



ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF THE HANFORD PROJECT

1965 ANNUAL SUMMARY

By

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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1965 ANNUAL SUMMARY

I. Introduction

This report is a compilation of data collected within the Hanford Reservation for the environmental surveillance program maintained by the Environmental Studies Section, Environmental Health and Engineering Department, Battelle-Northwest. These measurements are reported here for the information of the Richland Operations Office of the Atomic Energy Commission and its contractors.

It is the purpose of this report to present data collected during 1965 for comparison with corresponding data for 1966. The data for 1966 appears in the BNWL-CC 637 report series.

The radiochemical data presented in this report were supplied by the Radiological Analysis Unit, Battelle-Northwest and the U. S. Testing Company during the first half of 1965 (transition period) and by the U. S. Testing Company during the last half of 1965.

II. Columbia River Water

The locations from which raw and sanitary water samples were obtained during 1965 are shown in Map 1.

A. Raw Water

Samples of raw water were obtained near Vernita Bridge twice per month and were analyzed for tritium, strontium-90, total alpha, and total beta. The monthly averages of results of raw water samples collected during 1965 are presented in Table II-1.

Table II-1 - Vernita Bridge

Month	$H^3$ (pCi/l)	$Sr^{90}$ (pCi/l)	Total $\alpha$ (pCi/l)	Total $\beta$ (c/m/ml)
Jan.				< 0.2
Feb.				< 0.16
Mar.				< 0.02
Apr.	< 1000	0.72	< 1.0	< 0.02
May	< 1000	0.78	< 1.0	< 0.02
June	< 1000	0.67	1.1	< 0.02
July	< 1000	0.83	1.2	< 0.02
Aug.	1400	0.94	< 1.0	< 0.02
Sept.	1400	1.06	< 1.0	0.02
Oct.	1200	1.44	< 1.0	< 0.02
Nov.	< 1000	1.32	< 1.0	< 0.02
Dec.	< 1000	1.05	< 1.0	< 0.02

No entry indicates no analysis made.

The isotopic data from Ringold were obtained from analyses of monthly "grab" samples and are presented in Table II-2. The total beta activities in river water at Ringold and Hanford were obtained from analyses of weekly "grab" samples. These data are presented as monthly averages in Table II-3.

Table II-2 - Ringold (Isotopic Analyses)  
(in units of  $\mu\text{Ci/l}$ )

Month	$\text{Na}^{24}$	$\text{P}^{32}$	$\text{Cr}^{51}$	$\text{Mn}^{56}$	$\text{Cu}^{64}$	$\text{Zn}^{69m}$	$\text{Ga}^{72}$	$\text{As}^{76}$	$\text{Np}^{239}$	$\text{RE+Y}$
Jan.										
Feb.										
Mar.	3600	230	4000	1300	2700	250	190	650	2200	1300
Apr. *	260	22	470	69	200	79	<70	65	68	86
May *	<35	<6	<70	<50	<32	<70	<70	4.9	<15	<5.5
June *	110	8.3	140	150	110	70	<70	36	42	21
July	1600	78	2400	1300	2000	<70	290	490	700	360
Aug.	1700	69	2200	540	1600	<70	270	480	650	140
Sept.	1600	80	1800	<50	1500	<70	240	230	460	88
Oct.	2300	170	3400	510	2400	<70	450	1000	1000	180
Nov.	1800	83	1400	400	1100	<70	140	310	450	130
Dec.										

\* During April, May, and June, the river water sample from Ringold was influenced by the increased discharge rate of irrigation water from the Ringold Wasteway. The sampling location was subsequently moved to circumvent this diluting effect.

Table II-3 - Hanford and Ringold (Total Beta Analyses)  
(in units of c/m/ml)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Hanford</u>	<u>Ringold</u>
Jan.	14	11
Feb.	12	11
Mar.	11	9.8
Apr.	11	7.6 *
May	5.7	< 0.36 *
June	5.4	1.1 *
July	6.6	2.7
Aug.	5.6	3.7
Sept.	4.1	7.8
Oct.	8.0	9.4
Nov.	4.4	8.7
Dec.		6.9

\* See footnote on previous page.

B. Sanitary Water

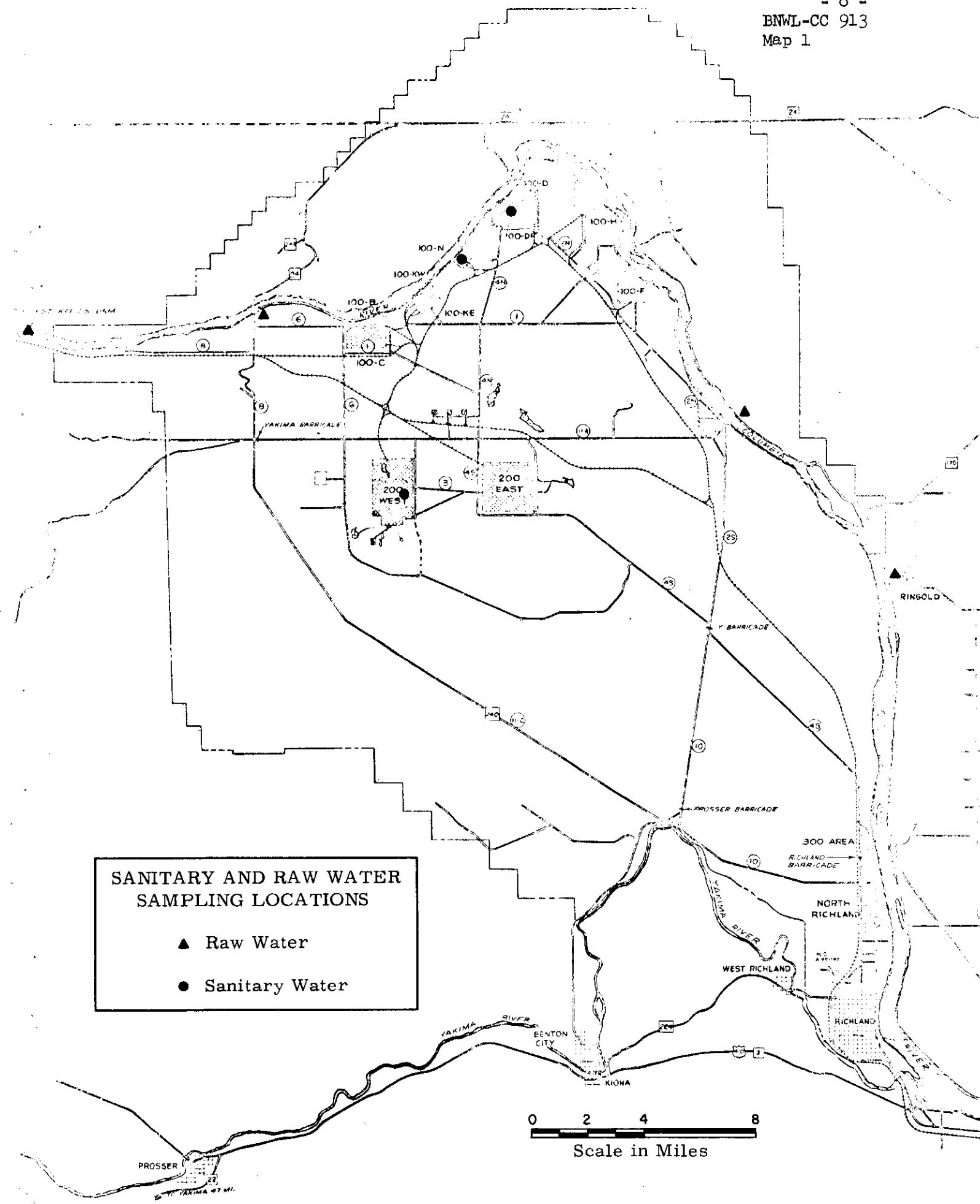
The running 12-month GI tract dose at 100-D Area is shown in Table II-4. This estimate is based on isotopic analyses of sanitary water collected at 100-D and on assumed intake rate of 1.2 liters per day, 5 days per week. Monthly average results of total beta analyses of sanitary water from 100-D, 100-N, and 200-W Areas are presented in Table II-5. Sanitary water data for off-plant locations for 1965 are presented in BNWL-316, "Evaluation of Radiological Conditions in the Vicinity of Hanford for 1965".

