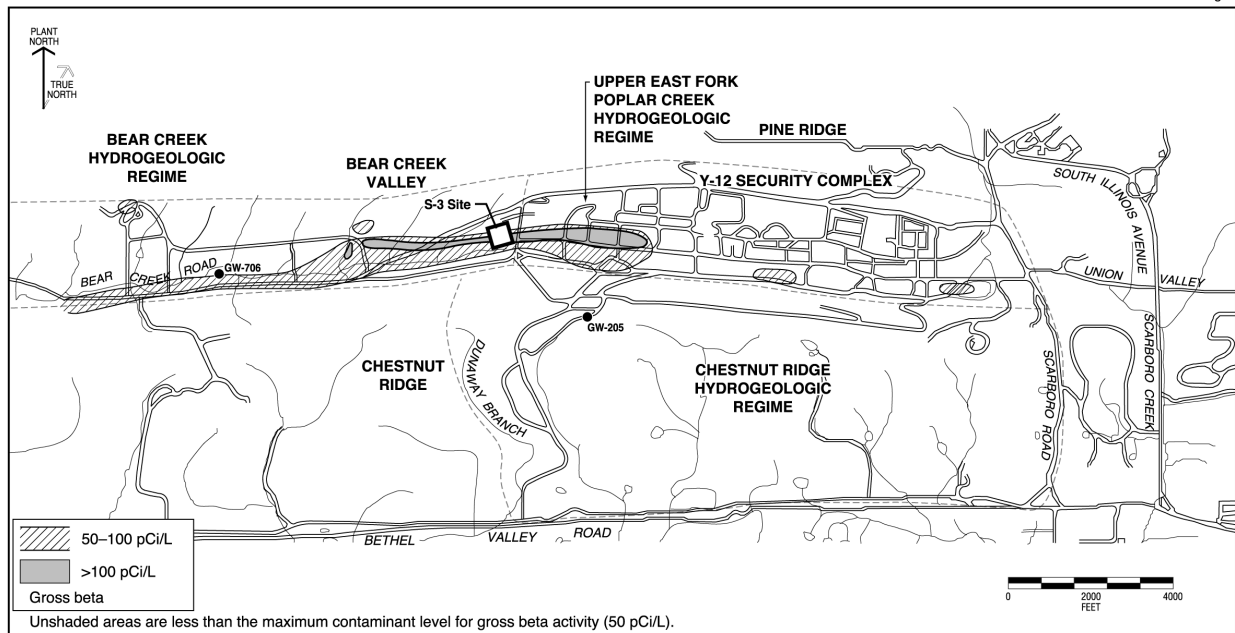


Fig. 6.23. Gross beta activity in groundwater at the Y-12 Complex.

to be restricted to the Maynardville Limestone, the primary intermediate to deep groundwater exit pathway on the east end of Y-12. A vertical profile of volatile organic compound contamination is depicted in Fig. 6.21. The distribution of volatile organics is shown in Fig. 6.18. Their concentrations are typically higher at depth because

most dilution and mixing with rainfall occur in the shallow portions of the Maynardville limestone. In addition, most of the volatile organic contaminants at Y-12 are denser than water; therefore, they tend to migrate downward within the subsurface. The deep fractures and solution channels that constitute flow paths within the

Maynardville Limestone appear to be well connected. The characteristics of the flow paths combined with the chemical characteristics of the contaminants have resulted in migration for substantial distances off the ORR into Union Valley to the east of Y-12. The Environmental Monitoring Plan specifies monitoring of three wells near the eastern ORR boundary for this exit pathway (Fig. 6.16).

In addition to the intermediate to deep pathways within the Maynardville Limestone, shallow groundwater within the water table interval in the vicinity of New Hope Pond, Lake Reality, and Upper East Fork Poplar Creek is also monitored. Historically, volatile organics have been observed in the vicinity of Lake Reality from wells, a dewatering sump, and the Lake Reality Spillway. In this area, shallow groundwater flows north-northeast through the water table interval east of New Hope Pond and Lake Reality, following the path of a diversion channel for Upper East Fork Poplar Creek.

During CY 2001, the observed concentrations of volatile organics at the Lake Reality Spillway continue to decrease. This decrease may be because the continued operation of a groundwater plume-capture system in Well GW-845 (Fig. 6.21) south of the spillway may be reducing the levels of volatile organics in the area. The installation of this system by BJC was completed in June 2000. This groundwater plume capture system will pump groundwater from the intermediate bedrock depth to mitigate off-site migration of volatile organics. The well continuously pumps groundwater from the Maynardville Limestone at about 25 gallons per minute, passes the pumped water through a water treatment system to remove the volatile organics, and then discharges to Upper East Fork Poplar Creek.

Monitoring wells near Well GW-845 have shown some encouraging response to pumping activities. The multi-port system installed in Well GW-722 permits sampling of ten discrete zones within the Maynardville Limestone between 87 and 560 ft below ground surface. This well has been instrumental in characterizing the vertical extent of the east-end plume of volatile organic compounds and is critical in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the plume capture system. Monitoring results from some sampled zones in Well GW-722 indicate possible reductions in

volatile organics due to groundwater pumping upgradient at Well GW-845. Other wells, such as GW-605 and GW-382, also show dramatic decreases that may be attributable to the plume capture system operation. These indicators show that operation of the plume capture system is decreasing volatile organics upgradient and downgradient of Well GW-845.

Three wells, located in the large gap in Pine Ridge through which Upper East Fork Poplar Creek exits Y-12, are used to monitor shallow, intermediate, and deep groundwater intervals. Shallow groundwater moves through this exit pathway, and very strong upward vertical flow gradients exist; two of the three wells located in this area are artesian (water flows from the well casing due to unusually high naturally occurring water pressure). Monitoring of these wells since about 1990 has not shown that any contaminants are moving via this exit pathway.

In CY 2001, five sampling locations were monitored north and northwest of Y-12 to evaluate possible contaminant transport from the ORR (Fig. 6.24). These locations are considered unlikely groundwater or surface water contaminant exit pathways; however, monitoring was performed due to recent concerns regarding potential health impacts from Y-12 operations to nearby residences. Two of the stations monitored tributaries draining the north slope of Pine Ridge on the ORR and discharged into the adjacent Scarboro Community. One location monitors an upper reach of Mill Branch, which discharges into the residential areas along Wiltshire Drive. The remaining two locations monitor Gum Hollow Branch as it discharges from the ORR and flows next to the Country Club Estates community. Samples were obtained and analyzed for metals, inorganics, volatile organics, and gross alpha and gross beta activities. There were no results that exceeded a drinking water standard, nor were there any indications that contaminants were being discharged from the ORR into these communities.

