GEOLOGY OF THE 241-S TANK FARM

by

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GEOLOGY OF THE 241-S TANK FARM

INTRODUCTION

A series of maps have been compiled to document the structure and stratigraphy of the sediments underlying the high-level radioactive waste storage tank farms located within the Energy Research and Development Administration Hanford Reservation. The primary purpose of these maps is to provide basic geologic information to be utilized to evaluate the impact of suspected and confirmed tank leaks. For convenience of usage map sets for each tank farm have been published in separate document packets (see Table I). The contents of this packet (see Table II) contain maps compiled only for the 241-S Tank Farm.

TABLE I

TANK FARM GEOLOGY DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE
AS OF APRIL, 1976*

<u>Title</u>	<u>Document Number</u>
Geology of the 241-A Tank Farm	ARH-LD-127
Geology of the 241-AX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-128
Geology of the 241-B Tank Farm	ARH-LD-129
Geology of the 241-BX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-130
Geology of the 241-BY Tank Farm	ARH-LD-131
Geology of the 241-C Tank Farm	ARH-LD-132
Geology of the 241-S Tank Farm	ARH-LD-133
Geology of the 241-SX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-134
Geology of the 241-T Tank Farm	ARH-LD-135
Geology of the 241-TX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-136
Geology of the 241-TY Tank Farm	ARH-LD-137
Geology of the 241-U Tank Farm	ARH-LD-138
Generalized Geology of the 241-SY Tank Farm	ARH-LD-139

*Additional documents will be completed as new tank farms are built and well monitoring networks installed.

TABLE II

241-S TANK FARM GEOLOGY MAPS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Drawing Number</u>
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Map Legend and Plot Plan	H-2-38984
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section A-A'	H-2-38948
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section B-B'	H-2-38949
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section C-C'	H-2-38950
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section D-D'	H-2-38951
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section E-E'	H-2-38952
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section F-F'	H-2-38953
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section G-G'	H-2-38954
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section H-H'	H-2-38955
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section I-I'	H-2-38956
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Base of Backfill	H-2-38945
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Paleotopography of Silt Horizon	H-2-38946
241-S Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Paleotopography of Silty Medium to Very Fine Sand Horizon	H-2-38947

PROCEDURES

During the drilling of 27 dry wells and 2 water wells in and around the 241-S Tank Farm, sediment samples were collected from one to 5-foot depth intervals. Information utilized to prepare this series of maps was obtained by the analysis of these samples, numbering approximately 500.

Each sediment sample was quantitatively analyzed according to grain size and CaCO_3 content. Size analysis was carried out utilizing a nest of 9 sieves selected for coincidence with the Wentworth (1922) grain size nomenclature (see H-2-38984). The CaCO_3 content of each sample was determined utilizing a semiquantitative CO_2 displacement method (Horwitz, 1970). Size and CaCO_3 data was input into the Rocksax Computer Program (Parr, 1974) which categorized each sediment sample into 1 of 19 classes (classification scheme modified after Folk, 1968; see H-2-38984). After analysis, each sample was visually examined to aid in further characterization. Each sample was subsequently stored in the Hanford Well Library for future reference.

For convenience of usage, the geologic maps were prepared at the same scale (1" = 16') as drawing H-2-36943 (Wells in 241-S Farm As-built). Steps outlining the preparation of the maps are listed in Figure 1.

GENERALIZED GEOLOGY

Included within this section is a brief discussion of the geology underlying the 241-S Tank Farm. The stratigraphic descriptions included, along with the Glossary (see page 12), are designed only to provide sufficient information to permit a general understanding of the Tank Farm maps presented. For a more detailed discussion of the regional geologic setting of the 241-S Tank Farm, the reader is referred to articles listed in the Selected References (see page 14).

The 241-S Tank Farm is underlain by four major stratigraphic units (see Figure 2); (1) basalt of the Columbia River Group which forms the bedrock beneath the area; (2) semiconsolidated sediments of the Ringold Formation which directly overlie the bedrock; (3) unconsolidated eolian silt; and

