

REGION V

SUITE 202, WALNUT CREEK PLAZA
1990 N. CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

March 31, 1976

Dear Resident:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Nevada Department of Human Resources recently cooperated in a joint investigation into allegations that employees at a radioactive waste burial ground near Beatty, Nevada, had been removing equipment and materials from the site.

Our investigation confirmed these reports and, with the cooperation of the residents of Beatty, we were able to recover many items. The recovered items have been returned to the burial ground. I am pleased to say that our investigation indicates that there is no health hazard from radioactivity in Beatty.

We discovered during the investigation that a number of steel tanks, measuring seven feet high by six feet in diameter, were taken from the burial ground during the 1967-73 period and placed in use in the Beatty area. These tanks originally were used to ship radioactive waste materials to the Beatty facility. We have located many of these tanks and conducted radiation surveys. Fortunately, none has shown any traces of radioactivity.

As a precaution, we are making a continuing effort to locate any additional tanks that may have been removed from the facility and survey them for any traces of contamination. We would appreciate your help in this effort.

If you have one of these large tanks on your property and have reason to believe that it came from the Nuclear Engineering Company (NECO) facility in Beatty, we would like to make arrangements to survey the tanks at your convenience. Please complete the attached questionnaire if you have one of these tanks or any other material that may have come from NECO and return the form in the enclosed addressed envelope. For your assistance in identifying the proper tanks, we are including a drawing on the back of this letter.

Your help will be appreciated. Our only interest is in assuring that the public health and safety is protected. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Herbert E. Book or Mr. Frank A. Menslawski collect at 415-486-3141 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Engelken
R. H. Engelken
Director

POOR ORIGINAL



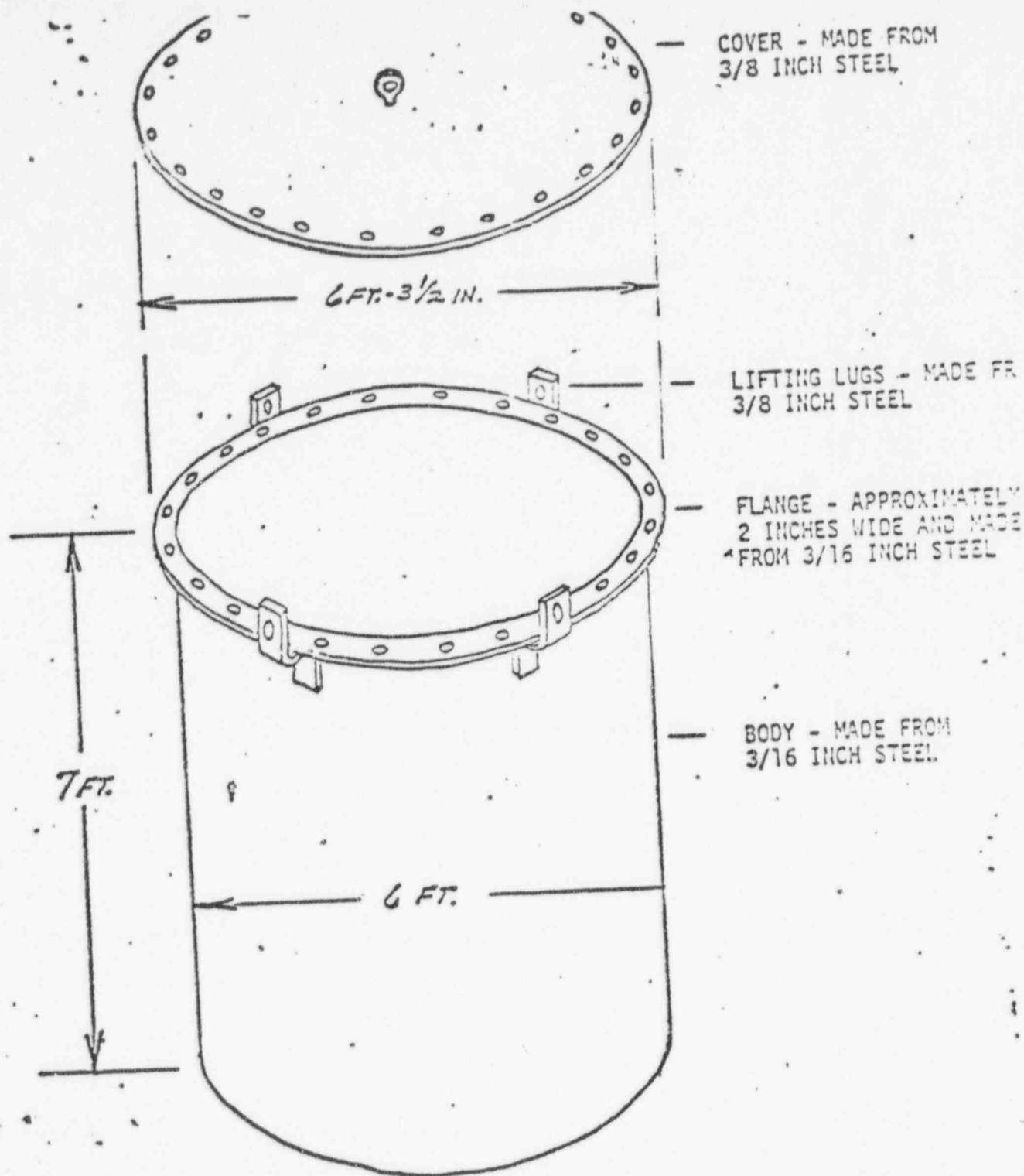
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ATTACHMENT

D

7912280

667



NOTE: TANK CONFIGURATION MAY VARY, FOR EXAMPLE: A TANK MAY CONSIST OF ONE AND A HALF TANKS OR TWO OR MORE TANKS WELDED TOGETHER TO FORM A LARGER TANK.

