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Radiological Verification Survey
Results at 15 Peck Ave.,
Pequannock, New Jersey
(PJ005V)

R. E. Rodriguez
C. A. Johnson

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HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH DIVISION
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Radiological Verification Survey Results at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey (PJ005V)

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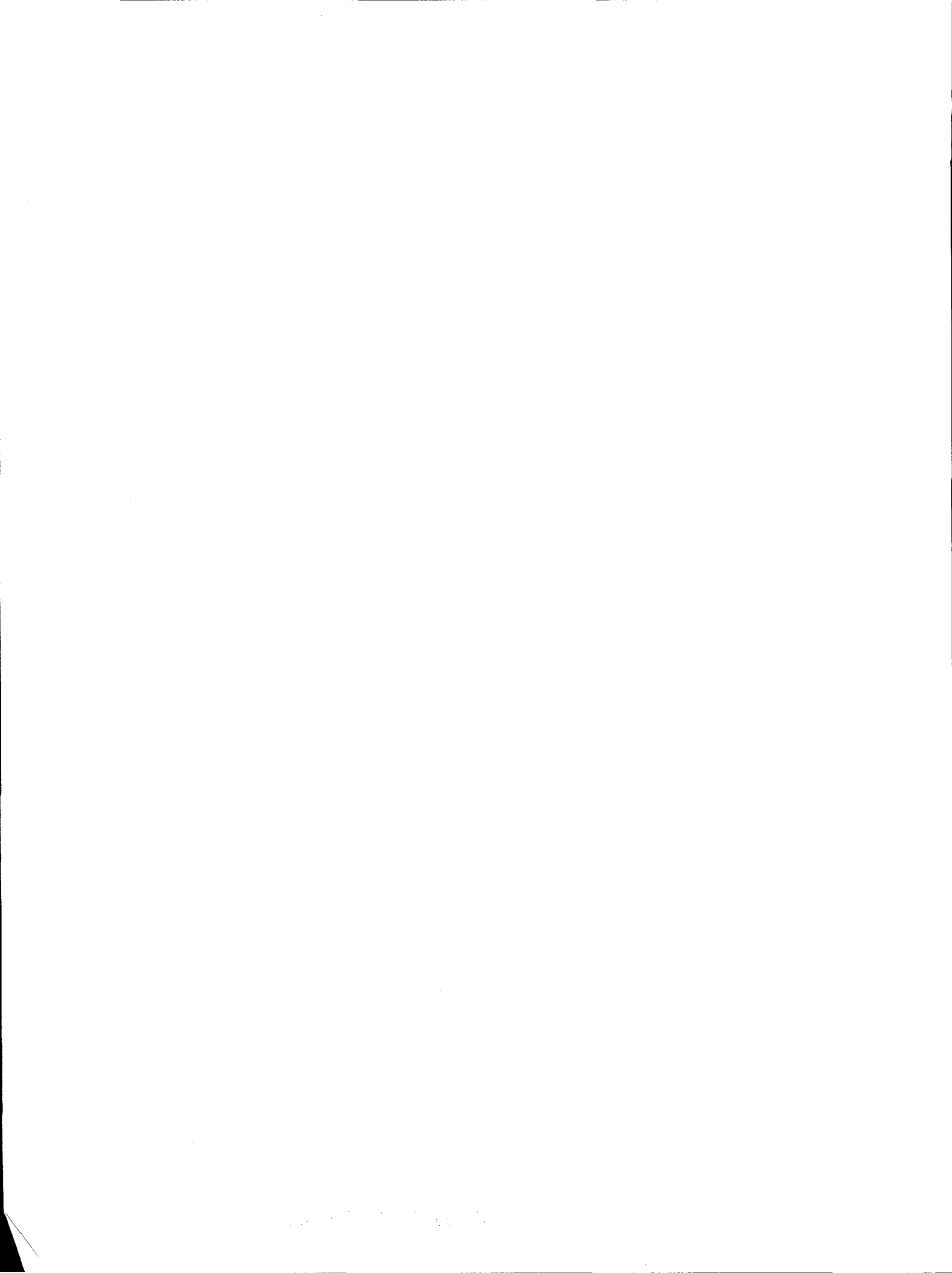
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CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	v
LIST OF TABLES	vii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	xi
INTRODUCTION.....	1
SCOPE OF THE SURVEY.....	1
VERIFICATION SURVEY AND ANALYSIS.....	2
CONCLUSIONS.....	3