FIGURE 1

STEPS OUTLINING THE PREPARATION OF
TANK FARM GEOLOGY MAPS

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	YEARS B. P.	STRATIGRAPHIC NAME AND/OR UNIT		LITHOLOGY DESCRIPTION
CENOZOIC	QUATERNARY	MODERN	30	BACKFILL		VERY POORLY SORTED GRAVEL, SAND & SILT
		PLEISTOCENE		GLACIOFLUVIAL SEDIMENTS		FAIRLY WELL SORTED FLUVIAL SAND & SILT WITH SOME GRAVEL
				EOLIAN SILT		FINE SAND & SILT DERIVED FROM THE UPPER RINGOLD
	TERTIARY	PLIOCENE	1,000,000	RINGOLD FORMATION	UPPER RINGOLD	WELL SORTED FLUVIAL OR LACUSTRINE SILT & SAND WITH SOME CALCAREOUS LAYERS
					MIDDLE RINGOLD	FLUVIAL GRAVEL & SAND VARIABLY CEMENTED WITH CALCIUM CARBONATE & SILICA
		MIOCENE	11,000,000	COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT GROUP	ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN MEMBER	DENSE BLACK EXTRUSIVE IGNEOUS ROCK, MICRO VESICULAR, BRICK BAT ENTABLATURE & NO COLUMNADE
					RATTLESNAKE RIDGE MEMBER	TUFFACEOUS SANDSTONE
					POMONA MEMBER	DENSE BLACK EXTRUSIVE IGNEOUS ROCK, SCATTERED OLIVINE PHENOCRYSTS, UPPER & SOMETIMES BASAL ENTABLATURE WELL DEVELOPED, FAN JOINTING IN COLUMNADE

WHP/KRF 1976

FIGURE 2

GENERALIZED STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN FOR
THE 200 AREA TANK FARMS

(4) unconsolidated sand, silt, and gravel, collectively termed glaciofluvial sediments, which directly overlie the eolian silt. A more detailed description of the character of these units underlying the Tank Farm follows.

COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT GROUP

About 20 million years ago a series of fissures opened around the periphery of the subsiding Pasco Basin and large volumes of basaltic lava poured out over the land surface. The highly fluid lava was extruded intermittently from these fissures until approximately 8 million years ago. At the cessation of Columbia River Basalt volcanism, the basin had been filled with more than 12,000 feet of basalt.

The surface of the Columbia River Basalt lies beneath 241-S Tank Farm at an elevation of 90 feet (all elevations based on feet above mean sea level measured at approximate center of Tank Farm). On the 241-S Tank Farm maps, this surface occurs approximately 270 feet below the bottom border of the prepared cross sections.

RINGOLD FORMATION

Following the cessation of Columbia River Basalt volcanism the ancestral Columbia River transported sediments from the surrounding highlands into the Pasco Basin where they accumulated to form the Ringold Formation. Beneath the Hanford Reservation, this formation is up to 1200 feet thick and can generally be divided into three units on the basis of lithology; the clays and silts of the lower Ringold unit; the pebbles and cobbles of the middle Ringold unit; and the silts and fine sands of the upper Ringold unit.

Within the region beneath 241-S Tank Farm, the lower Ringold unit is missing. The combined thickness of the middle and upper Ringold units present is approximately 422 feet.

Middle Ringold

Beneath the 241-S Tank Farm, the 411-foot thick middle Ringold unit lies unconformably on the Columbia River Basalt and dips to the southeast about

50 feet per mile. The unit consists predominantly of well-rounded pebbles and cobbles with the interstitial spaces filled with medium to fine sand and silt cemented in places with SiO_2 or CaCO_3 . Table III summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 values of the middle Ringold sediments.

TABLE III

TYPICAL GRAIN SIZE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES
FOR MAJOR MIDDLE RINGOLD LITHOLOGIES
BENEATH 241-S TANK FARM

Lithology	%Pebbles & Cobbles	% Sand					%Silt & Clay	%CaCO ₃
		Very Coarse	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Very Fine		
Sandy Gravel	77	2	3	4	9	5	1	.3
Cemented Calcareous to Siliceous Slightly Silty Sandy Gravel	70	4	6	6	8	5	1	0-12.0
Coarse to Medium Sand	2	11	25	29	15	11	7	1.0
Slightly Cemented Calcareous to Siliceous Slightly Silty Sand Gravel	72	4	5	6	7	5	1	0-12.0
Coarse to Medium Sand	1	9	26	36	15	10	4	1.0
Cemented Calcareous to Siliceous Slightly Silty Sandy Gravel	67	8	7	6	6	5	1	0-12.0

The lower portion of the middle Ringold unit (elevation 90-233 feet) is blue-gray in color suggesting that the sediments have not undergone oxidation and have continuously been below the water table since their deposition. In contrast, sediments of the middle Ringold unit above the 223-foot elevation level have undergone oxidation as evidenced by their gray-brown color and their well developed weathering rinds.