Table II-4 - GI Tract Dose Rate-100 D Area

<u>Month</u>	<u>Dose Rate (nrem/year)</u>
Jan.	32.1
Feb.	30.8
Mar.	28.2
Apr.	26.7
May	25.2
June	25.2
July	25.0
Aug.	23.9
Sept.	22.2
Oct.	23.5
Nov.	21.4
Dec.	20.7

Table II-5 - Total Beta Analyses

<u>Month</u>	<u>100-D</u>	<u>100-N</u>	<u>200-W</u>
Jan.			< 0.50
Feb.	2.0		0.12
Mar.			0.13
Apr.	12		0.11
May	4.4		0.05
June			< 0.03
July	2.3	0.99	0.03
Aug.	2.6	1.4	0.06
Sept.	7.4	6.5	0.20
Oct.	11	11	0.10
Nov.	6.6	8.0	0.08
Dec.	10	4.1	0.02











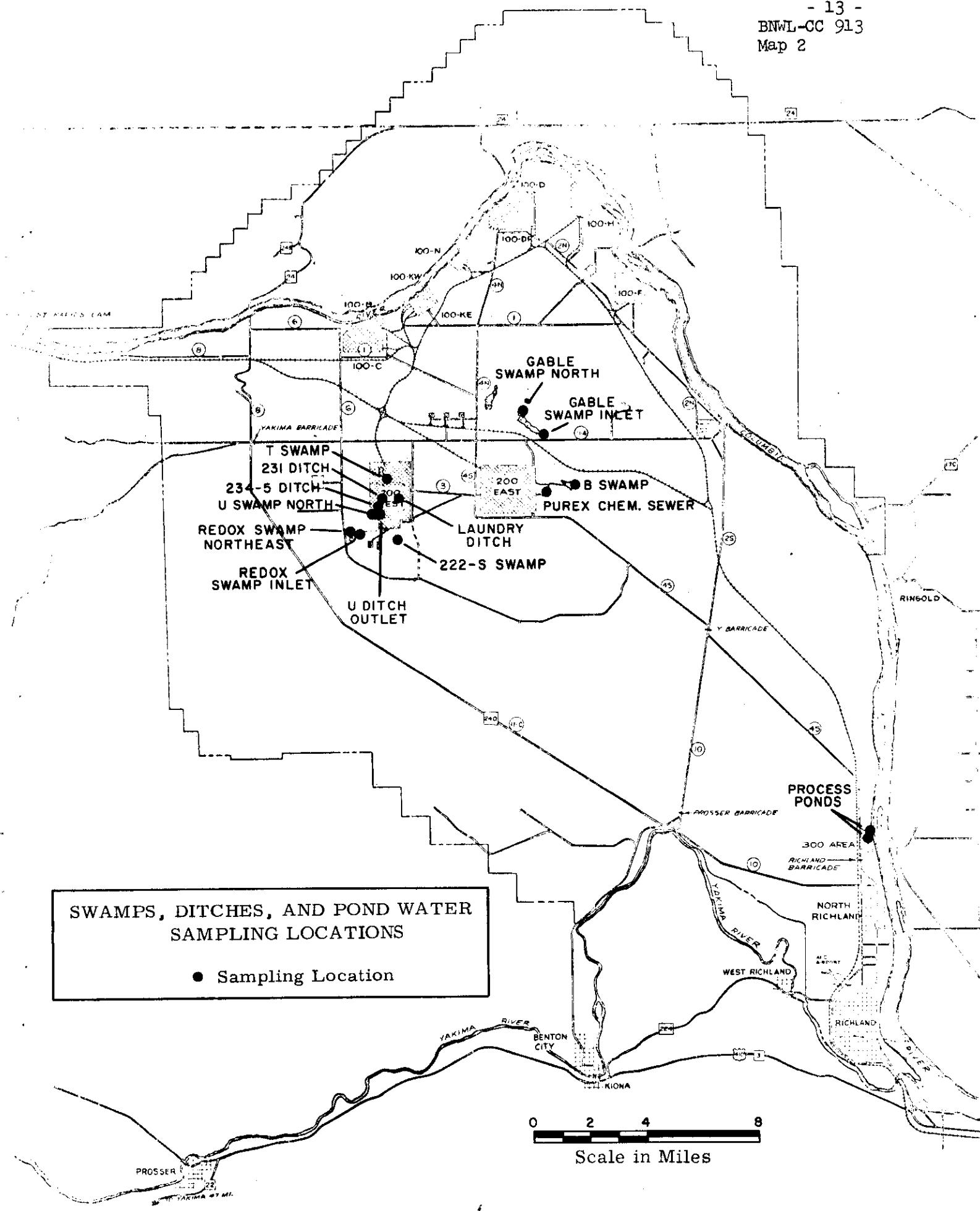








Table IV-4 (Continued)

Month	Prosser Barricade		300 Area		700 Area	
	Total Beta	I <sup>131</sup>	Total Beta	I <sup>131</sup>	Total Beta	I <sup>131</sup>
Jan.	0.19	<0.02	0.34	<0.02	0.15	<0.02
Feb.	0.27	0.02	0.41	0.04	0.28	<0.02
Mar.	0.48	<0.02	0.59	0.04	0.19	0.03
Apr.	0.26	<0.02	0.50	0.02	0.38	0.03
May	0.41	0.07	0.39	0.08	0.54	0.03
June	0.78	0.02	0.92	0.85	0.85	0.05
July	0.25	0.03	0.38	0.21	0.37	0.04
Aug.	0.15	0.05	0.27	0.02	0.21	<0.02
Sept.	0.26	0.03	0.37	0.12	0.22	0.02
Oct.	0.19	<0.02	0.32	0.04	0.27	0.03
Nov.	0.09	0.02	0.28	<0.02	0.16	0.03
Dec.	0.19	0.03	0.25	0.02	0.19	0.03

B. Total Alpha Activity

Eleven of the 22 weekly filters which collect beta-gamma emitting radionuclides are also analyzed for alpha activity, with most of the sampling sites located in the 200 Areas. Total alpha concentrations measured during 1965 are tabulated below.

Annual Average Total Alpha Concentrations - 1965

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total Alpha (pCi/m³)</u>
100 Areas	< 0.02
200 Areas	< 0.03
300 Area	0.08
700 Area	< 0.02

Table IV-5  
Monthly Average Total Alpha Concentration  
(in units of pCi/m³)