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LIST OF FIGURES

- 1 Diagram showing general location of the Wayne Interim Storage Site (WISS) relative to the Wayne and Pequannock, New Jersey vicinity properties..... 4
- 2 Diagram of the property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey showing soil sampling locations and gamma measurements..... 5

LIST OF TABLES

1	Concentrations of radionuclides in soil at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey (PJ005V).....	6
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ABSTRACT

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted remedial action during 1993 at the Pompton Plains Railroad Spur and eight vicinity properties in the Wayne and Pequannock Townships in New Jersey as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). These properties are in the vicinity of the DOE-owned Wayne Interim Storage Site (WISS), formerly the W. R. Grace facility. The property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey is one of these vicinity properties.

At the request of DOE, a team from Oak Ridge National Laboratory conducted an independent radiological verification survey at this property. The purpose of the survey, conducted between September and December 1993, was to confirm the success of the remedial actions performed to remove any radioactive materials in excess of the identified guidelines. The verification survey included surface gamma scans and gamma readings at 1 meter, beta-gamma scans, and the collection of soil and debris samples for radionuclide analysis.

Results of the survey demonstrated that all radiological measurements on the property at 15 Peck Ave. were within applicable DOE guidelines. Based on the results of the remedial action data and confirmed by the verification survey data, the portions of the site that had been remediated during this action successfully meet the DOE remedial action objectives.

RADIOLOGICAL VERIFICATION SURVEY RESULTS AT 15 PECK AVE., PEQUANNOCK, NEW JERSEY (PJ005V)*

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), the Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a remedial action project in 1993 at several residential vicinity properties in the Townships of Pequannock and Wayne, New Jersey. Figure 1 shows the general location of these vicinity properties.

From September to December 1993, a team from the Measurements Application and Development Group, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) conducted radiological verification surveys of these properties in the Wayne and Pequannock, New Jersey areas. The property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, was one of the properties that had previously been surveyed and designated for remedial action. After completion of the remediation, the team from ORNL conducted a radiological verification survey of this property at the request of DOE. The verification survey consisted primarily of a complete gamma scan of the grounds and the collection of soil samples for radionuclide analysis.

This report describes the radiological verification survey of the private residential property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey, conducted by ORNL at the request of the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Restoration.

The property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey is a single family dwelling with asphalt driveway and walk, and separate garage (see Fig. 2).

A walkover survey of the property (a technician walks slowly over the property swinging a detection probe at ~1-2 inches from the ground surface) was conducted in October and November 1993 by ORNL's Measurement Applications and Development Group. The purpose of the survey, which included the remediated areas in the front yard and driveway, was to determine whether any radiological residues above guidelines remained on the property.

A field survey drawing showing 10-m grids and indicating soil sampling locations and gamma radiation measurements is included in this report as Fig. 2.

SCOPE OF THE SURVEY

A comprehensive description of the survey methods and instrumentation used in this survey is given in *Procedures Manual for the ORNL Radiological Survey Activities*

* The survey was performed by members of the Measurement Applications and Development Group of the Health Sciences Research Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory under DOE contract DE-AC05-84OR21400.

(RASA) Program, ORNL/TM-8600 (April 1987) and in *Measurement Applications and Development Group Guidelines*, ORNL-6782 (January 1995).

The radiological verification survey of this property included: (1) a surface gamma scan of the grounds, sidewalks, and driveway, and (2) the collection of surface and subsurface soil samples for analysis.

Gamma radiation levels were determined using a portable sodium iodide (NaI) gamma scintillation detector connected to a Victoreen ratemeter. Measurements were recorded and converted to $\mu\text{R}/\text{h}$. Because NaI gamma scintillators are energy dependent, measurements of gamma radiation levels in counts per minute (CPM) are normalized to pressurized ionization chamber (PIC) measurements to estimate gamma exposure rates in $\mu\text{R}/\text{h}$.