Although the middle Ringold unit consists predominantly of pebbles and cobbles, a few sand units up to 17 feet in thickness occur beneath 200 West Area. Such units represent either lacustrine or fluvial deposits laid down during periods of decreased velocity of the ancestral Columbia River. Two such units are found beneath the 241-S Tank Farm at elevations of 378 feet and 398 feet.

Upper Ringold

The upper Ringold unit, which overlies the middle Ringold unit, occurs between elevations 501 and 512 feet. The unit consists predominately of coarse to medium sand and silt. These sediments, like the sand units of the middle Ringold, are representative of a period of decreased velocity of the ancestral Columbia River or temporary ponding. Table IV summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 values of the upper Ringold unit.

TABLE IV

TYPICAL GRAIN SIZE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES
FOR UPPER RINGOLD LITHOLOGY
BENEATH 241-S TANK FARM

<u>Lithology</u>	<u>%Pebbles & Cobbles</u>	<u>% Sand</u>					<u>%Silt & Clay</u>	<u>%CaCO₃</u>
		<u>Very Coarse</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Very Fine</u>		
Slightly Silty Coarse to Medium Sand	1	10	21	22	15	11	20	1.2

EOLIAN SILT DEPOSIT

After deposition of the upper Ringold, the top of the unit was subjected to subaerial erosion. The surface of the unit was altered by wind which winnowed, reworked, and redeposited the sands and silts. These wind-deposited sediments, termed Early Palouse soil or eolian silt, occur beneath the 241-S Tank Farm between elevations 512 and 573 feet. Table V summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 content of the eolian silt.

TABLE V

TYPICAL GRAIN SIZE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES
FOR 241-S TANK FARM EOLIAN SILT

<u>Lithology</u>	<u>%Pebbles & Cobbles</u>	<u>% Sand</u>					<u>%Silt & Clay</u>	<u>%CaCO₃</u>
		<u>Very Coarse</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Very Fine</u>		
Silty Very Fine Sand to Sandy Silt	0	0	1	9	20	34	36	2.0

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS

During the close of the Ice Age, approximately 20,000 years ago, a continental ice sheet covered much of northern Washington. As the ice sheet retreated northward, the breakup of ice dams resulted in catastrophic floods in which large volumes of glacial meltwater were released. During one of these floods, over 500 cubic miles of water is estimated to have poured into the Pasco Basin at a rate of more than 9 cubic miles of water per hour. Sediments deposited within the basin by such flooding now comprise the glaciofluvial unit. The characteristic variability of sediment size and degree of sorting within this unit can be attributed to changes in water velocity and water level which occurred during the flooding process.

Glaciofluvial deposits are found beneath the 241-S Tank Farm between elevations 573 and 617 feet. The 44-foot thick section of these deposits consists predominantly of coarse to very fine sand with some silt and pebbles. Table VI summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 values of the glaciofluvial sediments.

TABLE VI

TYPICAL GRAIN SIZE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES
FOR MAJOR GLACIOFLUVIAL LITHOLOGIES
BENEATH 241-S TANK FARM

<u>Lithology</u>	<u>%Pebbles & Cobbles</u>	<u>% Sand</u>					<u>%Silt & Clay</u>	<u>%CaCO_3</u>
		<u>Very Coarse</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Very Fine</u>		
Slightly Pebbly Very Coarse to Medium Sand to Silty Sandy Medium to Very Fine Pebble	14	17	21	19	10	9	10	1.3
Slightly Silty Medium to Very Fine Sand to Medium to Very Fine Sand	1	4	12	20	23	24	16	1.6
Silty Medium to Very Fine Sand	0	0	3	18	25	26	26	2.0

CLASTIC DIKES

Throughout the Pasco Basin, clastic dikes are found cross-cutting the Ringold Formation and glaciofluvial sediments. These dikes, which range from a few inches to several feet in width, are known to exist to depths of more than 100 feet below the ground surface. Generally, the dikes are composed of fine silts to coarse sands. The origin of the clastic dikes is still in refute and will not be discussed here (see Selected References). Identification of clastic dikes by drilling is difficult and although some dikes were detected in the 241-S Tank Farm, they could not be mapped.

BACKFILL MATERIAL

In preparation for tank construction, glaciofluvial material was excavated at the 241-S Tank Farm site. This material, consisting predominantly of pebbles, and coarse to medium sands to silts, was subsequently used as backfill from the base of the completed tanks (617 feet) to the ground surface (664 feet). An inherent characteristic of the backfill is its poor sorting. Grain size and CaCO_3 values for the backfill are found in Table VII.