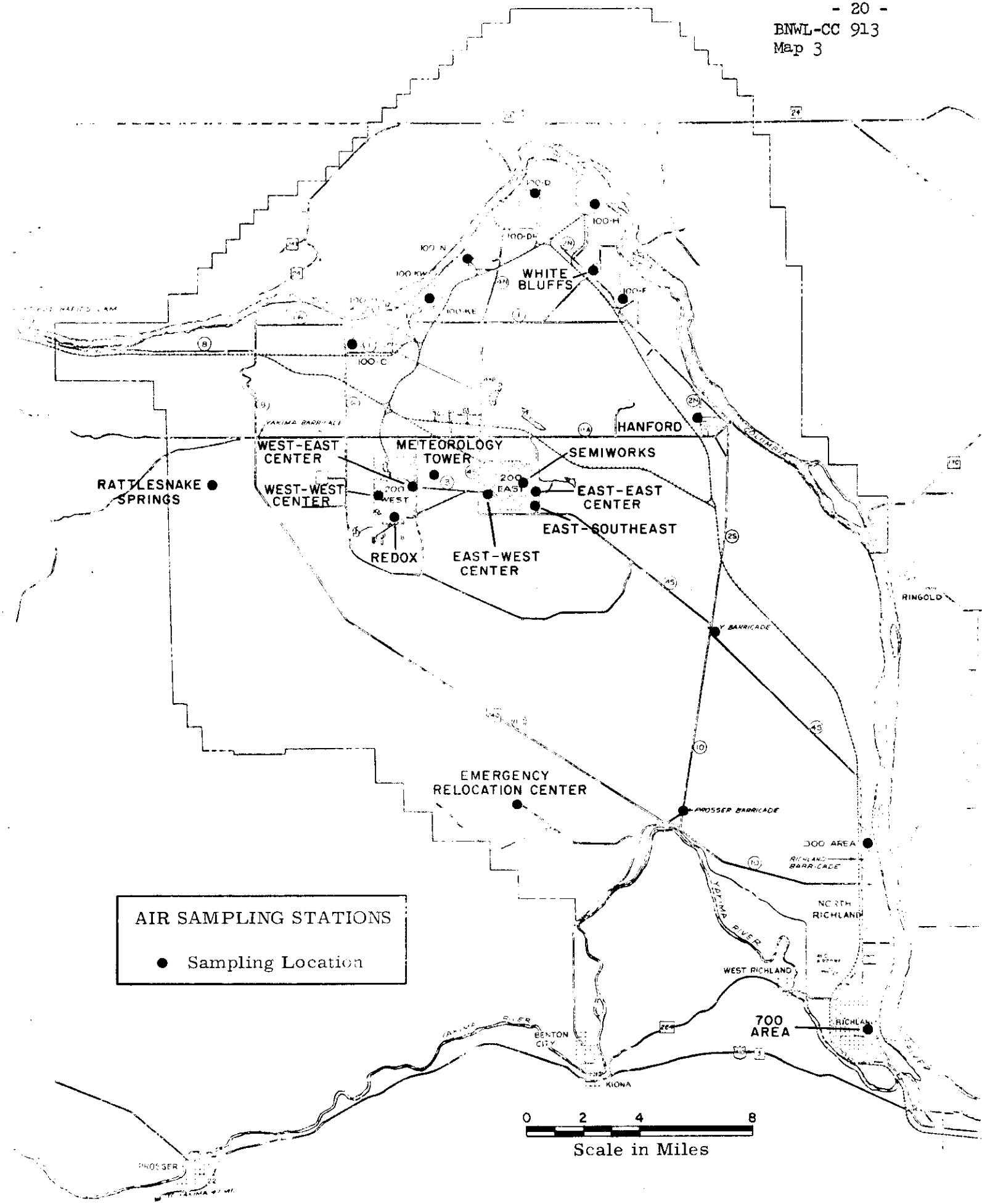
<u>Month</u>	<u>100-B Area</u>	<u>100-N Area</u>	<u>300 Area</u>	<u>700 Area</u>
Jan.		0.04	0.20	0.02
Feb.		<0.01	0.13	<0.01
Mar.		0.03	0.06	0.02
Apr.		0.07	0.14	0.02
May		0.03	0.13	<0.01
June	<0.01	0.03	0.13	0.02
July	<0.01	<0.01	0.05	<0.01
Aug.	<0.01	<0.01	0.03	<0.01
Sept.	0.03	<0.01	0.02	0.01
Oct.	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03
Nov.	<0.01	<0.01	0.04	0.02
Dec.	0.01	<0.01	0.02	<0.01

Table IV-6  
Monthly Average Total Alpha Concentrations  
200 West Area  
(in units of pCi/m<sup>3</sup>)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Redox</u>	<u>West Center</u>	<u>East Center</u>
Jan.	<0.01	0.04	0.12
Feb.	<0.01	0.01	0.08
Mar.	0.02	0.04	0.08
Apr.	0.05	0.02	0.08
May	0.02	0.02	0.11
June	0.01	0.03	0.06
July	<0.01	<0.01	0.08
Aug.	<0.01	<0.01	0.01
Sept.	<0.01	<0.01	0.02
Oct.	0.03	0.02	0.09
Nov.	0.01	0.01	0.03
Dec.	<0.01	<0.01	0.01

Table IV-7  
Monthly Average Total Alpha Concentrations  
200 East Area  
(in units of pCi/m<sup>3</sup>)

<u>Month</u>	<u>West Center</u>	<u>East Center</u>	<u>Southeast</u>	<u>Semiworks</u>
Jan.	0.01	0.02	0.03	<0.01
Feb.	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.03
Mar.	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.04
Apr.	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
May	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
June	0.02	<0.01	0.02	0.01
July	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Aug.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Sept.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Oct.	<0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Nov.	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Dec.	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01

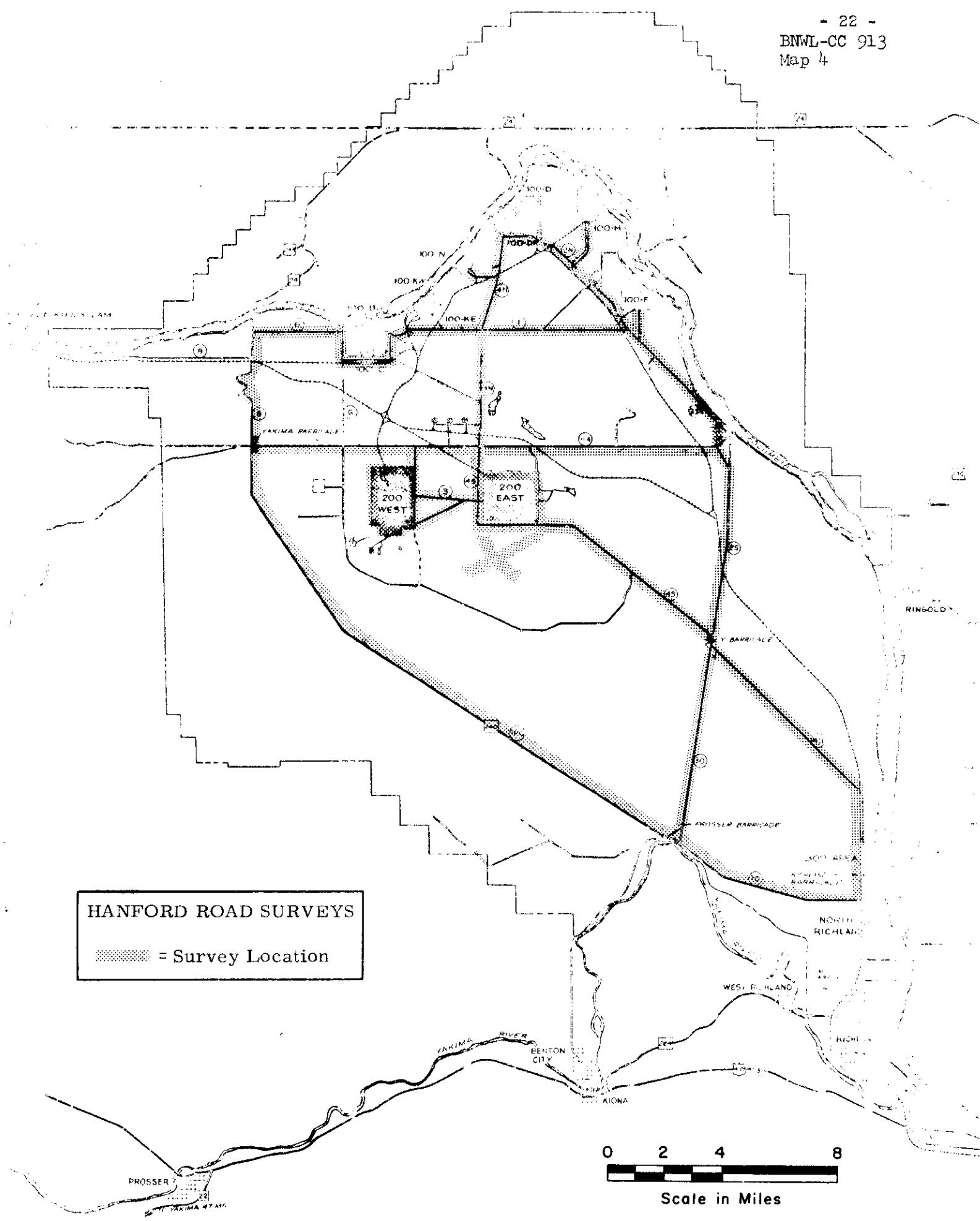


V. Radiation Surveys

A. Contamination

1. Hanford Roads

Hanford roads are surveyed with a bioplastic scintillation detector which is attached to the front end of a truck and is positioned about two feet above the surface of the road. Eleven routine road surveys were conducted during 1965, and no contamination was detected. The minimum level of contamination that can be detected by the road monitor corresponds to a portable GM counter response of approximately 1000 c/m/probe area. The roads that were surveyed during 1965 are shown on Map 4 which follows.