6.10.3.2 Union Valley Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring data obtained in 1993 provided the first strong indication that volatile organic compounds were being transported off the ORR through the deep

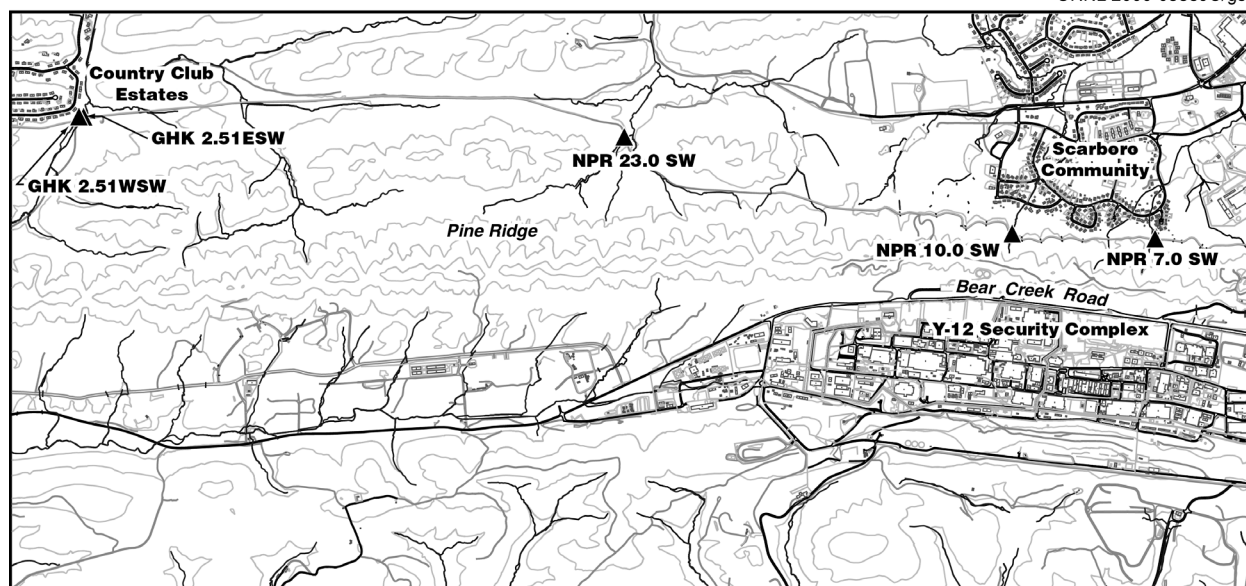


Fig. 6.24. Surface water sampling locations north of Pine Ridge (NPR), 2001. (GHK = Gum Hollow kilometer.)

Maynardville Limestone exit pathway. The Upper East Fork Poplar Creek remedial investigation (DOE 1998) provided a discussion of the nature and extent of the volatile organics.

In CY 2001, monitoring of locations in Union Valley continued showing an overall decreasing trend in the concentrations of contaminants forming the groundwater contaminant plume in Union Valley.

Under the terms of an interim record of decision, administrative controls, such as restriction on potential future groundwater use, have been established. Additionally, the previously discussed plume capture system (Well GW-845) was installed and initiated to reduce volatile organic compounds in Union Valley (DOE 2002b).

6.10.3.3 Bear Creek Hydrogeologic Regime

Located west of Y-12 in Bear Creek Valley, the Bear Creek regime is bounded to the north by Pine Ridge and to the south by Chestnut Ridge. The regime encompasses the portion of Bear Creek Valley extending from the west end of the Y-12 Complex to Highway 95. Table 6.15 describes each of the waste management sites within the Bear Creek regime.

Plume Delineation

The primary groundwater contaminants in the Bear Creek regime are nitrate, trace metals, volatile organic compounds, and radionuclides. The S-3 Site is a source of all four of these contaminants. The Oil Landfarm waste management area, consisting of the Oil Landfarm, the Bone Yard/Burn Yard, the Hazardous Chemical Disposal Area, and Landfill I, is a significant source of uranium, other trace metals, and volatile organics. Other sources of volatile organics include the Rust Spoil Area, and the Bear Creek Burial Grounds waste management area. Dense nonaqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs), heavier-than-water solvents that have a low water solubility, exist at depths as great as or greater than 270 ft below the Bear Creek Burial Grounds. The DNAPLs consist primarily of volatile organics such as tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethene, and high concentrations of PCBs.

Contaminant plume boundaries are essentially defined in the bedrock formations that directly underlie many waste disposal areas in the Bear Creek regime, particularly the Nolichucky Shale. The elongated shape of the contaminant plumes in the Bear Creek regime is the result of preferential transport of the contaminants parallel to strike in both the Knox Aquifer and the ORR Aquitards. A

Table 6.15. History of waste management units included in CY 2001 groundwater monitoring activities, Bear Creek Hydrogeologic Regime^a