TABLE VII

TYPICAL GRAIN SIZE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES
FOR THE 241-S TANK FARM BACKFILL

<u>Lithology</u>	<u>%Pebbles & Cobbles</u>	<u>% Sand</u>					<u>%Silt & Clay</u>	<u>%CaCO₃</u>
		<u>Very Coarse</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Very Fine</u>		
Slightly Pebbly Slightly Silty Coarse to Fine Sand to Slightly Silty Pebbly Coarse to Fine Sand	12	12	17	18	17	11	13	1.2

WATER TABLE

The water table beneath the 241-S Tank Farm is located within the middle Ringold unit at an elevation of 478 feet, 139 feet below the base of the tanks. For further information concerning contours on the water table beneath 200 West Area the reader is referred to drawings H-2-38397 (200 West Area Water Table Map) and H-2-38877 (200 West Area Depth to Water Map).

GLOSSARY

Basalt. Fine-grained, dark-colored, extrusive igneous rock.

Calcareous. Containing calcium carbonate.

Caliche. Gravel, sand, or silt cemented by calcium carbonate.

Cement. Chemically precipitated material occurring in the interstices between particles of gravel, sand, or silt.

Clastic. A textural term applied to rocks composed of fragmental material derived from pre-existing rocks.

Clastic dike. A tabular body of clastic material transecting the bedding of a sedimentary formation, representing extraneous material that has invaded the containing formation along a crack.

Dip. The angle at which a stratum or any planar feature is inclined from the horizontal.

Eolian. A formation formed by, or deposited from, the wind or currents of air.

Fluvial. Produced by the action of a river or stream.

Formation. The ordinary unit of geologic mapping consisting of a large and persistent stratum of some one kind of rock.

Glaciofluvial. Pertaining to streams flowing from glaciers or to the deposits made by such streams.

Grain. The particles or discrete crystals which comprise a rock or sediment.

Group. A local or provincial subdivision of a series, based on lithologic features and contains two or more formations.

Lacustrine. A formation deposited in a lake environment.

Lava. Fluid rock such as that which issues from a volcano or a fissure in the earth's surface and the same material solidified by cooling.

Lithology. The description of rocks or sediments on the basis of such characteristics as color, mineralogic composition and grain size.

Sediment. Descriptive term for gravel, sand, and silt transported from their sources and deposited by air, water, or ice.

Sieve. A utensil having many small perforated openings, used to separate fine particles from coarser ones.

Siliceous. Containing silica.

Silt. Fine grained material between sand and clay in size.

Sorting. The grain size range of the sediments.

Stratigraphy. The part of descriptive geology of an area that pertains to the discrimination, character, thickness, sequence, age and correlation of the sediments and rocks of the area.

Subaerial. Formed, existing, or taking place on the land surface.

Unconformity. A surface of erosion or nondeposition that separates younger strata from older strata.

Water table. The upper surface of a zone of saturation except where that surface is formed by an impermeable body.

Winnowing. Separation of fine particles from coarser ones by wind action.

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PLOT PLAN VIEW

CROSS-SECTION VIEW

SOLID LINE ON CROSS-SECTION.
DASHED LINE WHEN PROJECTED TO
CROSS-SECTION; DISTANCE AND
DIRECTION FROM CROSS-SECTION
ARE GIVEN.

2 - COOKINATES
BASED ON HANFORD COORDINATE SYSTEM.