Surface (0-15 cm, or 0 to 6 in) and subsurface (15-30 cm, or 6 to 12 in) soil samples were collected at various locations over the property. Confirmatory samples were taken from the remediated areas and are referred to as biased samples, labeled B1 and B2. Systematic samples (S1-S7) were taken at random irrespective of gamma exposure rates. Locations of the samples are shown in Fig. 2, and results of the radionuclide analysis are shown in Table 1.

Direct measurement results presented in this report are gross readings; background radiation levels have not been subtracted. Similarly, background radiation levels have not been subtracted from radionuclide concentrations measured in environmental samples.

VERIFICATION SURVEY AND ANALYSIS

Gamma measurements at one meter from the surface ranged from 9 to 12 $\mu\text{R}/\text{h}$ over all the property as shown on Fig. 2. These measurements are comparable to the natural background levels for this area. Gamma measurements generally ranged from 13 to 20 $\mu\text{R}/\text{h}$ at surface contact in the remediated areas in the front yard and driveway. Soil samples were taken from these areas.

Surface and subsurface soil samples were collected from the front and back yards of the property, including biased samples taken from the remediated areas in the front yard and asphalt drive. All samples were analyzed for radium (^{226}Ra), thorium (^{232}Th), and uranium (^{238}U).

Results of the soil analyses are in picocuries per gram (pCi/g) and are shown in Table 1. Radionuclide concentrations of ^{226}Ra (including surface and subsurface soil) in both systematic and biased samples ranged from 0.53 to 0.84 pCi/g. Concentrations of ^{232}Th in systematic and biased samples ranged from 0.80 to 1.5 pCi/g. These values are

all below the DOE guideline for these radionuclides in soil which is 5 and 15 pCi/g above background averaged over 100 m² for surface and subsurface soil, respectively.*

Concentrations of ²³⁸U in soil ranged from 0.60 to 1.2 pCi/g in both systematic and biased samples. These values are well below the site specific guidelines for uranium in soil.**

CONCLUSIONS

Gamma measurements on the property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey were comparable to the average values for the area. The previously remediated areas in the front yard and driveway of the property were thoroughly investigated for radionuclide residues. The results of soil radionuclide analysis for ²³⁸U, ²²⁶Ra, and ²³²Th indicate that all soil concentration measurements are within the limits prescribed by DOE radiological guidelines.

Based on the results of the remedial action data and confirmed by the verification survey data, all radiological measurements fall below the limits prescribed by DOE radiological guidelines established for this site. It is concluded that the portions of the site which had been remediated during this action successfully meet the DOE remedial action objectives.

*For residential properties in this area the guideline for ²³²Th is 5 pCi/g for both surface and subsurface soil.

** DOE guidelines for uranium are derived on a site-specific basis. Guidelines of 100 pCi/g have been applied to this FUSRAP site. Source: Memo, J. W. Wagoner II, Director, Division of Off-Site Programs, Office of Environmental Restoration, U. S. Department of Energy, to L. K. Price, Director, Former Sites Restoration Division, Oak Ridge Field Office, U. S. DOE, April 25, 1995.