Site	Historical data
S-3 Site	Four unlined surface impoundments constructed in 1951. Received liquid nitric acid/uranium-bearing wastes via the Nitric Acid Pipeline until 1983. Closed and capped under RCRA in 1988. Infiltration was the primary release mechanism to groundwater
Oil Landfarm	Operated from 1973 to 1982. Received waste oils and coolants tainted with metals and PCBs. Closed and capped under RCRA in 1989. Infiltration was the primary release mechanism to groundwater. Part of the Oil Landfarm waste management area
Boneyard	Used from 1943 to 1970. Unlined shallow trenches used to dispose of construction debris and to burn magnesium chips and wood. Part of the Oil Landfarm waste management area
Burnyard	Used from 1943 to 1968. Wastes, metal shavings, solvents, oils, and laboratory chemicals were burned in two unlined trenches. Part of the Oil Landfarm waste management area
Hazardous Chemical Disposal Area	Used from 1975 to 1981. Built over the burnyard. Handled compressed gas cylinders and reactive chemicals. Residues placed in a small, unlined pit. Part of the Oil Landfarm waste management area
Sanitary Landfill I	Used from 1968 to 1982. TDEC-permitted, nonhazardous industrial landfill. May be a source of certain contaminants to groundwater. Closed and capped under TDEC requirements in 1985. Part of the Oil Landfarm waste management area
Bear Creek Burial Grounds: A, C, and Walk-in Pits	A and C received waste oils, coolants, beryllium and uranium, various metallic wastes, and asbestos into unlined trenches and standpipes. Walk-in Pits received chemical wastes, shock-sensitive reagents, and uranium saw fines. Activities ceased in 1981. Final closure certified for A (1989), C (1993), and the Walk-in Pits (1995). Infiltration is the primary release mechanism to groundwater
Bear Creek Burial Grounds: B, D, E, J, and Oil Retention Ponds 1 and 2	Burial Grounds B, D, E, and J, unlined trenches, received depleted uranium metal and oxides and minor amounts of debris and inorganic salts. Ponds 1 and 2, built in 1971 and 1972, respectively, captured waste oils seeping into two Bear Creek tributaries. The ponds were closed and capped under RCRA in 1989. Certification of closure and capping of Burial Grounds B and part of C was granted 2/95
Rust Spoil Area	Used from 1975 to 1983 for disposal of construction debris, but may have included materials bearing solvents, asbestos, mercury, and uranium. Closed under RCRA in 1984. Site is a source of volatile organic compounds to shallow groundwater according to CERCLA remedial investigation
Spoil Area I	Used from 1980 to 1988 for disposal of construction debris and other stable, nonrad wastes. Permitted under TDEC solid waste management regulations in 1986; closure began shortly thereafter. Soil contamination is of primary concern. CERCLA record of decision issued in 1996
SY-200 Yard	Used from 1950 to 1986 for equipment and materials storage. No documented waste disposal at the site occurred. Leaks, spills, and soil contamination are concerns. CERCLA record of decision issued in 1996
Above-Grade LLW Storage Facility	Constructed in 1993. Consists of six above-grade storage pads used to store inert, low-level radioactive debris and solid wastes packaged in steel containers

^aAbbreviations

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

LLW = low-level waste.

PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl.

RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

TDEC = Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

review of historical data suggests that contaminant concentrations near source areas within the ORR Aquitards have remained relatively constant since 1986.

Nitrate

Unlike many groundwater contaminants, nitrate is highly soluble and moves easily with groundwater. The limits of the nitrate plume probably define the maximum extent of sub-surface contamination in the Bear Creek regime. The horizontal extent of the nitrate plume is essentially defined in groundwater in the upper to intermediate part of the aquitard and aquifer [less than 300 ft (91 m) below the ground surface].

Data obtained during CY 2001 indicate that nitrate concentrations in groundwater exceed the drinking water standard in an area that extends west from the S-3 Site for approximately 12,000 ft (3,660 m) down Bear Creek Valley (Fig. 6.17). Nitrate concentrations greater than 100 mg/L persist out to about 3000 ft (915 m) west of the S-3 Site, indicating no significant change from previous years. Historically, the highest nitrate concentrations are observed adjacent to the S-3 Site in groundwater in the unconsolidated zone and at shallow depths [less than 100 ft (30.5 m) below ground surface] in the Nolichucky Shale. Furthermore, elevated concentrations of nitrate have been observed as deep as 740 ft (226 m) below ground surface. Surface water nitrate results exceeding the drinking water standard during CY 2001 were observed as far as 15,400 ft (4,694 m) west of the S-3 Site (Fig. 6.17).

Trace Metals

During CY 2001, uranium, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, beryllium, and nickel have been identified from groundwater monitoring as the trace metal contaminants in the Bear Creek regime that exceeded the drinking water standards. Historically, elevated concentrations of these metals were observed at shallow depths near the S-3 Site. Disposal of acidic liquid wastes at this site reduced the pH of the groundwater, which allows the metals to remain in solution. Elsewhere in the Bear Creek regime, where natural geochemical conditions prevail, these trace metals may occur sporadically and in close association

with source areas because conditions are typically not favorable for dissolution and migration. In CY 2001, these trace metals were evident at elevated concentrations within the surface water and groundwater downgradient of the S-3 Site, the Bear Creek Burial Ground, and the Oil Landfarm waste management areas.

The most prevalent trace metal contaminant observed within the Bear Creek regime is uranium, indicating that geochemical conditions are favorable for its migration. The Bone Yard/Burn Yard site has been identified as the primary source of uranium contamination of surface water and groundwater. Uranium is typically observed at concentrations exceeding the drinking water standard of 0.03 mg/L in shallow monitoring wells, springs, and surface water locations downgradient from all of the waste areas. Uranium concentrations above the drinking water standard were observed in surface water monitoring stations over 3.8 miles (6.1 km) from Bear Creek Burial Ground, the westernmost waste area.

Other trace metal contaminants that have been observed in the Bear Creek regime are boron, cobalt, copper, selenium, and strontium. Concentrations of these metals have commonly exceeded background and regulatory levels in groundwater near contaminant source areas.

Volatile Organic Compounds

Volatile organic compounds are widespread in groundwater in the Bear Creek regime (Fig. 6.18). The primary compounds are tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and 1,1-dichloroethane. In most areas, they are dissolved in the groundwater, and non-aqueous phase accumulations occur in bedrock more than 250 ft (76 m) below the Bear Creek Burial Ground waste management area.

Groundwater in the aquitards that contains detectable levels of volatile organic compounds occurs primarily within about 1000 ft (305 m) of the source areas. The highest concentrations observed in CY 2001 in the unconsolidated zone in the Bear Creek Regime occurred at the Bear Creek Burial Ground waste management area in monitoring Well GW-046, with a maximum total result of 6400 µg/L. The extent of the dissolved plumes of volatile organic compounds is greater in the underlying bedrock. The highest levels in the

Bear Creek regime occur in bedrock, just south of the Bear Creek Burial Ground waste management area. Historical levels have been as high as 7,000,000 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in groundwater near the source area. Well GW-627, which is downgradient of the Bear Creek Burial Ground waste management area, has continued to exhibit an increase in volatile organic compound concentration (Fig. 6.25). The increasing trends observed in wells GW-082, GW-627, and GW-653 indicate that some migration of volatile organics through the aquitards parallel to the valley axis and toward the exit pathway (Maynardville Limestone) is occurring in the unconsolidated and intermediate bedrock intervals.