POOR ORIGINAL

90003219

MAIL IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE (NO POSTAGE NECESSARY) TO:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
1990 N. California Boulevard -
Suite 202
Walnut Creek, California 94596

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (702) _____

I have at my property the following material, which I believe may have come from the Nuclear Engineering Co. waste burial facility in Beatty:

Large Steel Tank(s) (7 ft. high, 6 ft. diam), indicate quantity _____

The tank(s) presently in use for _____

Approximate year tank(s) acquired _____

Location of tank(s) _____

Other material that may have come from NECO (briefly describe) _____

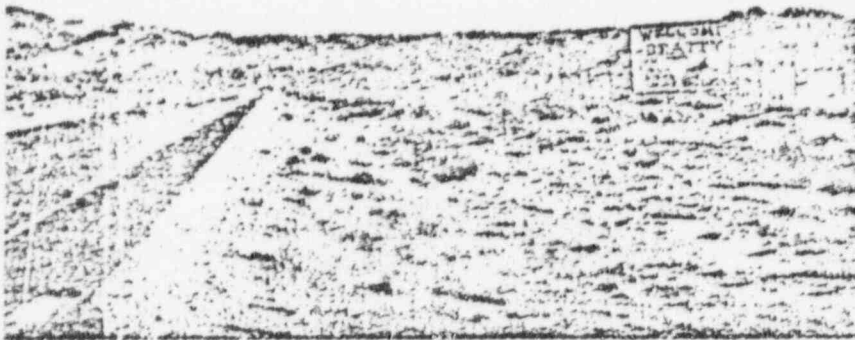
I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would like to conduct a radiation survey of this material.

(Signed) _____

90003220

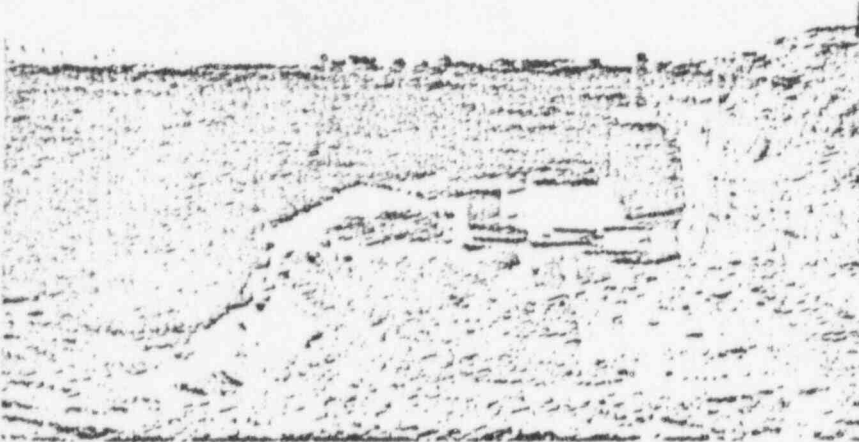
#1

Road into Beatty; northbound Highway 95, photograph taken approximately 1 mile south of town.



#2

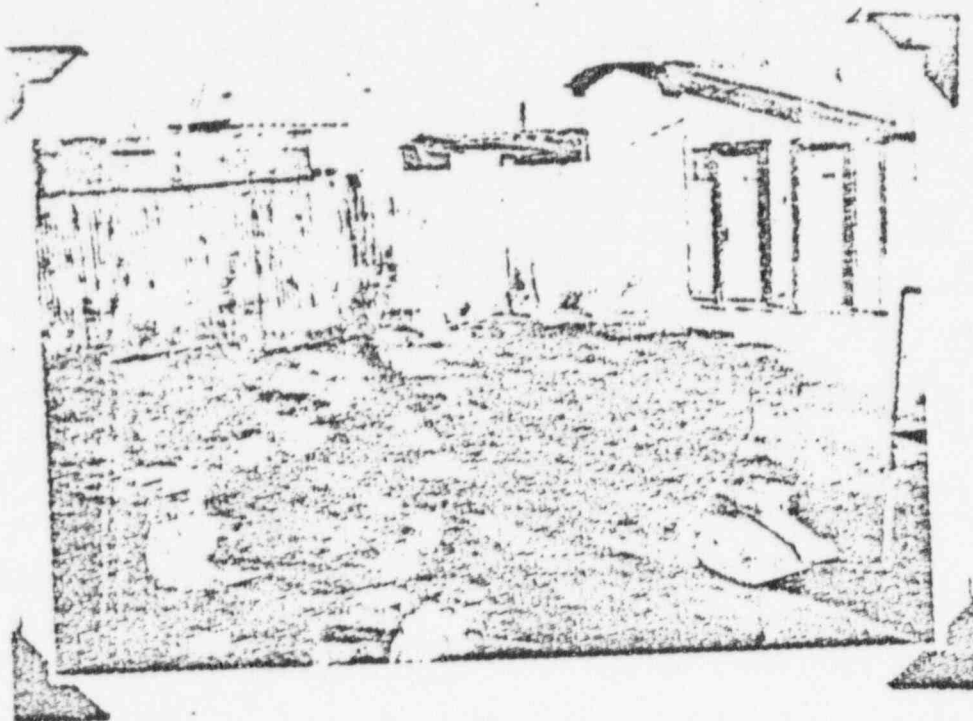
Disposal trench, NECO Beatty facility. Poly sheeting in foreground is an area prepared for concrete pour (liquid waste solidification). 14 Bennett Buckets are in forward part of trench awaiting positioning.