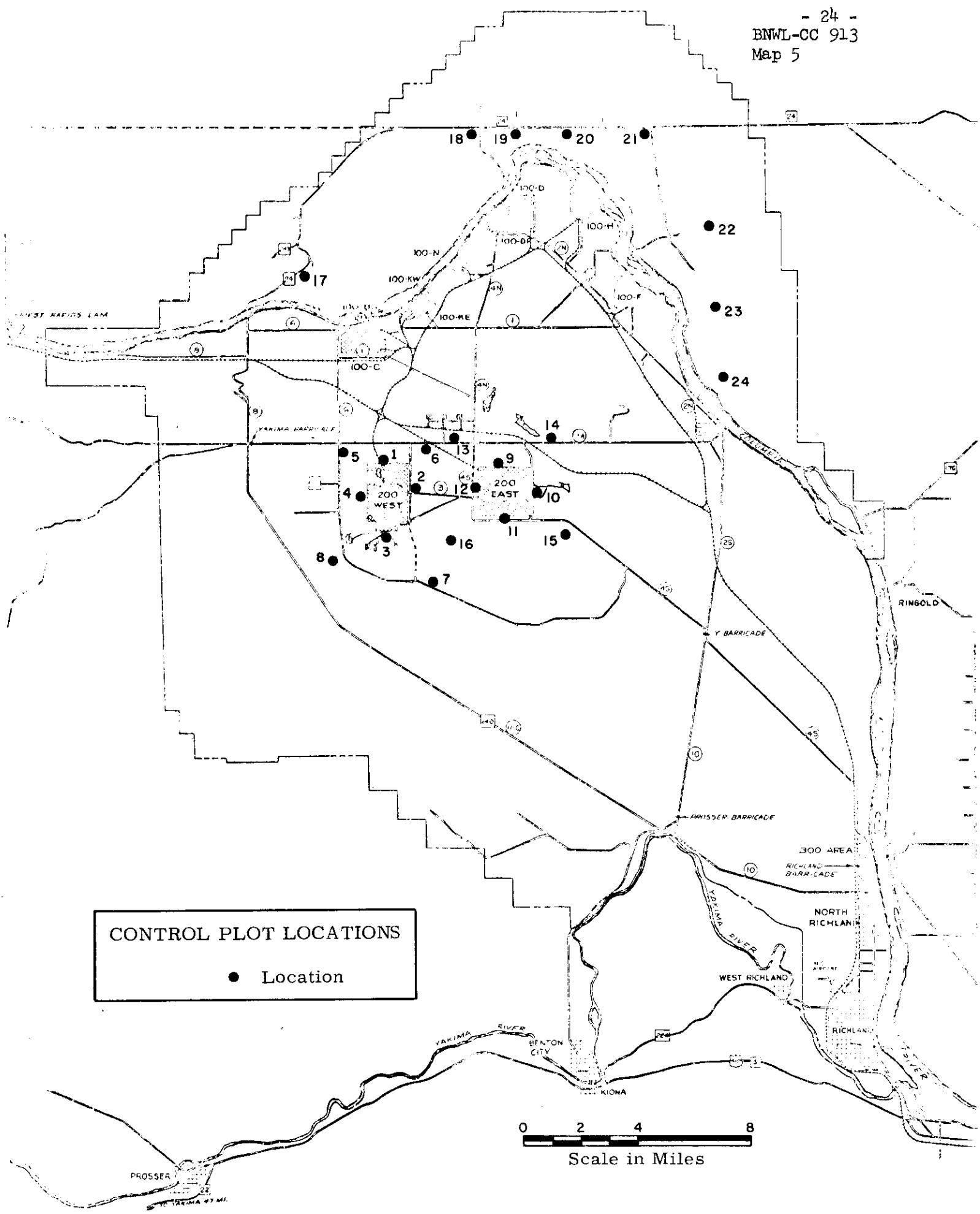


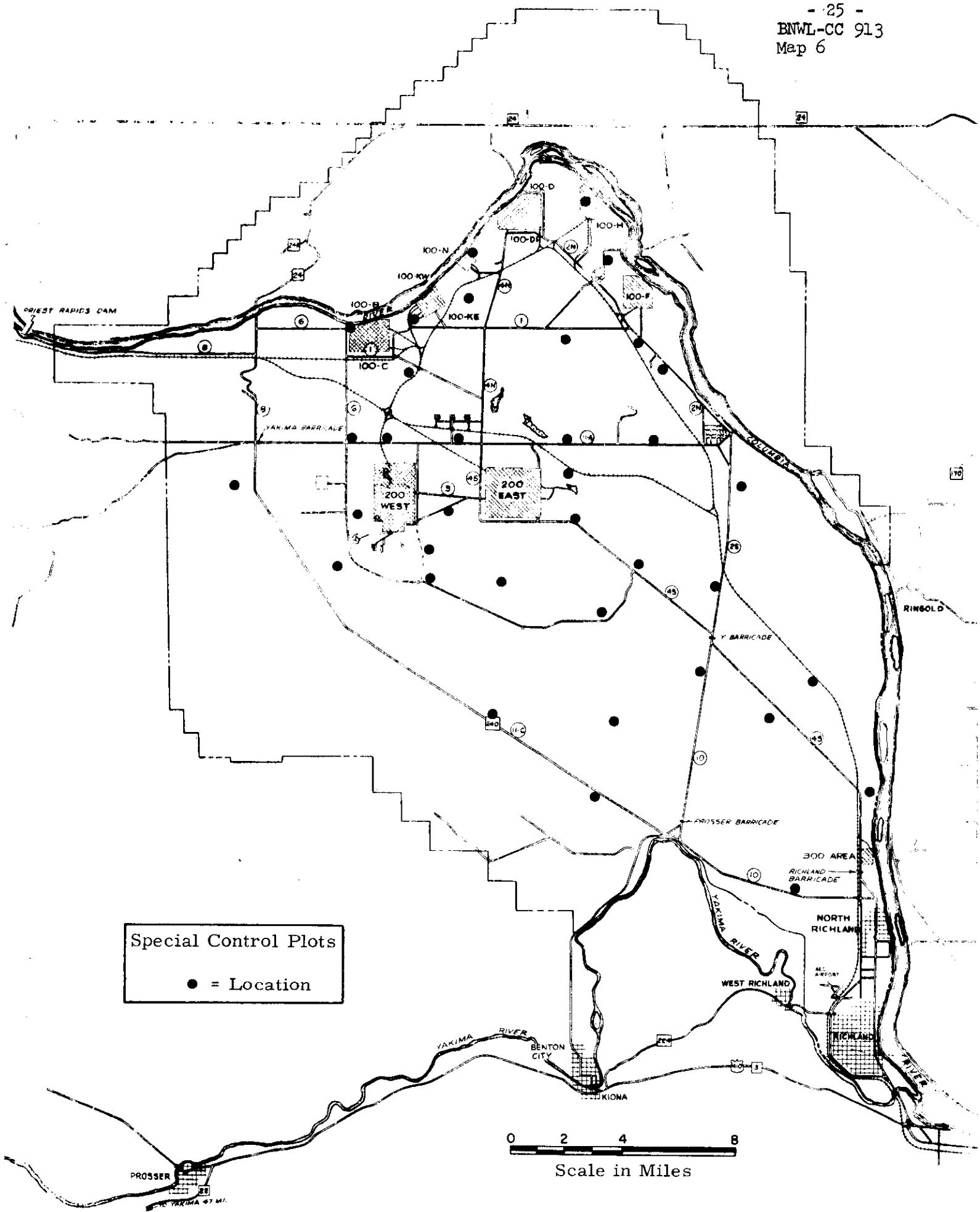
2. Control Plots

Twenty-four land areas, measuring 10 feet by 10 feet, are located on the Wahluke Slope and near the 200 Areas. These plots are periodically surveyed with a portable GM counter to determine if radioactive particulates have been deposited on the ground. During June, 1965, a particle having an activity of 2500 c/m was found on control plot No. 3. In September, 1965 three particles were found: 800 c/m (control plot No. 3), 6000 c/m (control plot No. 9), and 16,000 c/m (control plot No. 10). The location of these control plots is shown in Map 5.