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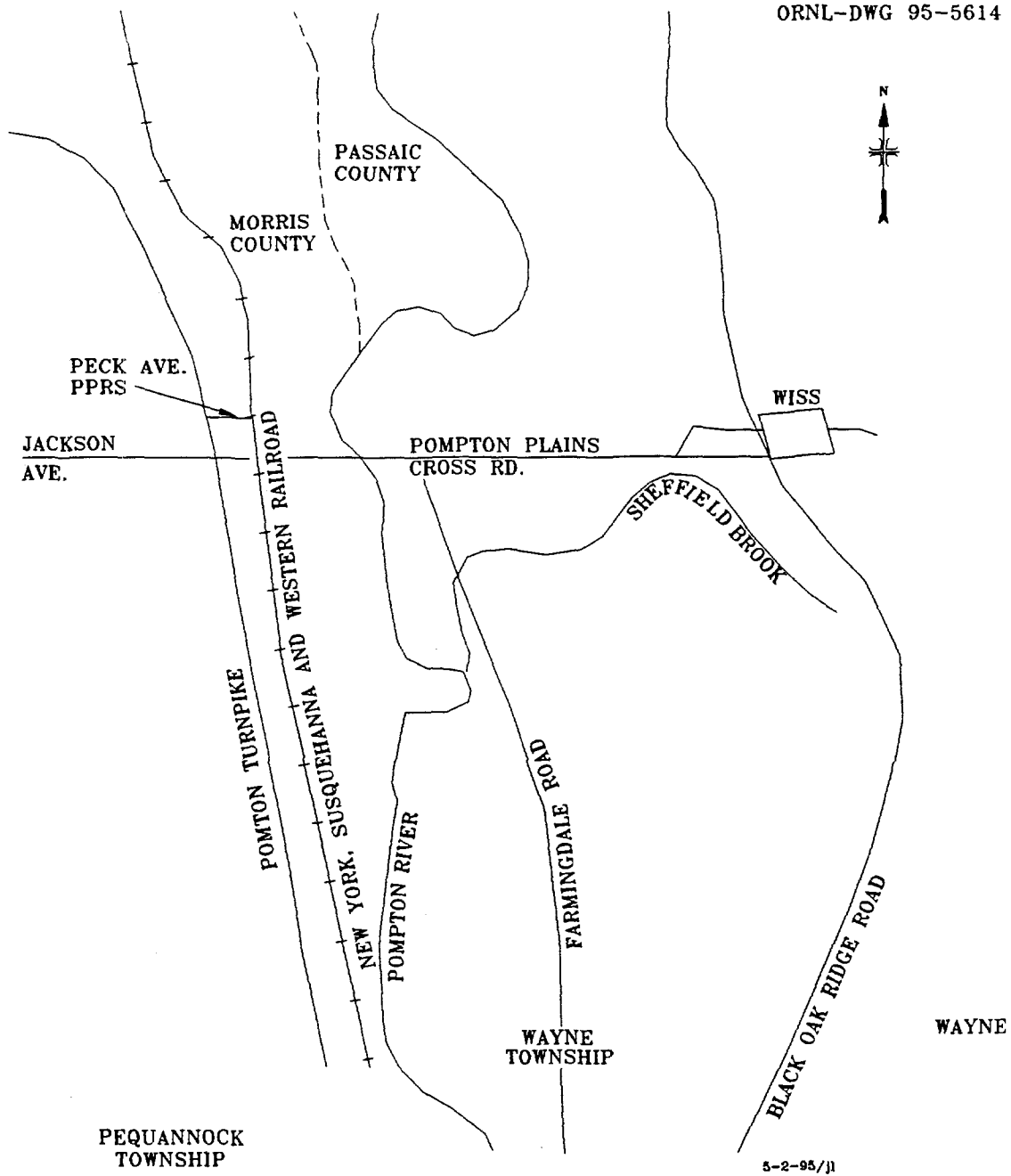


Fig. 1. Diagram showing general location of the Wayne Interim Storage Site (WISS) relative to the Wayne and Pequannock, New Jersey vicinity properties.