90003221

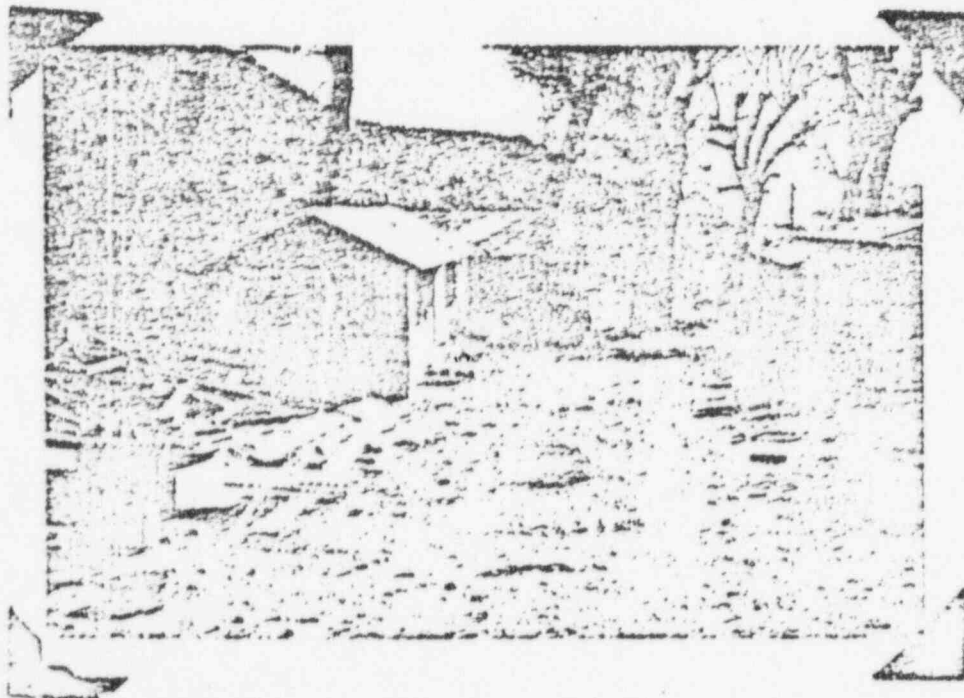
POOR ORIGINAL

ATTACHMENT 1



#3

Rear of local Beatty saloon where large concrete patio (subsequently removed) was poured using cement mixing truck from NECO facility.

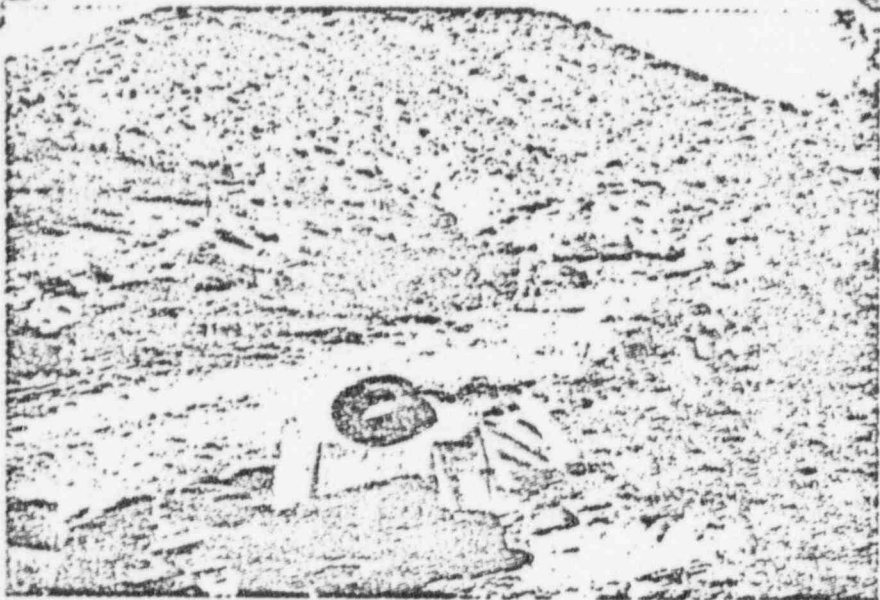


#4

Beatty vicinity residence, illustrating the piles of salvable refuse prevalent throughout town. Structure in left foreground was made from plywood removed from the NECO site. The structure was not contaminated.

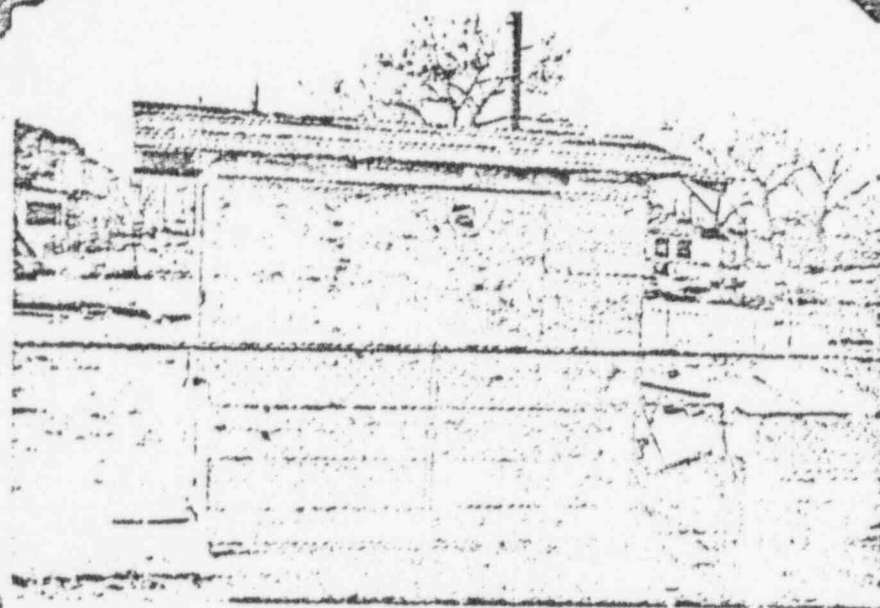
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#5

Part of the same residence
as #4 above.



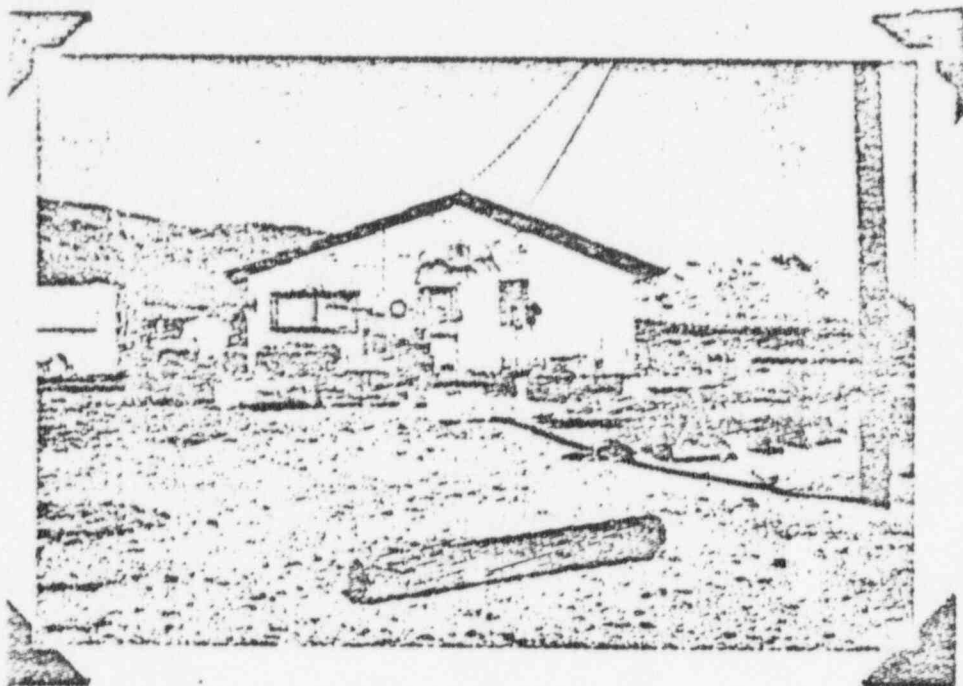
#6

Enriched uranium contamination
was identified in marked areas
on upper right corner of large
piece of plywood visible on
this shed. The piece of ply-
wood was returned to the NECO
site.