3. Special Control Plots

During June, 1965, a radiation survey (GM instrument) of 36 areas (100 square feet each) surrounding Hanford Test Wells was conducted. No radioactive particulates were detected. The locations of these special control plots are shown in Map 6.





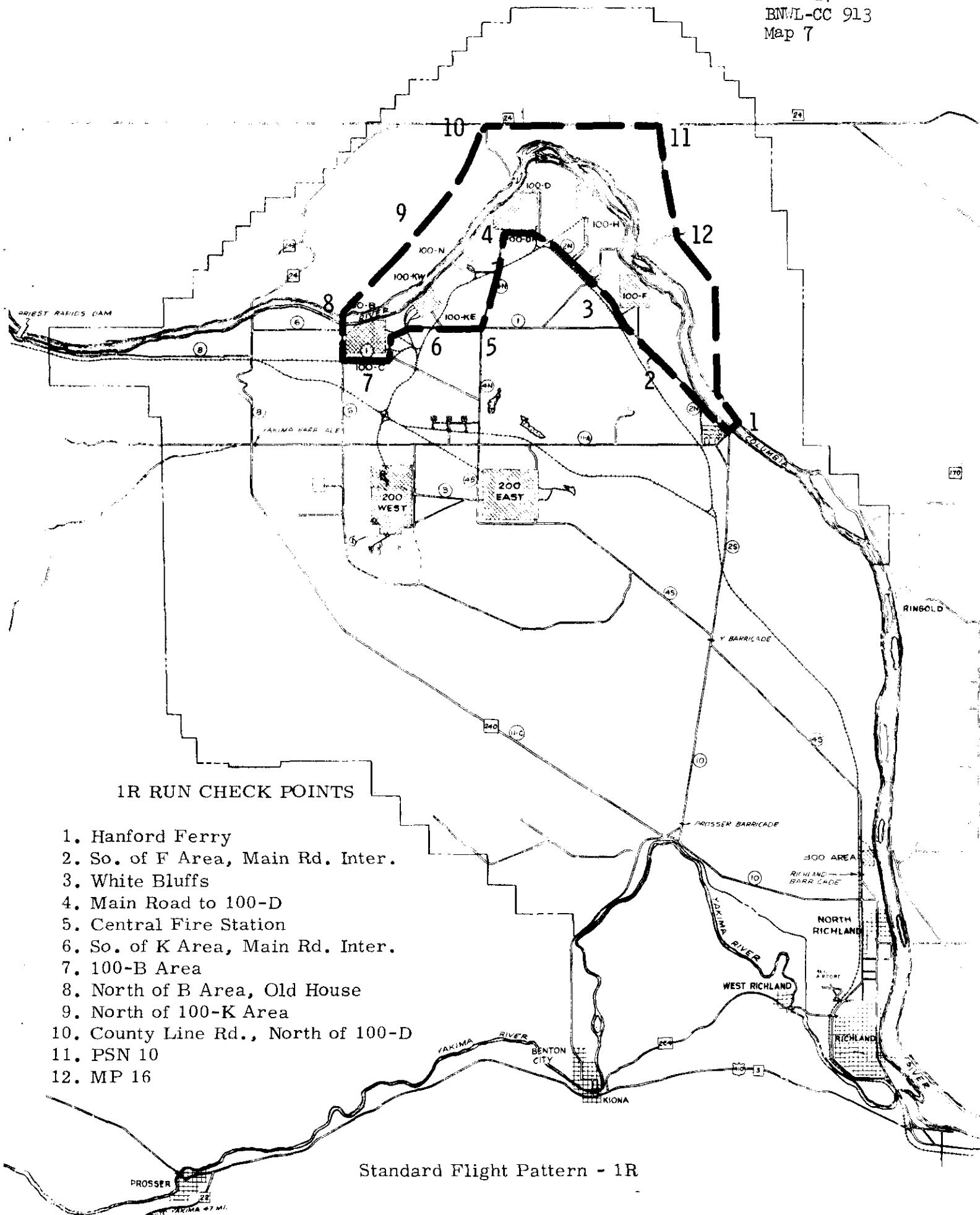
4. Aerial Surveys

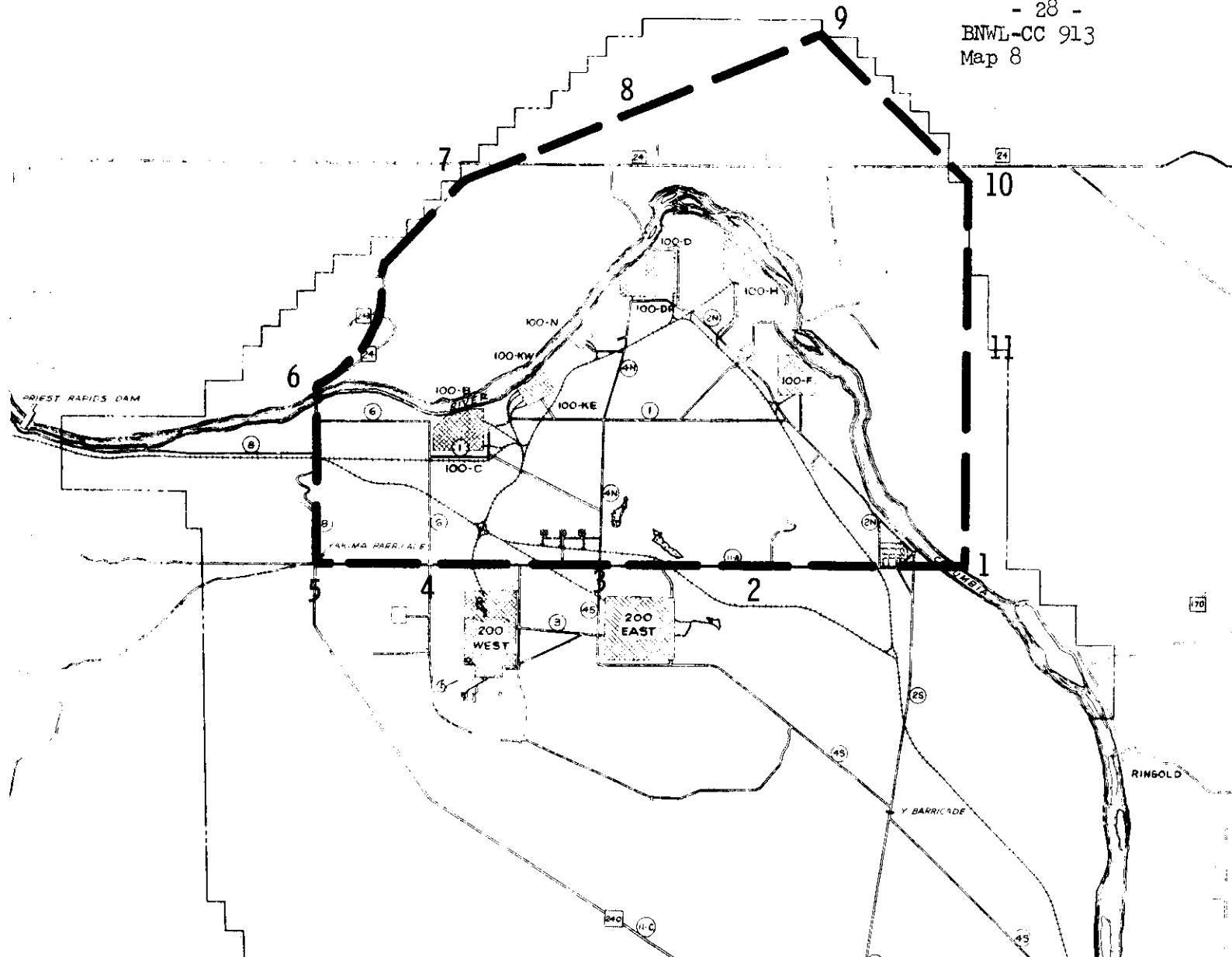
Unlike road and control plot surveys, the function of an aerial survey is to detect contamination which is spread over a large land area. An aerial survey, like road and control plot surveys, is qualitative in nature, and through routine use of this technique, a capability for rapid assessment of an emergency situation is maintained.