3- PLANE OF CROSS-SECTION

PLOT PLAN VIEW

CROSS-SECTION VIEW

4. TANK DESIGNATION
TANKS PREFIXED BY 24-

5 - CONTACT BETWEEN LITHOLOGIES

SOLID LINE WHERE ACCURATELY KNOWN
DASHED LINE IF APPROXIMATELY KNOWN
QUERIED DASHED LINE WHERE INFERRED
BASE OF BACKFILL

6- LENSES OR STRINGERS

DISCONTINUOUS SEDIMENTS LESS THAN TWO FEET THICK
DISCONTINUOUS SEDIMENTS GREATER THAN TWO FEET THICK

7- WATER TABLE

CROSS-SECTION VIEW
DATUM - MEAN SEA LEVEL

WATER TABLE (12/75)
DATE WATER LEVEL
MEASUREMENTS TAKEN

8- HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL SCALES

VERTICAL EXAGGERATION - 1X
VERTICAL SCALE - FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL

9. SEDIMENT DESCRIPTION

SEDIMENTS BEHIND THE TANK FARMS ARE CLASSIFIED ON THE BASIS OF ONE OF NINETEEN SEDIMENT TYPES (SEDIMENT CLASSIFICATION). FURTHER DETAIL IS GIVEN USING MODIFIERS FROM THE GRAIN SIZE NOMENCLATURE. SEDIMENTS WITH CHEMICALLY PRECIPITATED MATERIALS OCCURRING IN THE INTERSTICES BETWEEN GRAINS ARE PREFIXED BY THE TERM CEMENTED. SEDIMENTS WITH GREATER THAN 10% CALCIUM CARBONATE ARE PREFIXED BY THE MODIFIER CALCAREOUS. SEDIMENTS CONTAINING SILICA IN THE INTERSTICES BETWEEN GRAINS ARE MODIFIED BY THE TERM SILICEOUS.

SEDIMENT CLASSIFICATION (MODIFIED AFTER R.L.FOLK, 1968)

GRAIN SIZE NOMENCLATURE (MODIFIED AFTER C.K.WENTWORTH, 1922)

PARTICLE DESIGNATION			PARTICLE DIAMETER (MM)
GRAVEL	BOULDER		> 256
	COBBLE	LARGE	256 - 128
		SMALL	128 - 64
	PEBBLE	VERY COARSE	64 - 32
		COARSE	32 - 16
		MEDIUM	16 - 8
		FINE	8 - 4
		VERY FINE	4 - 2
SAND	VERY COARSE	2 - 1	
	COARSE	1 - 0.5	
	MEDIUM	0.5 - 0.25	
	FINE	0.25 - 0.125	
	VERY FINE	0.125 - 0.0625	
SILT + CLAY			< 0.0625

200 WEST AREA

[illegible]

BY DATE FOR		BY DATE FOR		BY DATE FOR		DESCRIPTION		REVISIONS	
REV NO	DATE	REV NO	DATE	REV NO	DATE	DATE	CHECK PRT ISSUE NO	DATE	DATE
REFERENCE DRAWINGS		COMMENT PRT ISSUE NO		DRAWING STATUS					
NEXT USED ON									

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APPROVED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH DESIGN CRITERIA	DATE	CROSS SECTION A-A'	
BY: <i>[Signature]</i>	4/1/76	PROJ NO CK00651	
FOR: <i>[Signature]</i>		W.D. NO 241-S	
APPROVED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH DESIGN CRITERIA	DATE	PROJ TITLE	
BY: <i>[Signature]</i>	4/1/76	GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION	
FOR: <i>[Signature]</i>		W.D. NO 241-S	
APPROVED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH DESIGN CRITERIA	DATE	PROJ NO	
BY: <i>[Signature]</i>	4/1/76	H-2-38948	
FOR: <i>[Signature]</i>		GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION	
APPROVED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH DESIGN CRITERIA	DATE	W.D. NO	
BY: <i>[Signature]</i>	4/1/76	241-S	
FOR: <i>[Signature]</i>		GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION	
APPROVED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH DESIGN CRITERIA	DATE	PROJ NO	
BY: <i>[Signature]</i>	4/1/76	H-2-38948	
FOR: <i>[Signature]</i>		GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION	
APPROVED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH DESIGN CRITERIA	DATE	W.D. NO	
BY: <i>[Signature]</i>	4/1/76	241-S	
FOR: <i>[Signature]</i>		GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION

										SA APP'D <u>10/26/2000</u> <u>11/14</u> CHECKED 10/26/00		GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION CROSS SECTION B-B'	
		BY DATE	FOR	BY DATE	FOR	DESCRIPTION		REV	BY	DATE	GRAPHIC SCALE T LIM 1" = 16'-0" 10/26/00	PROJ NO W/O NO CK0065	PROJ TITLE GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION
		MICRO PLOT		APPRO FOR CONFORM WITH DESIGN CRIT		APPRO		BY	DATE		CLASSIFICATION NOT REQUIRED	DATE 241-S	ISSUE NO 0402.0501
DWG NO.	REV	DRAWING TITLE OR INDEX NO				REVISIONS				DATE	LAST REV	DATE	DATE
		REFERENCE DRAWINGS				COMMENT PRT ISSUE NO		DATE	CHECK PRT ISSUE NO	DATE	CLASSIFICATION	DWG NO.	PROJECT NO. REV. BY DATE
NEXT USED ON		DRAWING STATUS									NONE	H-2-38949	-