POOR ORIGINAL

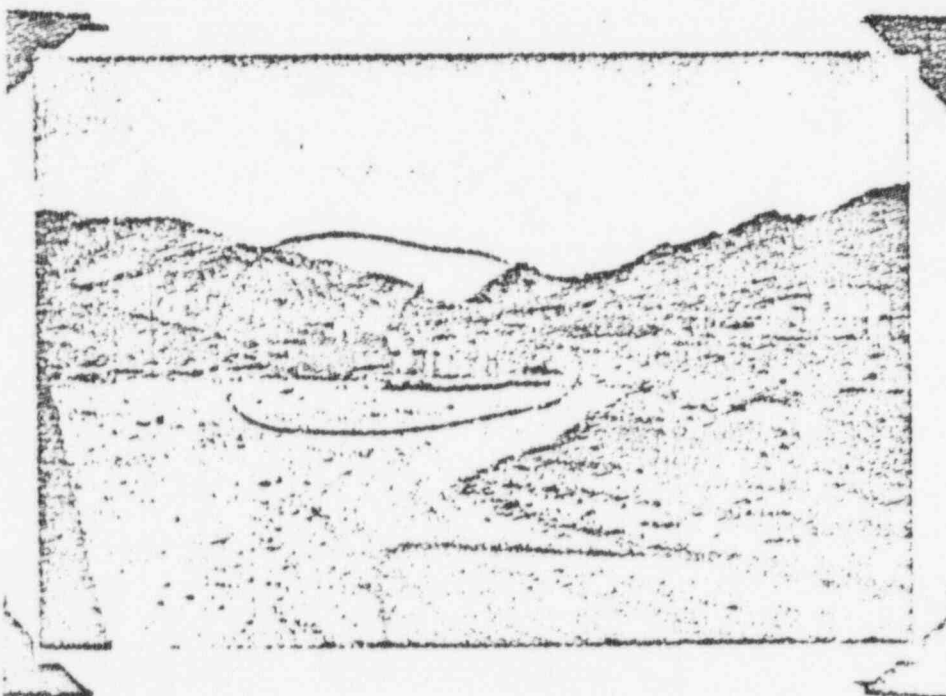
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ATTACHMENT 3



#7

Individual [REDACTED] private "museum"
Many items, mostly radium re-
lated, were recovered at this
location.



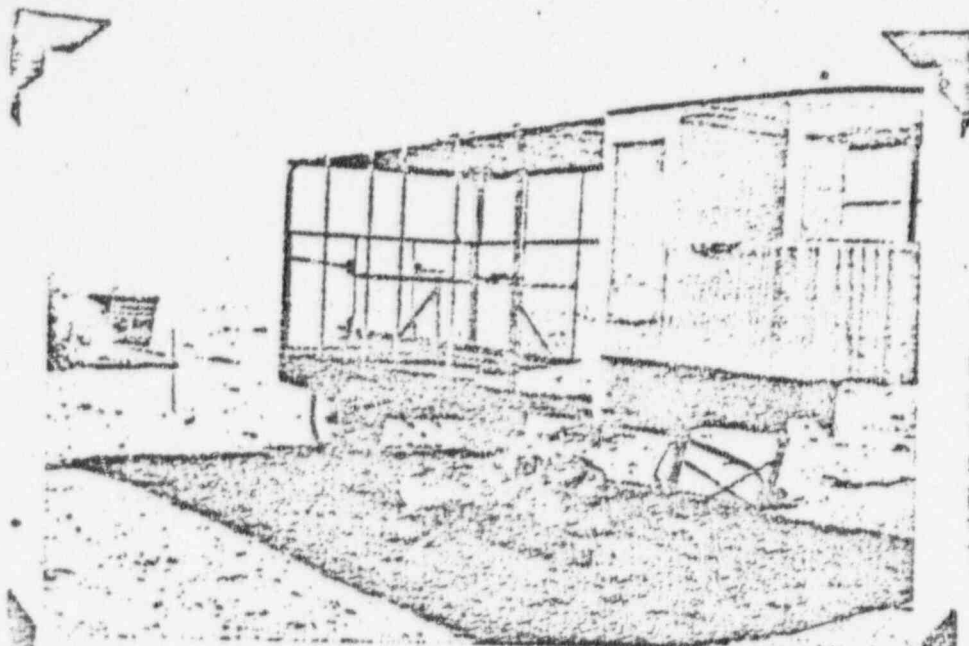
#8

Circled area identifies
residence of former NECO em-
ployee. Many items were
recovered at this location.