All surveys are conducted at an altitude of 150 meters (500 feet). At this height, the monitor has an effective detection area of  $0.2 \text{ km}^2$ . The detector is a three inch by five inch NaI(Tl) scintillation crystal, and has a minimum detection limit for  $I^{131}$ , for example, of about  $0.5 \text{ Ci/km}^2$ .

Ten flight patterns are located within and near the Hanford project perimeter. In addition, two flight patterns cover the Columbia River from Priest Rapids Dam to the Pacific Ocean and two other flight patterns cover the Richland-Pendleton-Spokane "triangle" and the Richland-Ellensburg-Ritzville "triangle".

Twenty-two aerial surveys were made during 1965 and are shown on Maps 7-19 which follow. In all surveys, no ground contamination was detected.

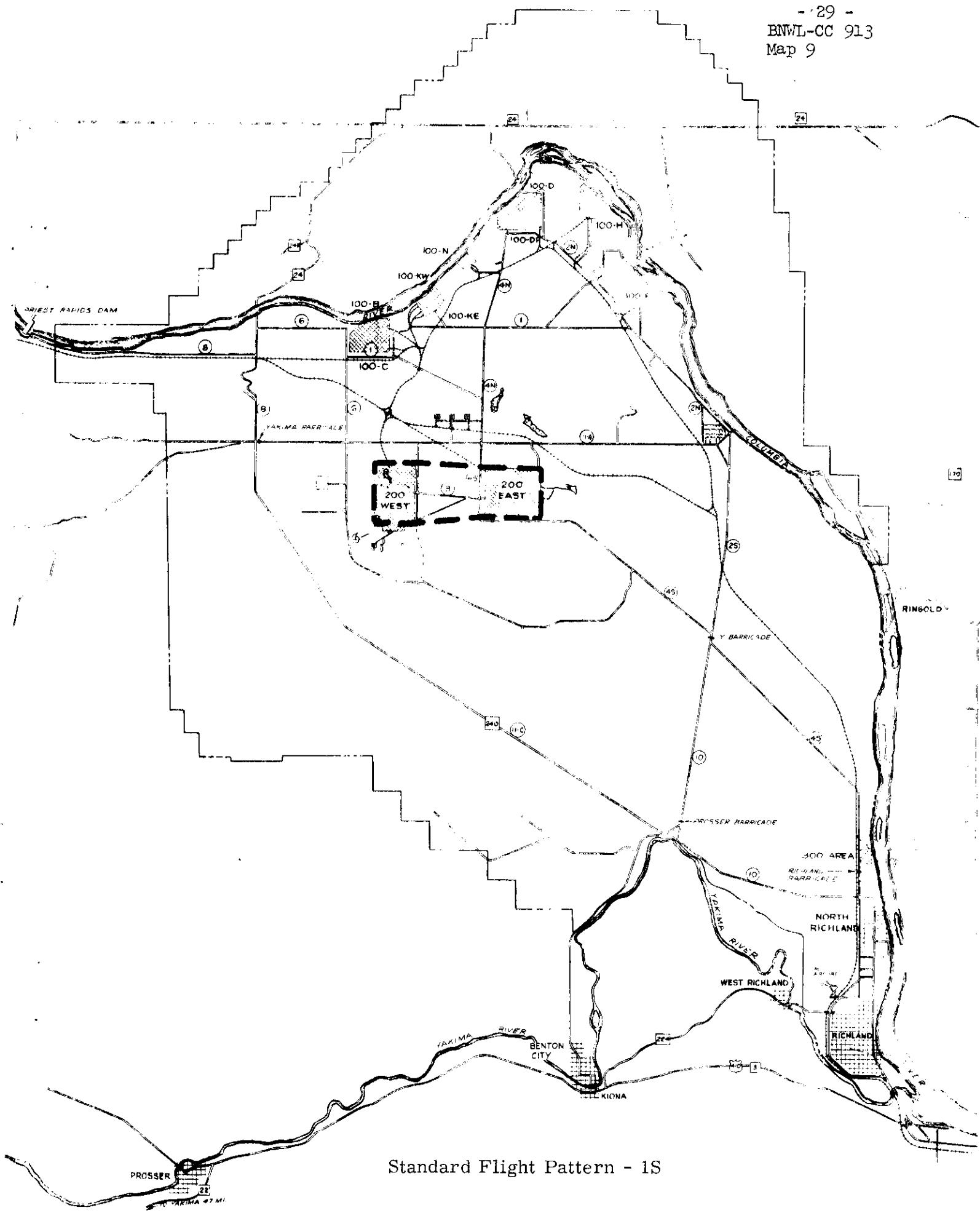


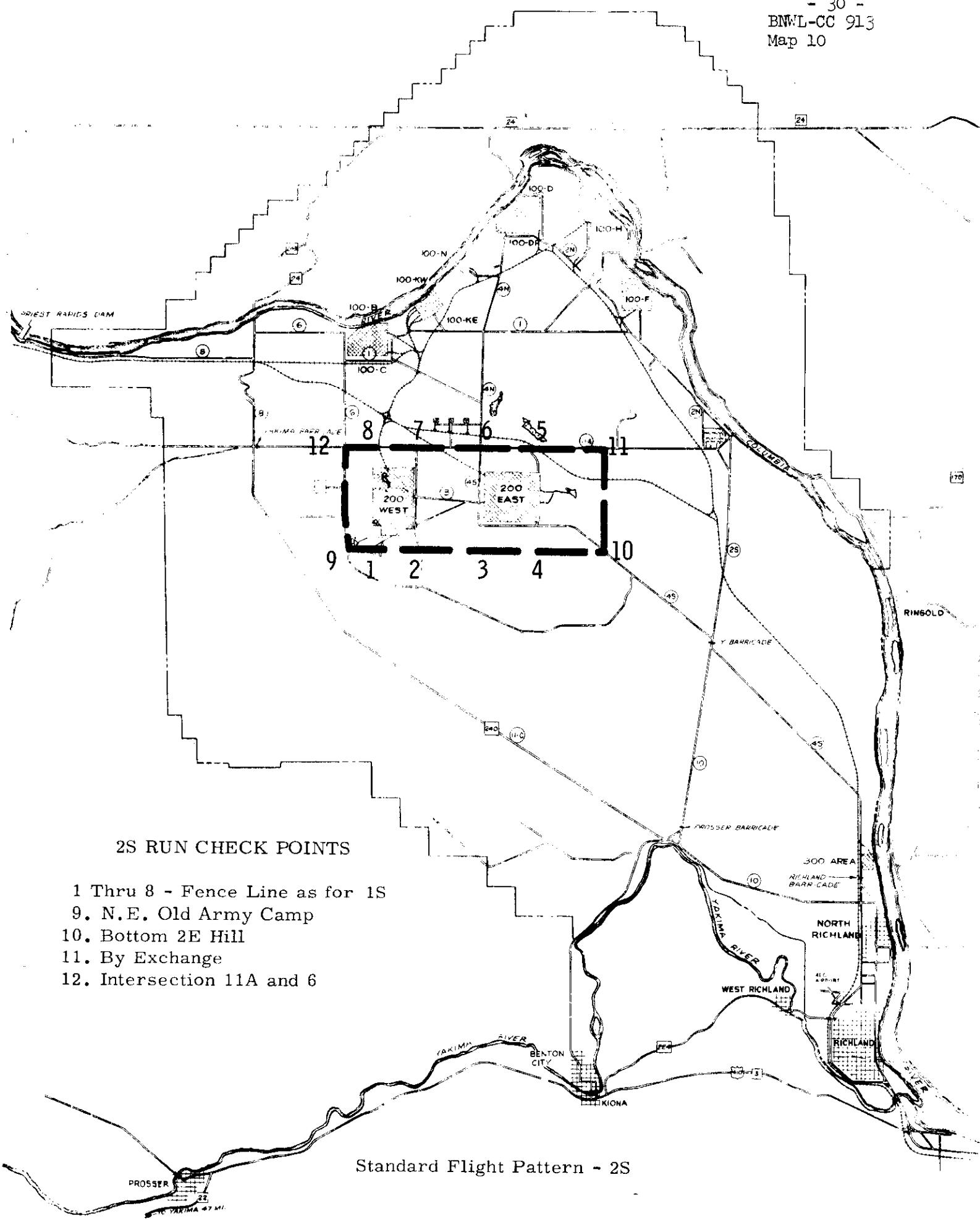


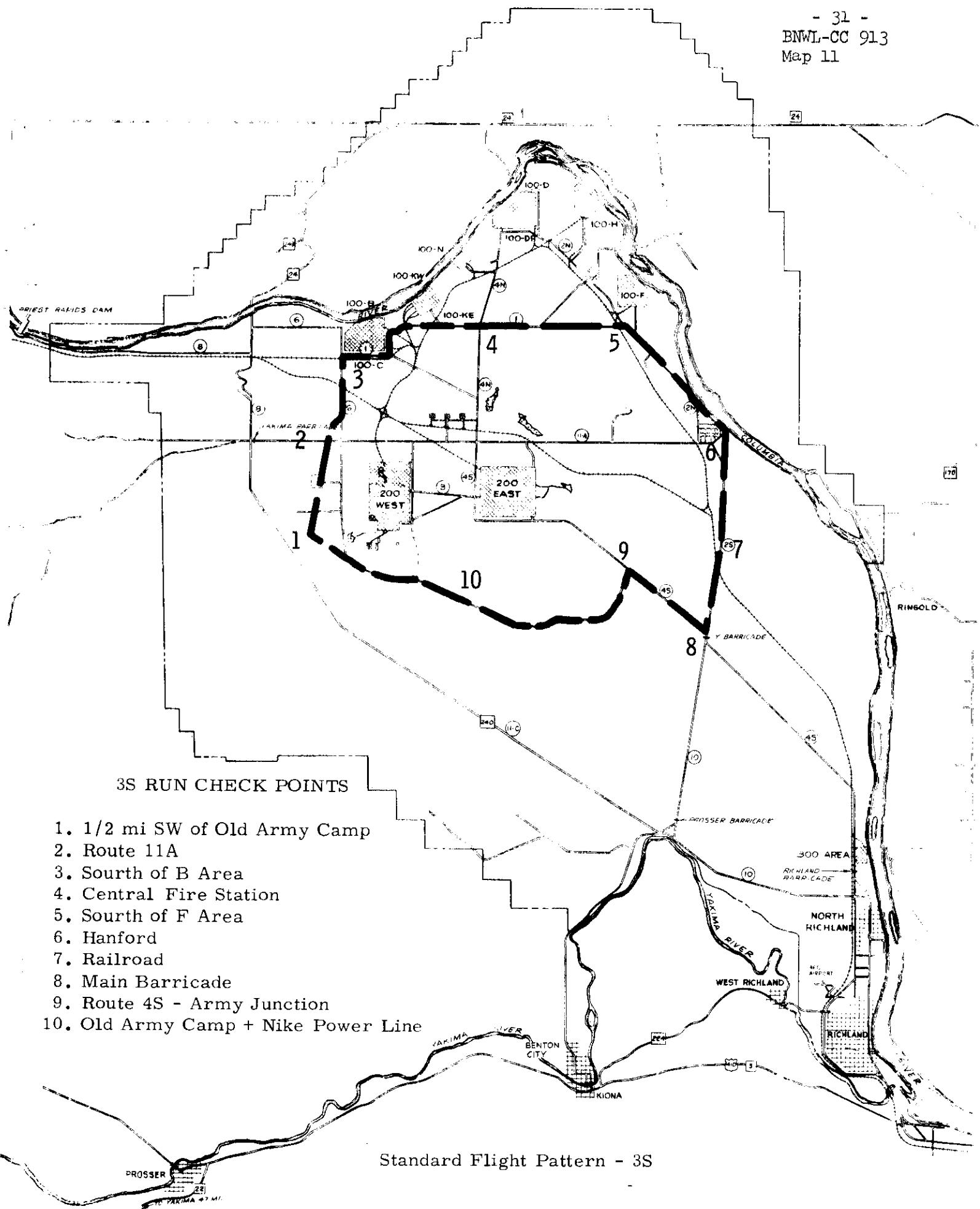
#### 2R RUN CHECK POINTS

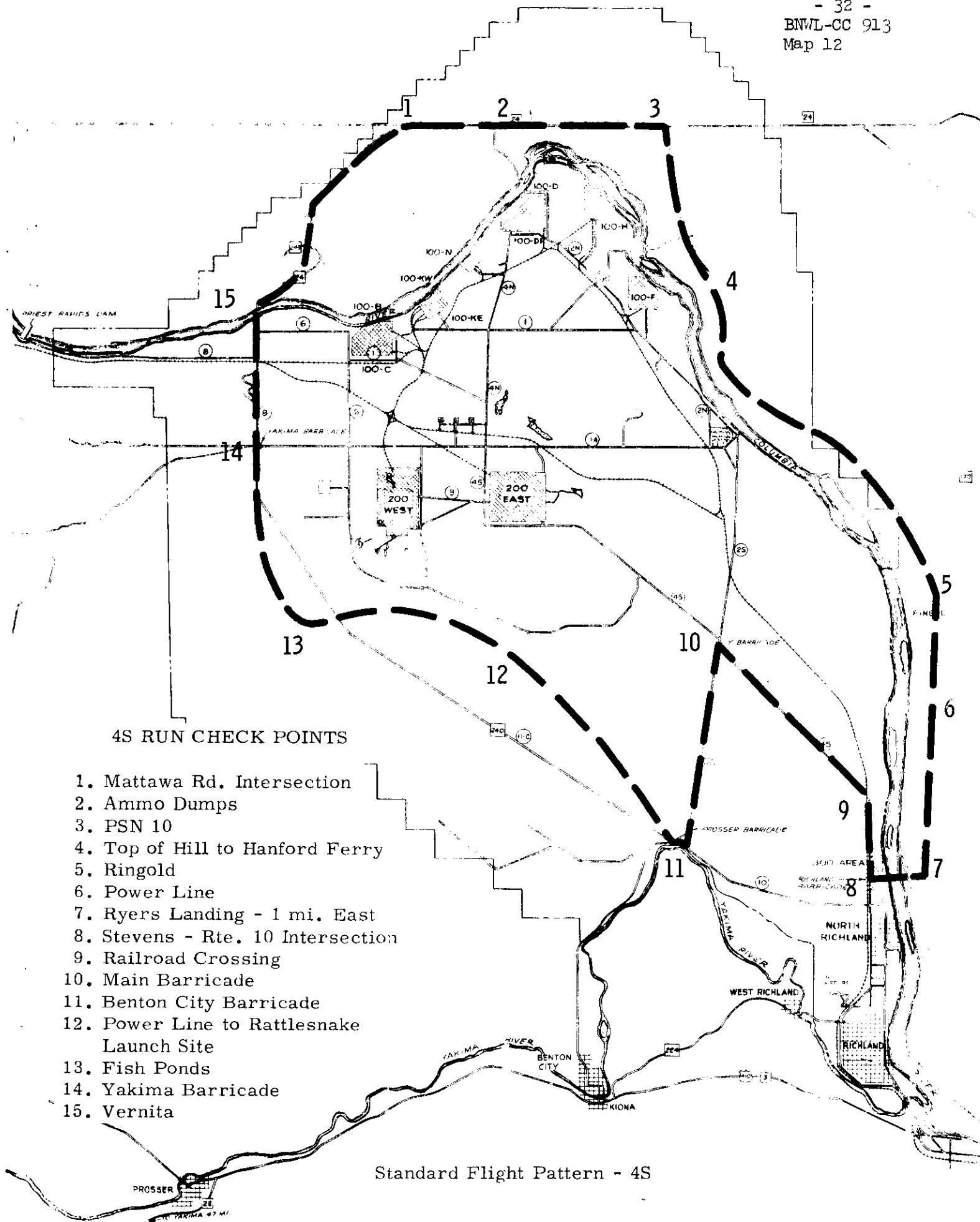
1. S.E. Corner of Run
2. By Exchange
3. Intersection 11A & 4S
4. Intersection 11A & 6
5. Yakima Barricade
6. Vernita Ferry
7. Mattawa Rd. & County Line Rd.
8. Army Position 91
9. 06-C -Saddle Mountain
10. MP 30
11. Over 7 Trees in a Clump