Significant transport of volatile organics has occurred in the Maynardville Limestone. Data obtained from exit pathway monitoring locations show that in the vicinity of the water table, an apparently continuous dissolved plume extends for about 12,000 ft (3660 m) westward from the S-3 Site to just west of the Bear Creek Burial Ground waste management area. Typical concentrations observed in CY 2001 in the Maynardville Limestone range from 220 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the central part of the regime (Well GW-225) to less than detectable levels approximately 12,000 ft (3,660 m) to the west of the S-3 site.

Radionuclides

The primary radionuclides identified in the Bear Creek regime are isotopes of uranium and ^{99}Tc . Neptunium-237, ^{241}Am , radium, strontium, and tritium are secondary and less widespread radionuclides present in groundwater near the S-3 Site.

Evaluations of the extent of these radionuclides in groundwater in the Bear Creek regime during CY 2001 were based primarily on measurements of gross alpha activity and gross beta activity. If the annual average gross alpha activity in groundwater samples from a well exceeded 15 pCi/L (the drinking water standard for gross alpha activity), then one (or more) of the alpha-emitting radionuclides (e.g., uranium) was assumed present in the groundwater monitored by the well. A similar rationale was used for annual average gross beta activity that exceeded 50 pCi/L. More volatile radionuclides (i.e., ^{99}Tc , ^3H) are qualitatively screened by gross beta

activity analysis and at certain monitoring locations are evaluated isotopically.

Groundwater with elevated levels of gross alpha activity occurs near the S-3 Site and the Oil Landfarm waste management areas (Fig. 6.22). In the bedrock interval, gross alpha activity exceeds 15 pCi/L in groundwater in the Nolichucky Shale only near the S-3 Site. During CY 2001, no observed gross alpha activity results from shallow or bedrock wells in the Bear Creek Burial Ground or in the Oil Landfarm waste management area exceeded the drinking water standard. Data obtained from exit pathway monitoring stations show that gross alpha activity in groundwater in the Maynardville Limestone exceeds the drinking water standard for 12,000 ft (3660 m) west of the S-3 Site (e.g., GW-683). Gross alpha activities above the drinking water standard in surface water samples were observed about 4.5 miles (7.2 km) west of the S-3 Site.

The distribution of gross beta radioactivity in groundwater in the unconsolidated zone is similar to that of gross alpha radioactivity (Fig. 6.23). During CY 2001, gross beta activity exceeded 50 pCi/L within the water table interval in the Maynardville Limestone from south of the S-3 Site to the Oil Landfarm waste management area. Within the intermediate bedrock interval in the Maynardville Limestone, the elevated gross beta activity extends approximately 12,000 ft (3660 m) from the S-3 Site (Fig. 6.23) to exit pathway picket B (i.e., Well GW-706). Surface water gross beta activities above the drinking water standard were observed 16,000 ft (4877 m) west of the S-3 Site. Technitium-99 activities mimic the gross beta activity distribution across the Bear Creek regime.

Exit Pathway and Perimeter Monitoring

Exit pathway monitoring began in 1990 to provide data on the quality of groundwater and surface water exiting the Bear Creek regime. The Maynardville Limestone is the primary exit pathway for groundwater. Bear Creek, which flows across the Maynardville Limestone in much of the Bear Creek regime, is the principal exit pathway for surface water. Various studies have shown that surface water in Bear Creek, springs along the valley floor, and groundwater in the Maynardville Limestone are hydraulically connected. The