ATTACHMENT E

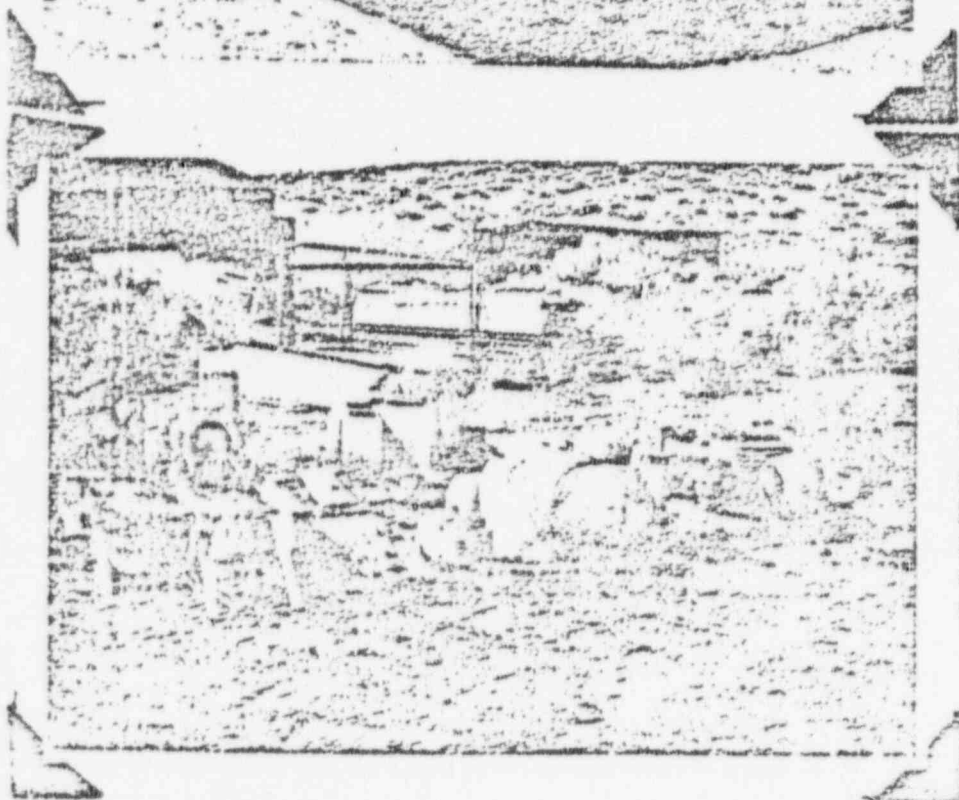
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POOR ORIGINAL



#9

Horse trailer on Individual ranch. Wood planks in back of truck were contaminated. Orange spray paint visible on the planks was the method of identifying contaminated items for later retrieval.



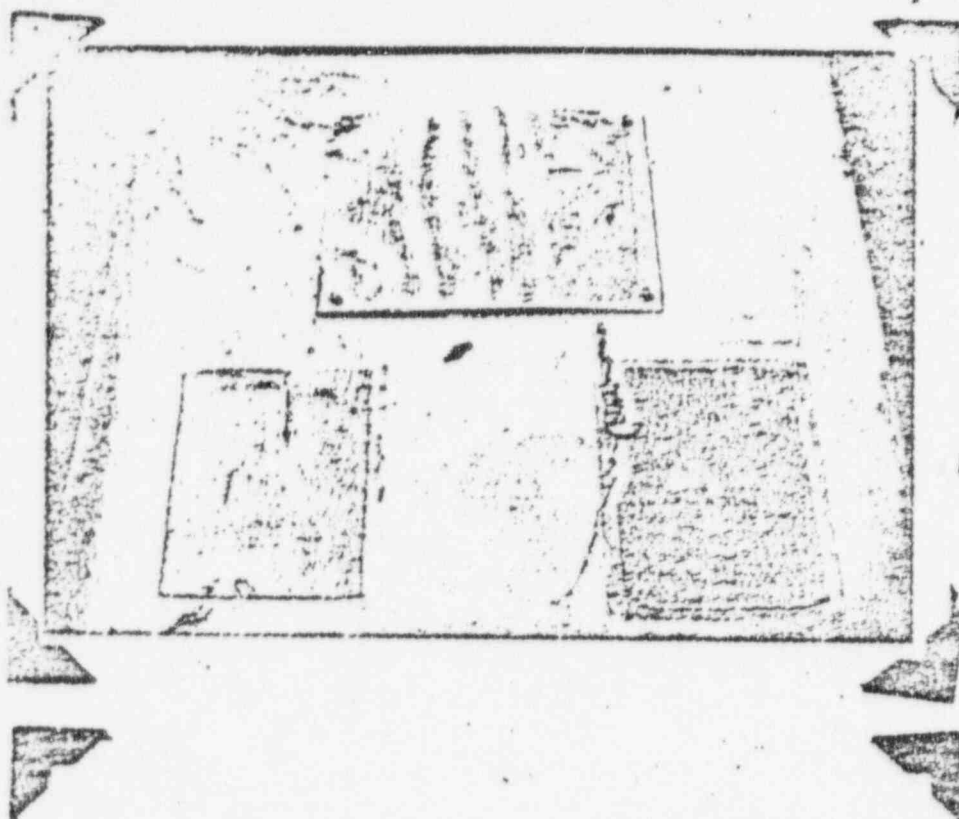
#10

Large AC Motors (1 to 5 HP) located at Individual Ranch marked for return to NESCO site. Metal panels with associated door frames (from contaminated controlled access room) in background.

POOR ORIGINAL

ATTACHMENT

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#11

Door to contaminated controlled access room with weathered warning signs still attached. Located near metal panels seen in photograph #10, Individual ranch.



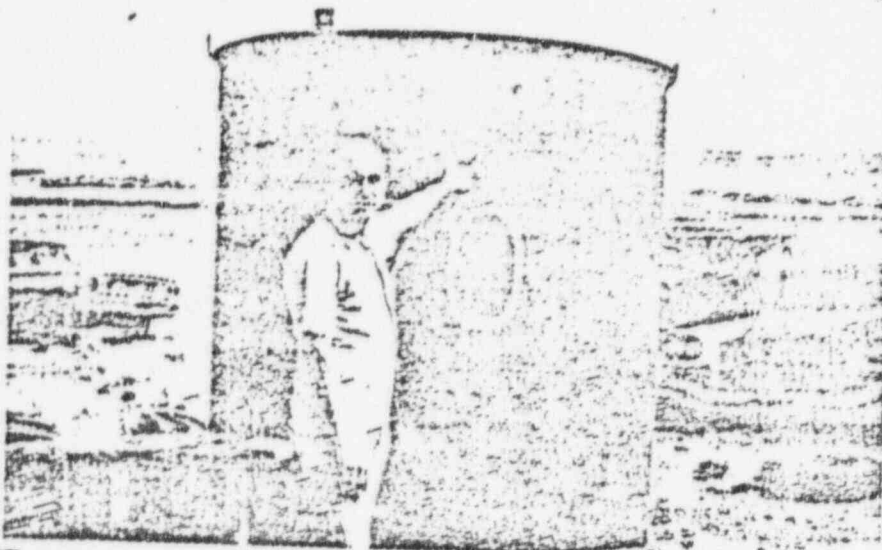
#12

Bennett Buckets at Individual Ranch (one lying on its side is made up of 1 1/2 Bennett Buckets welded together and painted with aluminum based paint). The three rusty ones are used for the storage of feed grain.