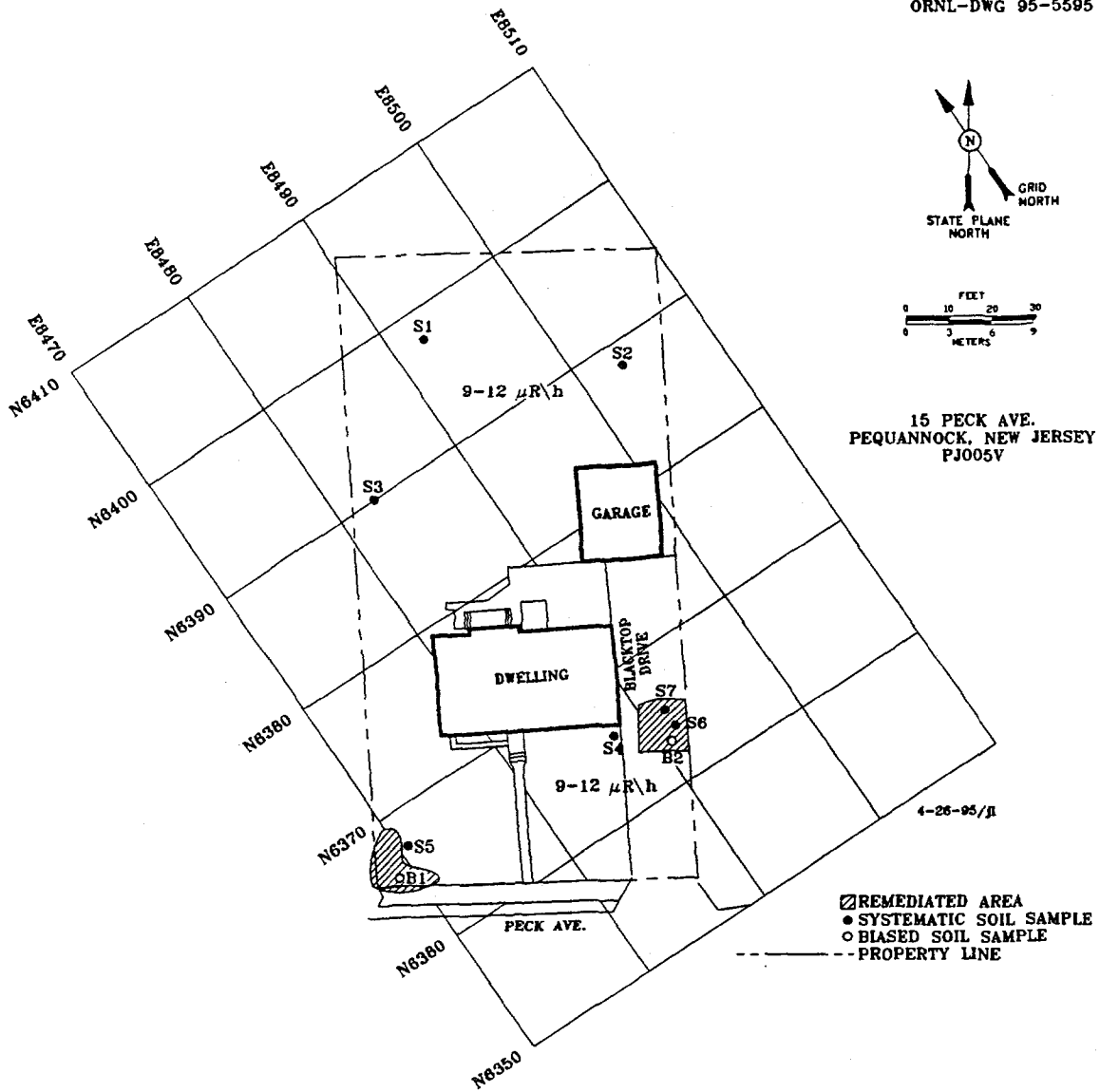


Fig. 2. Diagram of the property at 15 Peck Ave., Pequanock, New Jersey showing soil sampling locations and gamma measurements.

Table 1. Concentrations of radionuclides in soil at 15 Peck Ave., Pequannock, New Jersey (PJ005V)

Sample number ^a	Grid location	Depth (cm)	Radionuclide concentration (pCi/g) ^b		
			²²⁶ Ra	²³² Th	²³⁸ U
<i>Systematic samples^c</i>					
S1	6396N,8493E	0-15	0.82±0.1	1.01±0.1	0.61±0.4
S2	6387N,8503E	0-15	0.82±0.1	0.98±0.2	0.99±0.4
S3	6390N,8483E	0-15	0.76±0.1	0.86±0.2	<0.8
S4A	6365N,8488E	0-15	0.76±0.1	1.03±0.2	1.2 ±0.6
S4B		15-30	0.64±0.1	0.97±0.1	0.60±0.3
S5	6367N,8471E	0-15	0.84±0.1	1.50±0.2	0.60±0.2
S6	6364N,8493E	30-45	0.83±0.09	1.50±0.2	0.60±0.2
S7	6365N,8493E	0-15	0.77±0.08	1.20±0.1	0.65±0.3
<i>Biased samples^d</i>					
B1	6365N, 8469E	0-3 ^e	0.53±0.08	0.80±0.2	0.90±0.3
B2	6363N,8492E	0-15	0.65±0.08	1.50±0.2	1.10±0.6

^aLocations of soil samples are shown on Fig. 2.

^bIndicated counting error is at the 95% confidence level ($\pm 2\sigma$).

^cSystematic samples are taken at locations irrespective of gamma exposure rates.

^dBiased samples are taken from areas with elevated gamma exposure rates.

^eLateral scraping from remediated area, ~ 1 in from the surface.

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