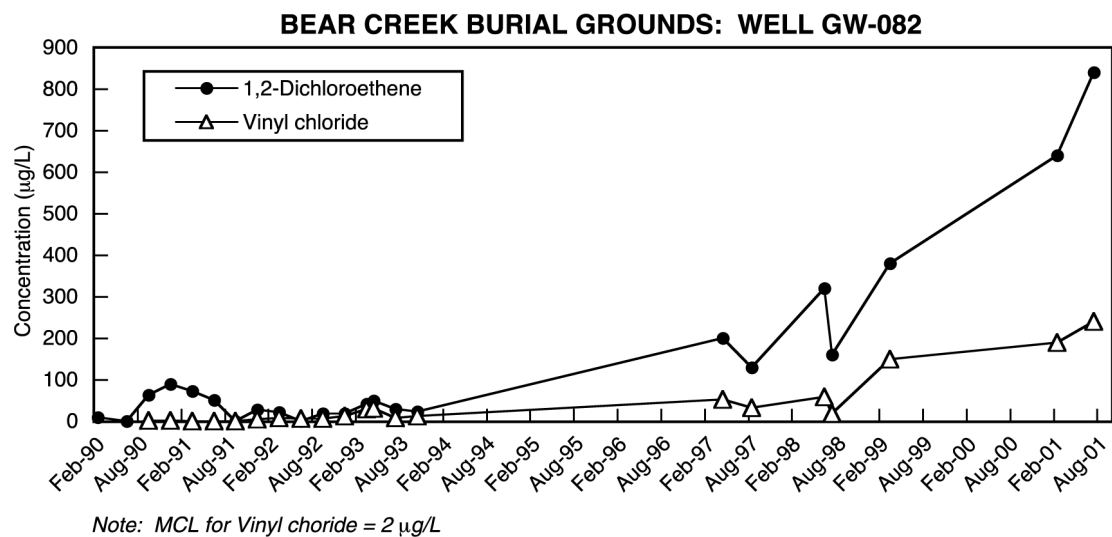
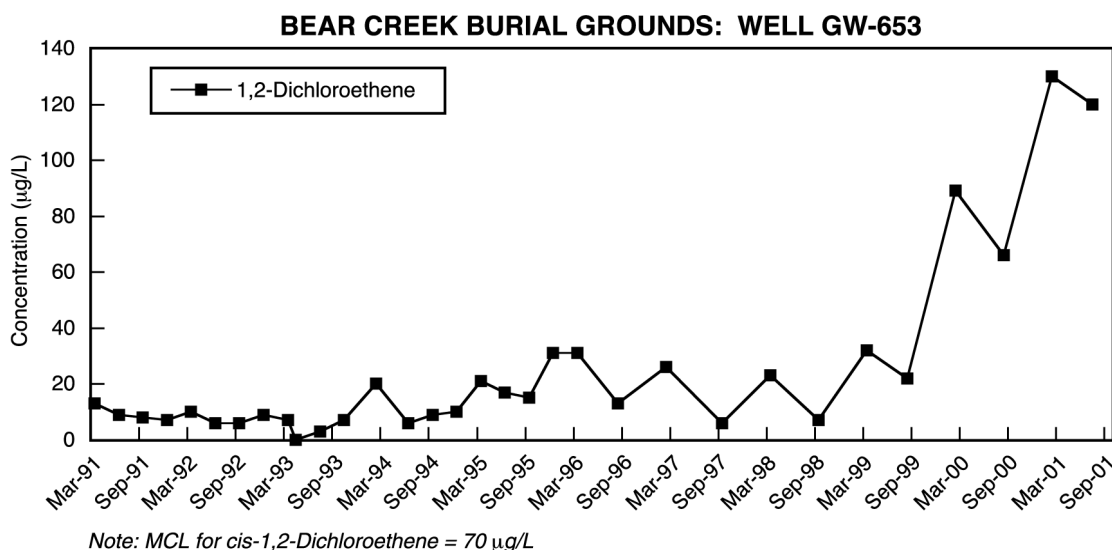
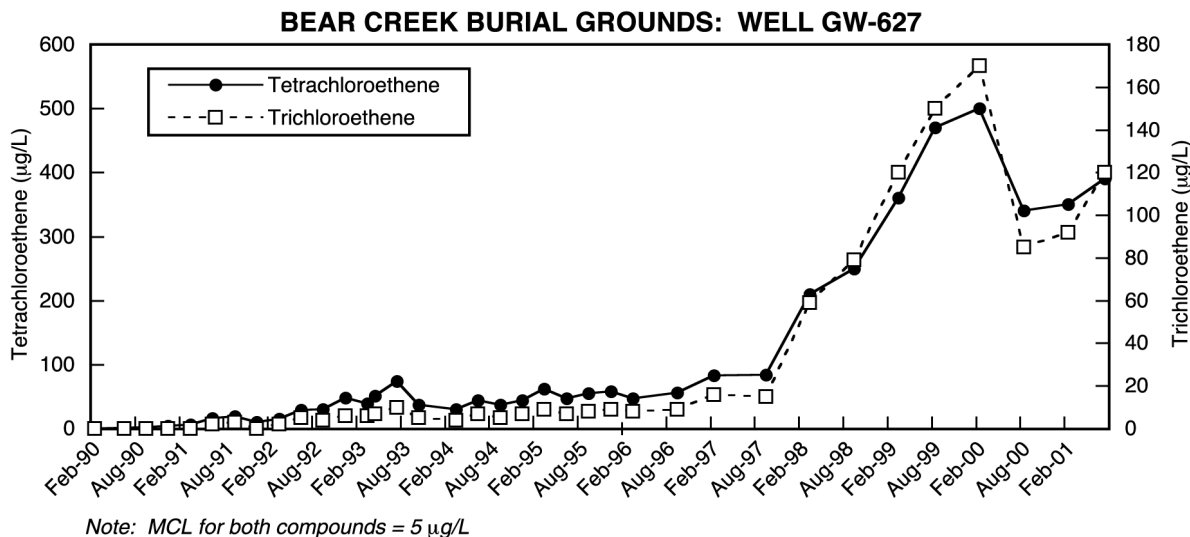


Fig. 6.25. Volatile organic compound concentrations in Bear Creek Burial Grounds Wells GW-627, GW-653, and GW-082.

western exit pathway well transect (Picket W) serves as the ORR perimeter well location for the Bear Creek regime (Fig. 6.16).

Exit pathway monitoring consists of continued monitoring at four well transects (pickets) and selected springs and surface water stations. Groundwater quality data obtained during CY 2001 from the exit pathway monitoring wells confirmed previous data indicating that contaminated groundwater does not seem to occur much beyond the western side of the Bear Creek Burial Ground waste management area (Fig. 6.26). However, levels of nitrate, gross alpha and gross beta activities, and uranium exceeding their respective drinking water standards have been observed in surface water west of the burial grounds (BWXT Y-12 2002).

Surface water and spring samples collected during CY 2001 indicate that spring discharges and water in upper reaches of Bear Creek contain many of the compounds found in the groundwater. The concentrations in the creek and spring discharge decrease with distance downstream of the waste disposal sites (Fig. 6.27). A long-term slightly increasing gross alpha activity in Bear Creek (BCK-09.40 and BCK-04.55) may indicate that the Oil Landfarm waste management area is a significant contributor of alpha-emitting contaminants (i.e., uranium) to surface water.

6.10.3.4 Chestnut Ridge Hydrogeologic Regime

The Chestnut Ridge Hydrogeologic Regime is south of Y-12 and is flanked to the north by Bear Creek Valley and to the south by Bethel Valley Road (Fig. 6.15). The regime encompasses the portion of Chestnut Ridge extending from Scarboro Road, east of Y-12, to Dunaway Branch, located just west of Industrial Landfill II.

The Chestnut Ridge Security Pits area is the only documented source of groundwater contamination in the regime. Contamination from the Security Pits is distinct and is not mingled with plumes from other sources. Table 6.16 summarizes the operational history of waste management units in the regime.

Plume Delineation

The horizontal extent of the volatile organic compound plume at the Chestnut Ridge Security Pits is reasonably well defined in the water table and shallow bedrock zones (Fig. 6.18). Groundwater quality data obtained during CY 2001 indicates that the lateral extent of the plume of volatile organics at the site is similar to that which occurred in CY 2000, as evidenced by detectable signature volatile organics in wells GW-609, GW-796, and GW-798. Concentrations of tetrachloroethene have been steadily decreasing in Well GW-609 since monitoring began in 1990 (Fig. 6.28).

Nitrate

Nitrate concentrations were well below the drinking water standard of 10 mg/L at all monitoring stations.

Trace Metals

Groundwater concentrations of trace metals exceeded regulatory standards during CY 2001 at four locations. Concentrations above the drinking water standard for nickel were observed in samples from three monitoring wells. One surface water monitoring station showed elevated concentrations of arsenic.

Nickel concentrations above the drinking water standard were observed from a well at the Industrial Landfill IV and from two wells at the United Nuclear Corporation site.