POOR ORIGINAL

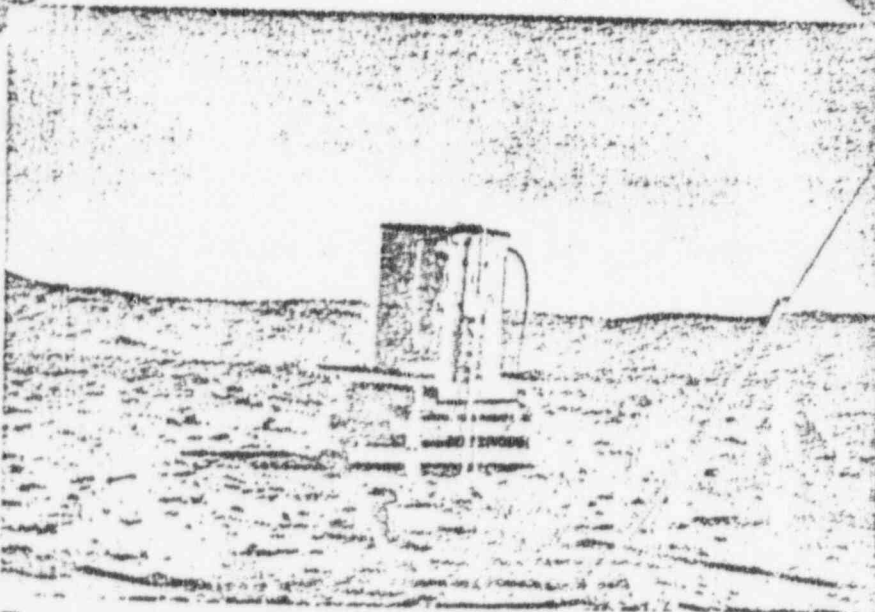
ATTACHMENT E

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#13

This individual is pointing to "radioactive" markings on a Bennett Bucket located on Individual [REDACTED] Ranch.



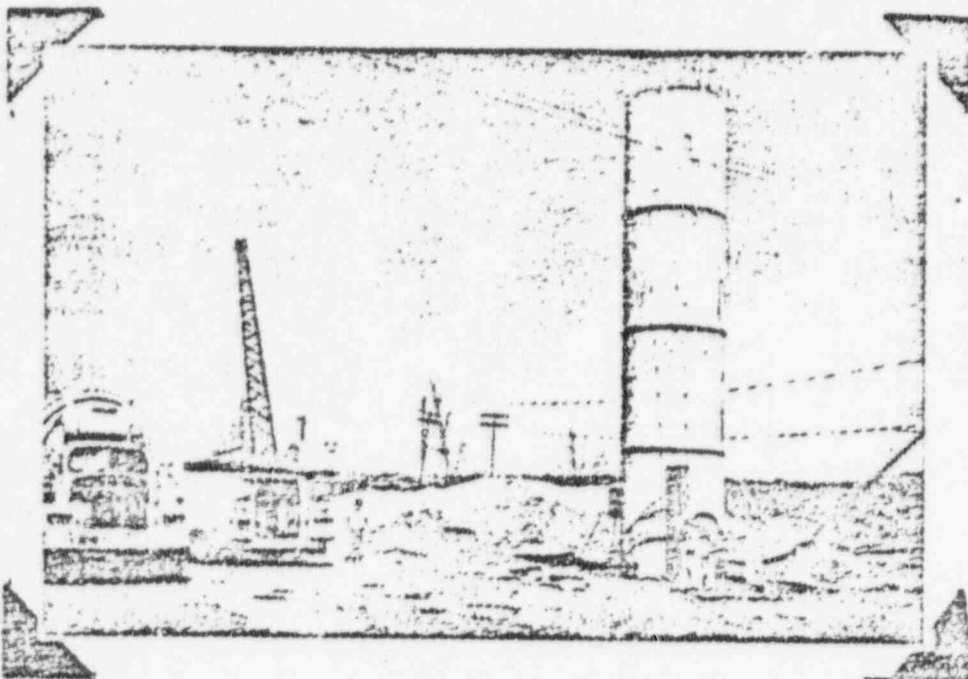
#14

Bennett Bucket being used for potable water. Located at Individual [REDACTED] residence.

POOR ORIGINAL

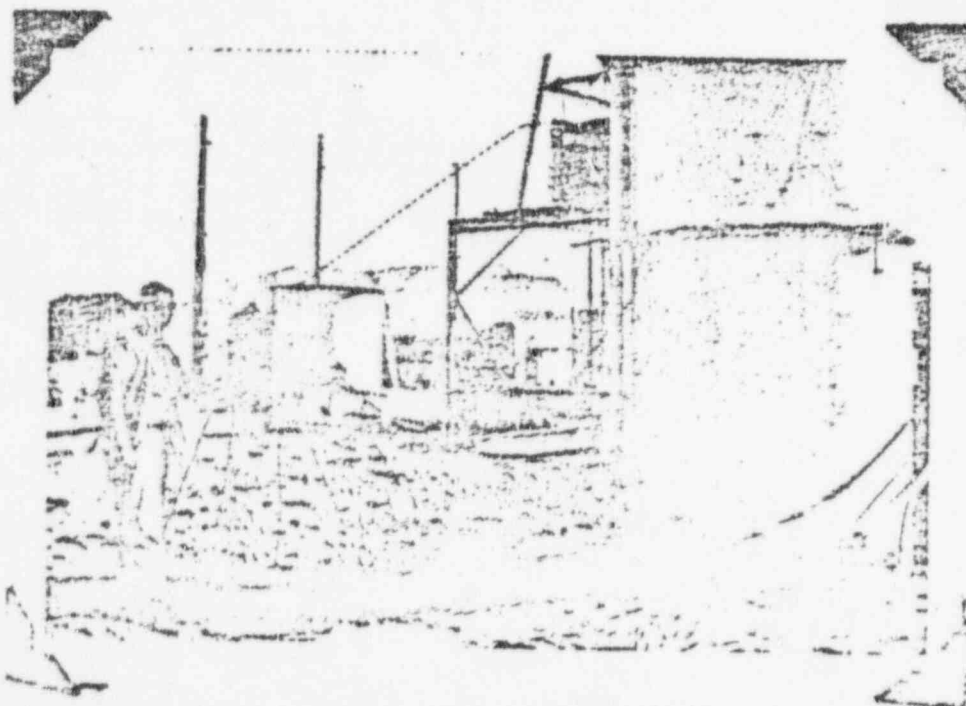
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ATTACHMENT III



#15

Silo Constructed of four Bennett Buckets located at cement plant 3 miles north of Beatty. LLL counting van with open rear doors is visible on left.