Elevated concentrations of nickel above the drinking water standard were also detected in two wells at the United Nuclear site. The source of nickel within wells at both the Landfill IV and the United Nuclear site is probably due to corrosion of well casings. This is further supported by the high concentrations of chromium seen in one of the wells at the United Nuclear site. Nickel and chromium are both primary components of stainless steel, and the presence of both potentially indicates the occurrence of corrosion and subsequent dissolution of stainless-steel well casing and screen materials (Jones 1999).

Elevated concentrations of arsenic (above the drinking water standard) were observed in one surface water monitoring location downstream from the Filled Coal Ash Pond, which is moni-

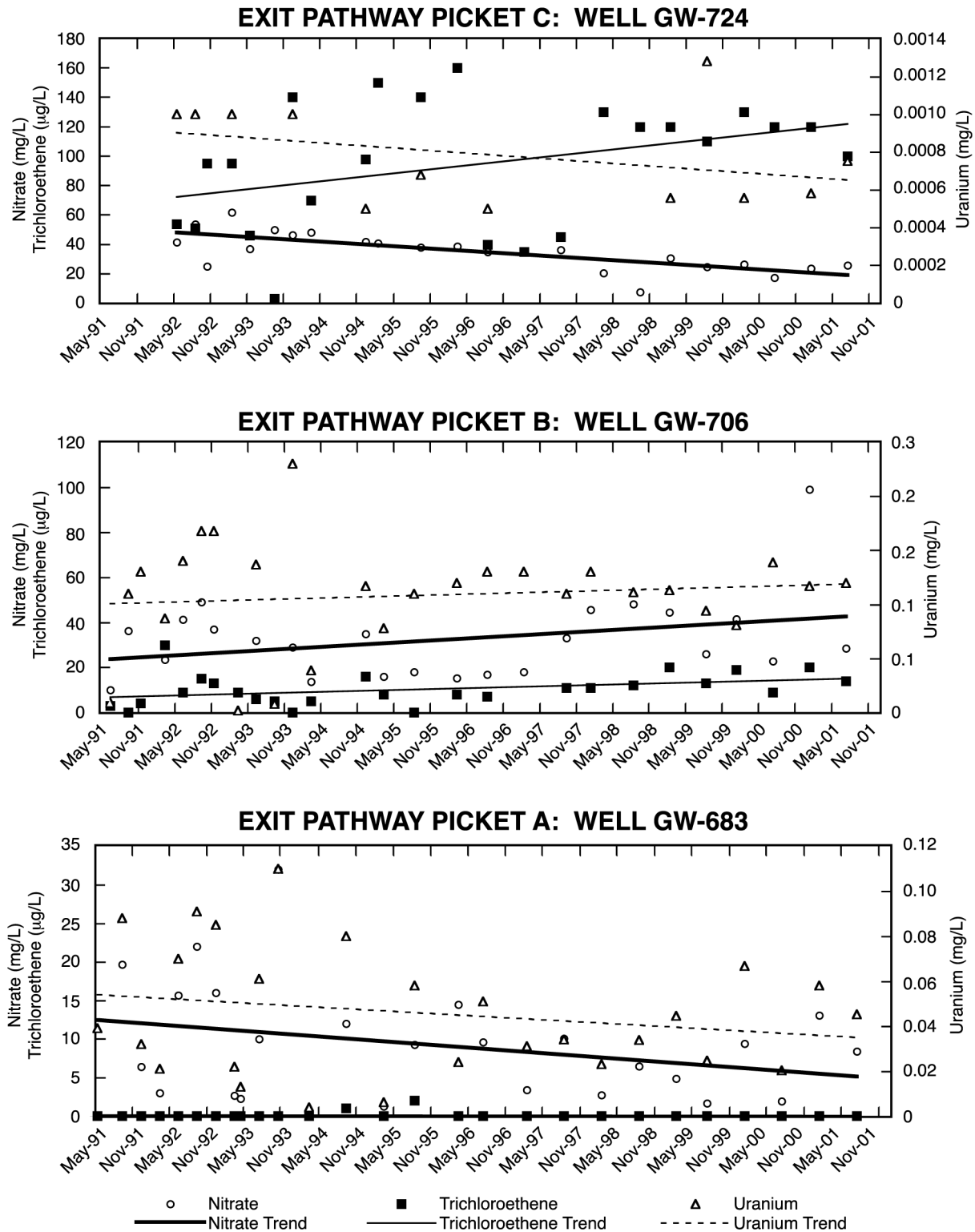


Fig. 6.26. Concentrations of selected contaminants in exit pathway monitoring Wells GW-724, GW-706, and GW-683 in the Bear Creek Hydrogeologic Regime.

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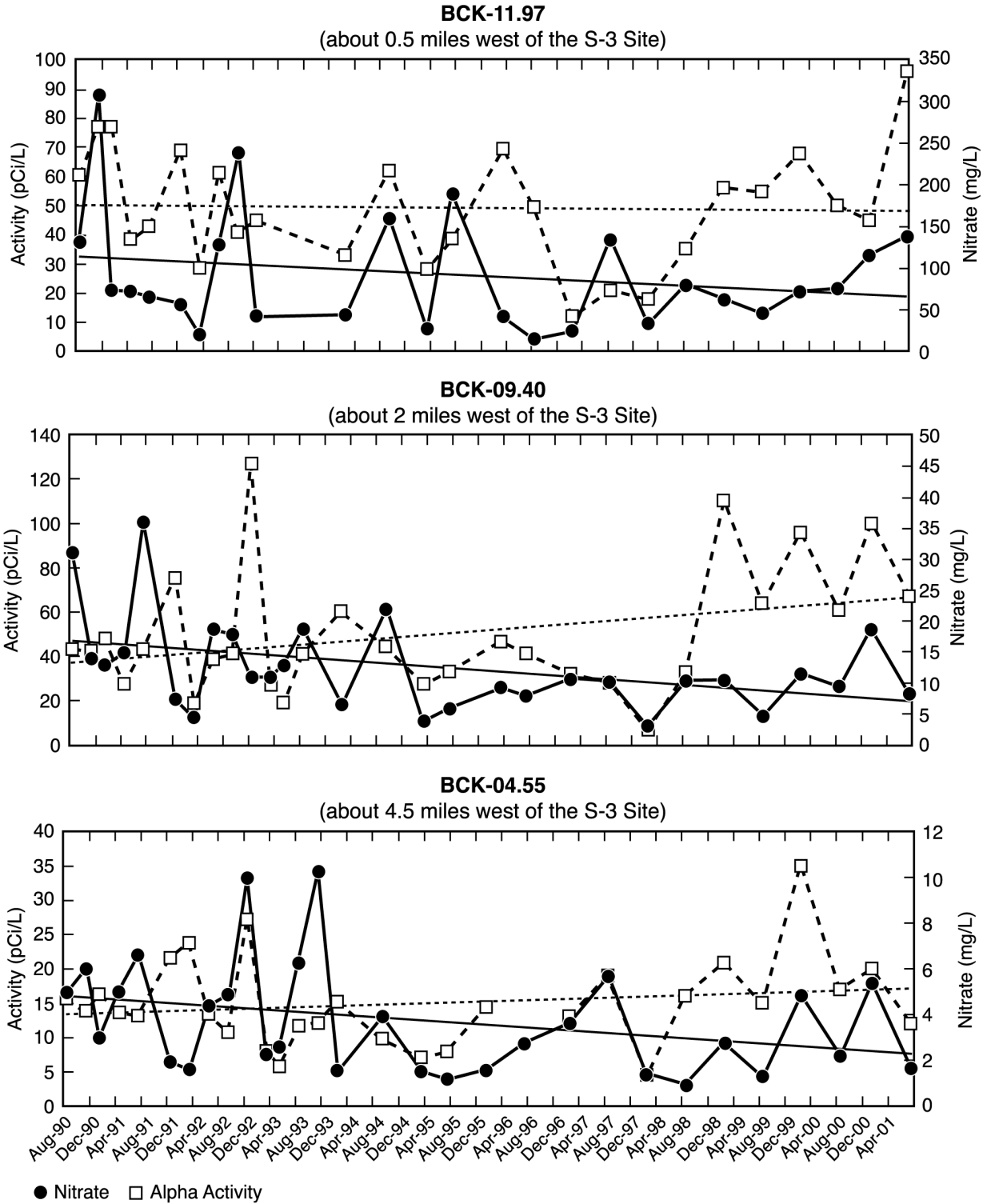


Fig. 6.27. Concentrations of selected groundwater contaminants in Bear Creek.

Table 6.16. History of waste management units included in CY 2001 groundwater monitoring activities; Chestnut Ridge Hydrogeologic Regime^a

Site	Historical data
Chestnut Ridge Sediment Disposal Basin	Operated from 1973 to 1989. Received soil and sediment from New Hope Pond and mercury-contaminated soils from the Y-12 Complex. Site was closed under RCRA in 1989. Not a documented source of groundwater contamination
Kerr Hollow Quarry	Operated from 1940s to 1988. Used for the disposal of reactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, and various debris. RCRA closure (waste removal) was conducted between 1990 and 1993. Certification of closure with some wastes remaining in place was approved by TDEC 2/95
Chestnut Ridge Security Pits	Operated from 1973 to 1988. Series of trenches for disposal of classified materials, liquid wastes, thorium, uranium, heavy metals, and various debris. Closed under RCRA in 1989. Infiltration is the primary release mechanism to groundwater
United Nuclear Corporation Site	Received about 29,000 drums of cement-fixed sludges and soils demolition materials, and low-level radioactive contaminated soils. Closed in 1992; CERCLA record of decision has been issued
Industrial Landfill II	Central sanitary landfill for the Oak Ridge Reservation. Detection monitoring under postclosure plan has been ongoing since 1996
Industrial Landfill V	New facility completed and initiated operations 4/94. Baseline groundwater monitoring began 5/93 and was completed 1/95. Currently under TDEC solid-waste-management detection monitoring
Industrial Landfill IV	Permitted to receive only nonhazardous industrial solid wastes. Detection monitoring under TDEC solid-waste-management regulations has been ongoing since 1988
Construction/Demolition Landfill VI	New facility completed and initiated operations 12/93. Baseline groundwater quality monitoring began 5/93 and was completed 12/93. Currently under permit-required detection monitoring per TDEC
Construction/Demolition Landfill VII	New facility; construction completed in 12/94. TDEC granted approval to operate 1/95. Baseline groundwater quality monitoring began in 5/93 and was completed in 1/95. Permit-required detection monitoring per TDEC was temporarily suspended 10/97 pending closure of construction/demolition Landfill VI. Reopened and began waste disposal operations in 4/01.
Filled Coal Ash Pond	Site received Y-12 Steam Plant coal ash slurries. A CERCLA record of decision has been issued. Remedial action complete

^aAbbreviations

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

TDEC = Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

tored under a CERCLA record of decision (DOE 2002b). A constructed wetlands is being utilized to prevent surface water contamination by effluent from the Filled Coal Ash Pond. The location where elevated arsenic levels were detected is up-gradient of this wetland area. Downgradient of the wetlands, concentrations are noticeably lower (below the drinking water for arsenic).

Volatile Organic Compounds

During CY 2001, the volatile organic compound concentrations observed in Well GW-305, located immediately to the southeast of Landfill IV, do not appear to be increasing as seen in previous years (Fig. 6.29). Concentrations of the volatile organic compounds in Well GW-305 have remained below applicable drinking water standards.