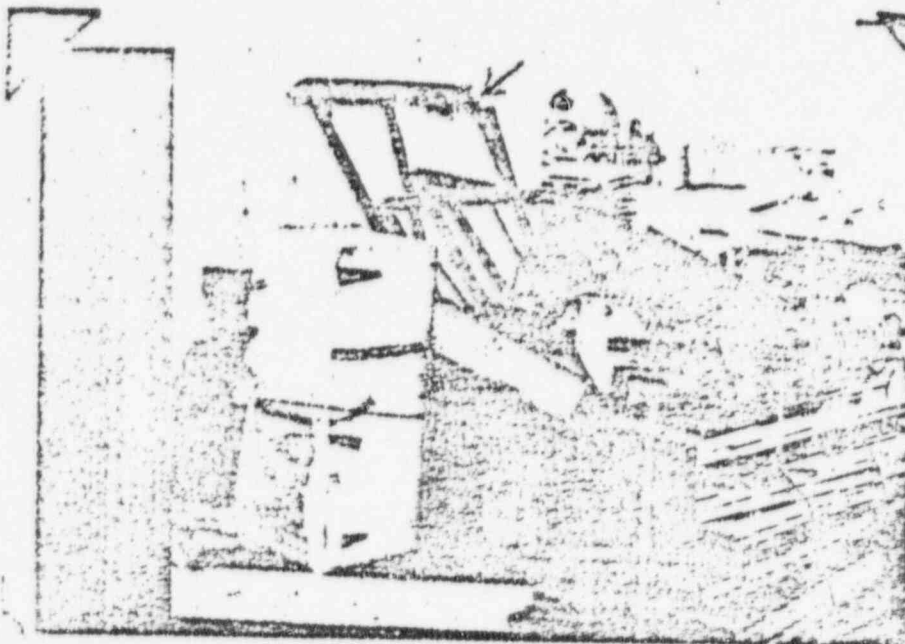
#16

LLL technician setting up GELI detector for survey of the silo shown in photograph 15. Detector was placed immediately adjacent to the lower Bennett Bucket.

POOR ORIGINAL

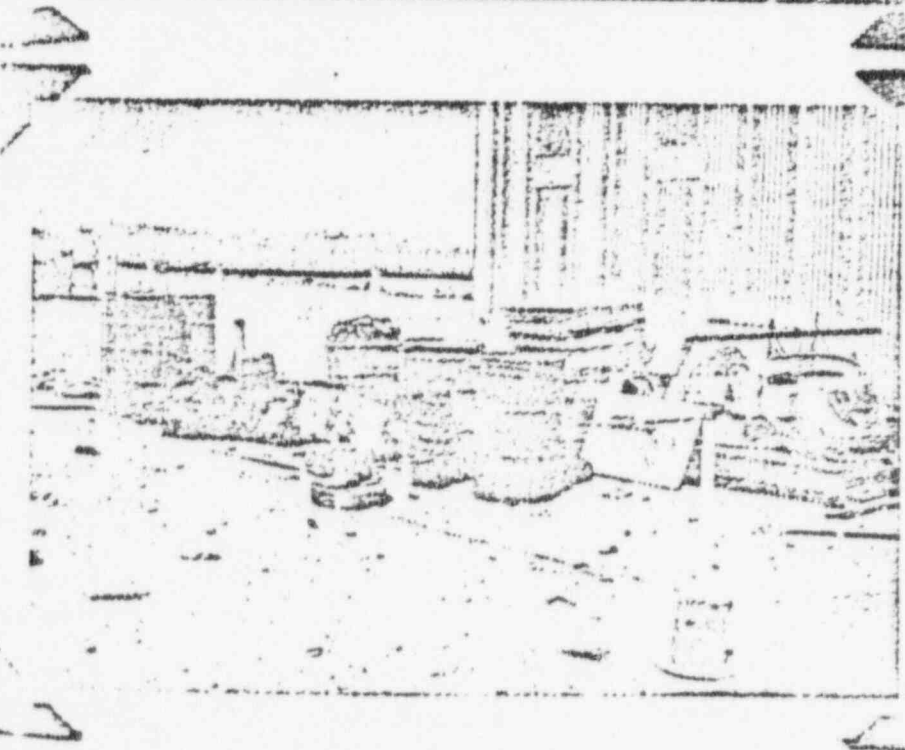
ATTACHMENT E

90003228



#17

A portion of materials recovered and returned to NECO site. Arrow indicates hoist support contaminated with PU-238. NECO cement mixing truck can be seen in background.