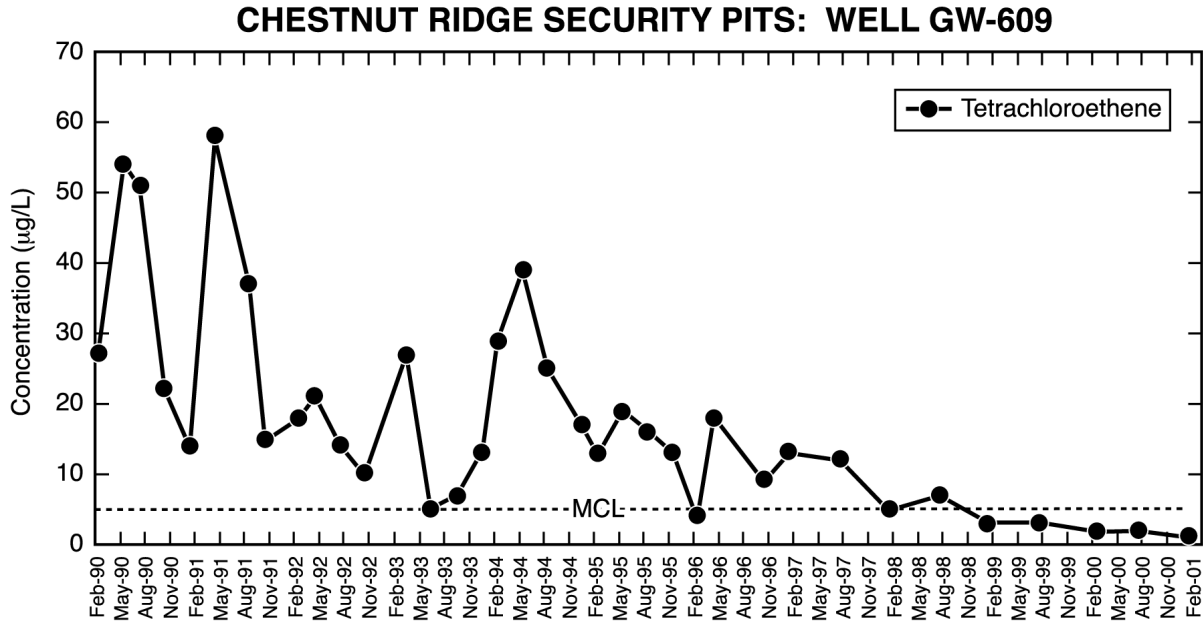
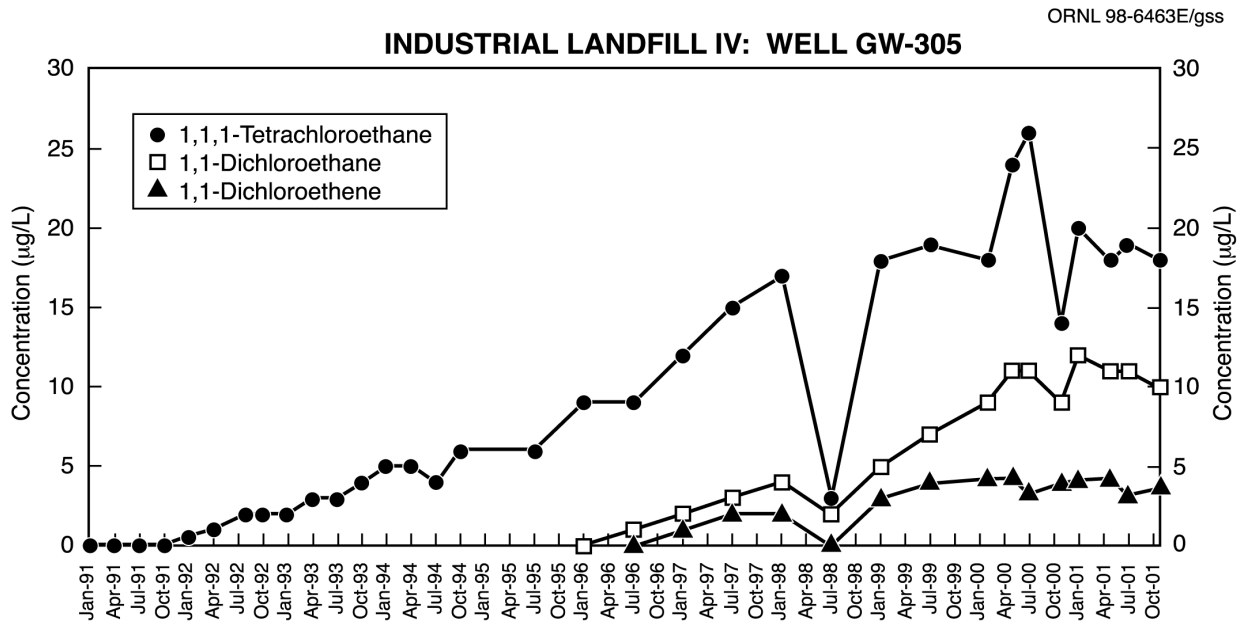


Fig. 6.28. Tetrachloroethene concentrations in Chestnut Ridge Security Pits Well GW-609.



Notes: MCLs: 1,1,1-Trichloroethane = 200 µg/L; 1,1-Dichloroethane = not applicable; 1,1-Dichloroethene = 7 µg/L.

Fig. 6.29. Volatile organic compound concentrations in Industrial Landfill IV Well GW-305.

Efforts to delineate the extent of volatile organic compounds in groundwater attributable to the Security Pits have been in progress since 1987. A review of historical data indicates that concentrations of volatile organics in groundwater at the site have generally decreased since 1988. In

CY 2001, trace levels of volatile organics (less than the drinking water standard) continued to be observed in downgradient monitoring Well GW-798, east of Industrial Landfill V. The volatile organics detected are characteristic of the Security Pits plume constituents. The presence of

volatile organics coupled with their general decrease at other wells indicates that the plume at the Security Pits is receding but that some migration through the karst dolostone to the south-east is occurring.

Radionuclides

In CY 2001, Gross alpha activities were below the drinking water standard of 15 pCi/L at all monitoring stations. Additionally, gross beta activities were below the screening level of 50 pCi/L. at all monitoring stations except at monitoring Well GW-205 at the United Nuclear site. This location has consistently exceeded 50 pCi/L gross beta activity since August 1999 (the last five samples). Isotopic analyses do not show a correlative increase in the known beta-emitting contaminant of concern at the United Nuclear site (e.g., ⁹⁰Sr).

Exit Pathway and Perimeter Monitoring

Contaminant and groundwater flow paths in the karst bedrock underlying the Chestnut Ridge regime have not been well characterized by conventional monitoring techniques. Tracer studies have been used in the past to attempt to identify exit pathways. Based on the results of tracer studies to date, no springs or surface streams that represent discharge points for groundwater have been conclusively identified for water quality monitoring.

Monitoring of one large spring south of Industrial Landfill V and Construction/ Demolition Landfill VII was continued in CY 2001 as required under the Environmental Monitoring Plan. Eight other springs and seven surface water locations within the Chestnut Ridge regime were sampled as part of overall exit pathway monitoring for the regime. No contaminants were detected at these natural discharge points.