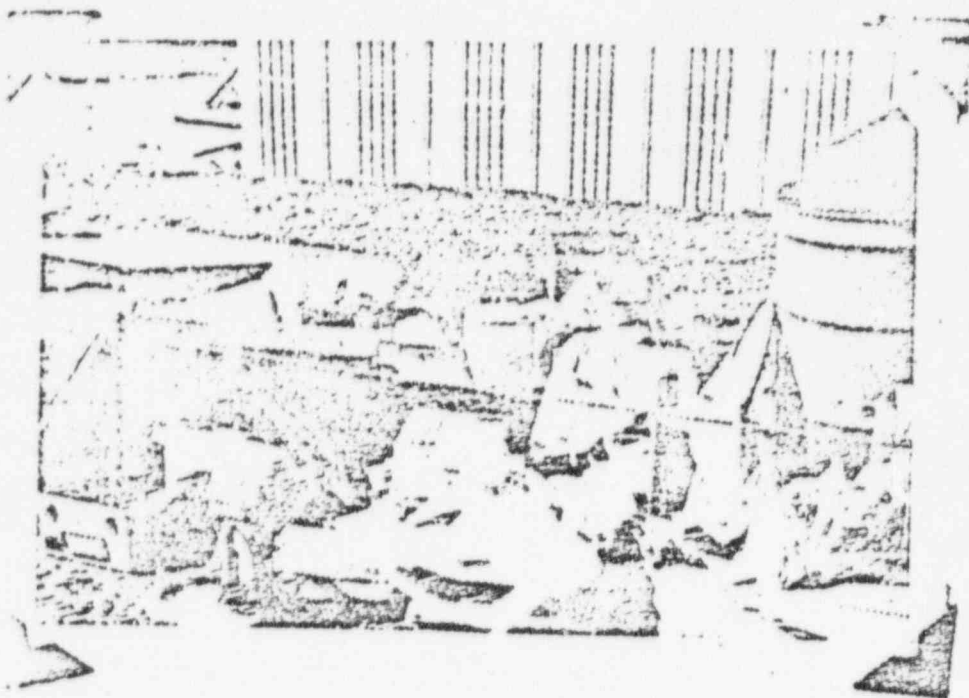
#18

A portion of materials recovered and returned to NECO site

90003229

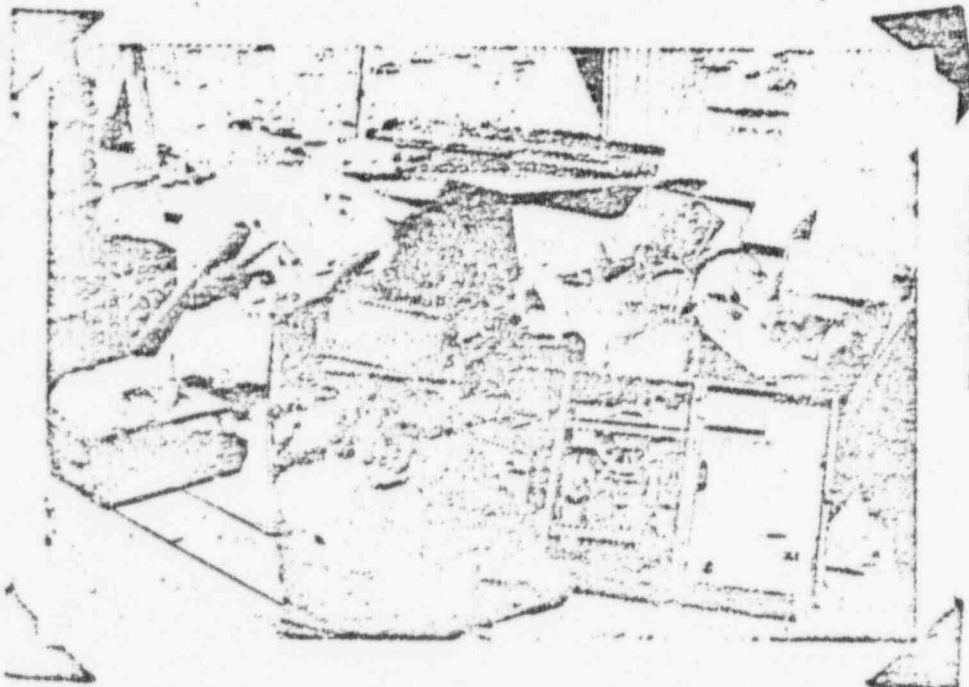
POOR ORIGINAL

ATTACHMENT E



#19

Close-up of materials recovered and returned to NECO site. Arrow points to one of two mixing devices contaminated with enriched uranium.



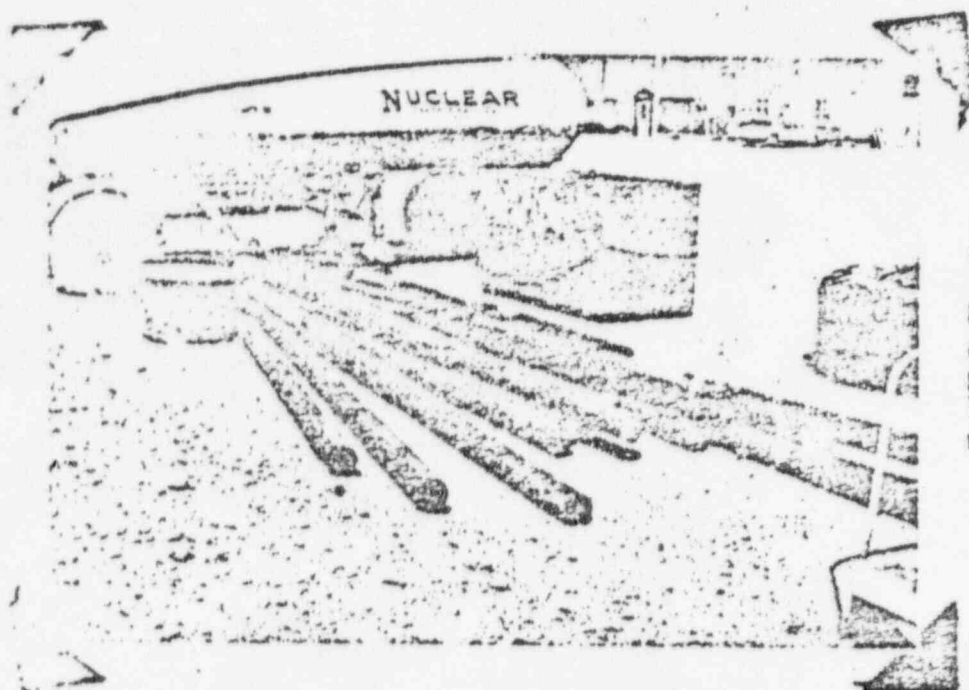
#20

Some typical materials recovered and returned to NECO site. Radium dial clock, compass and transit can be seen in this photograph.

POOR ORIGINAL

ATTACHMENT III

90003230



#21

Large spool, pipe, plywood box and tractor tire visible in this photograph represent some of the larger items recovered and returned to the NECO site.



#22

NECO sign located one mile north of NECO entrance on Highway 95. The base and sign itself were fabricated from "Bennett Bucket" tops.

POOR ORIGINAL

90003231

ATTACHMENT E