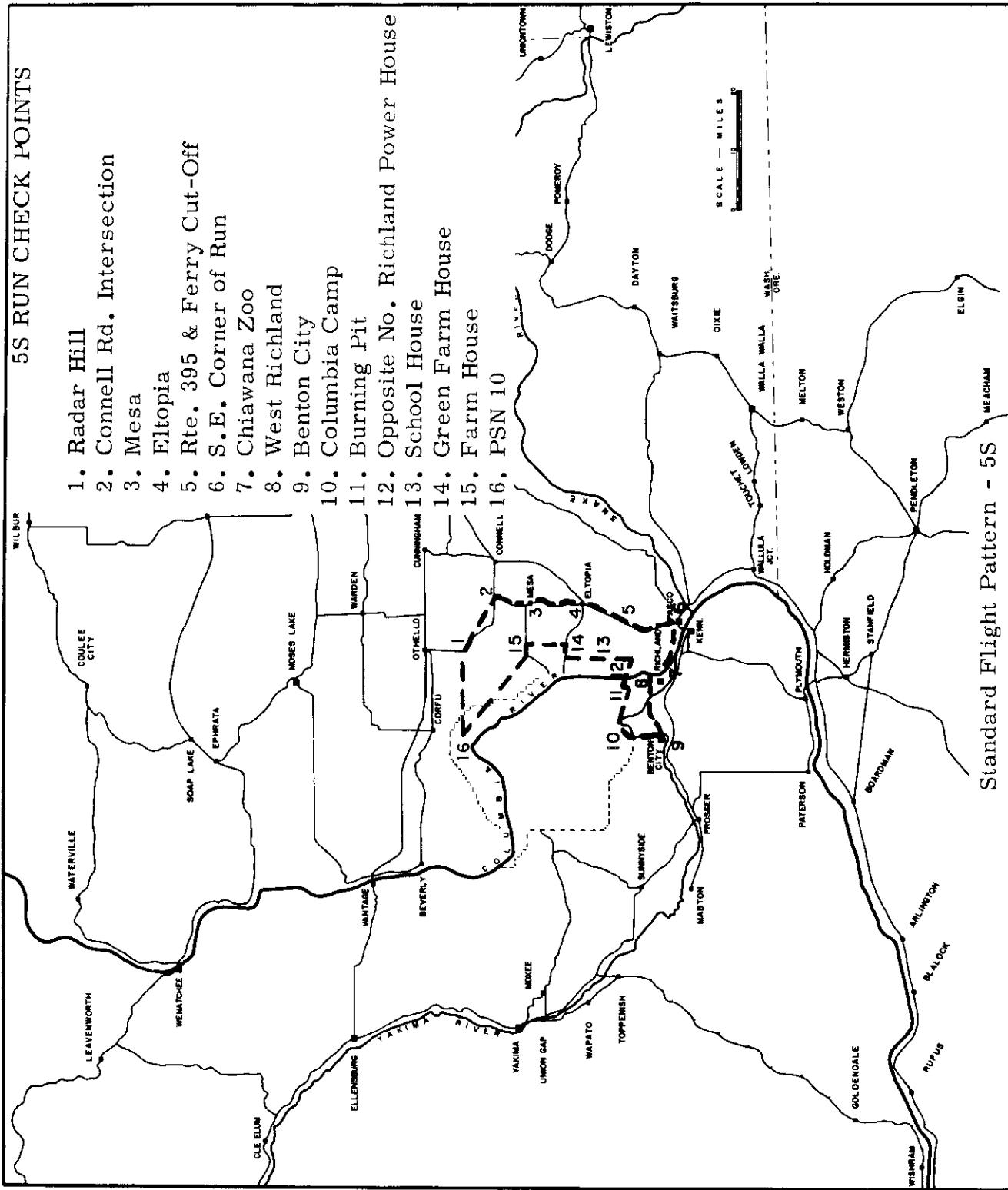
Standard Flight Pattern - 2R

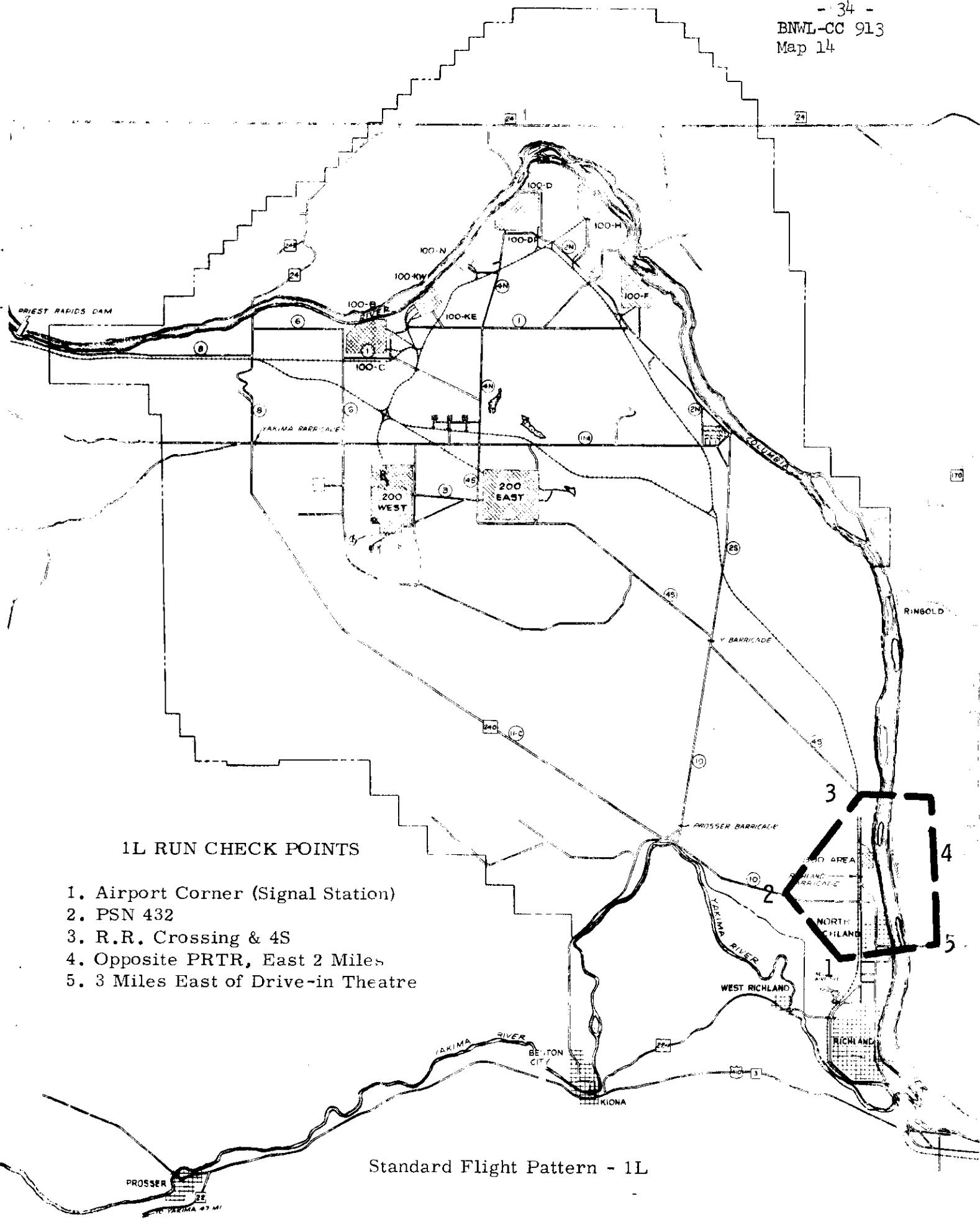


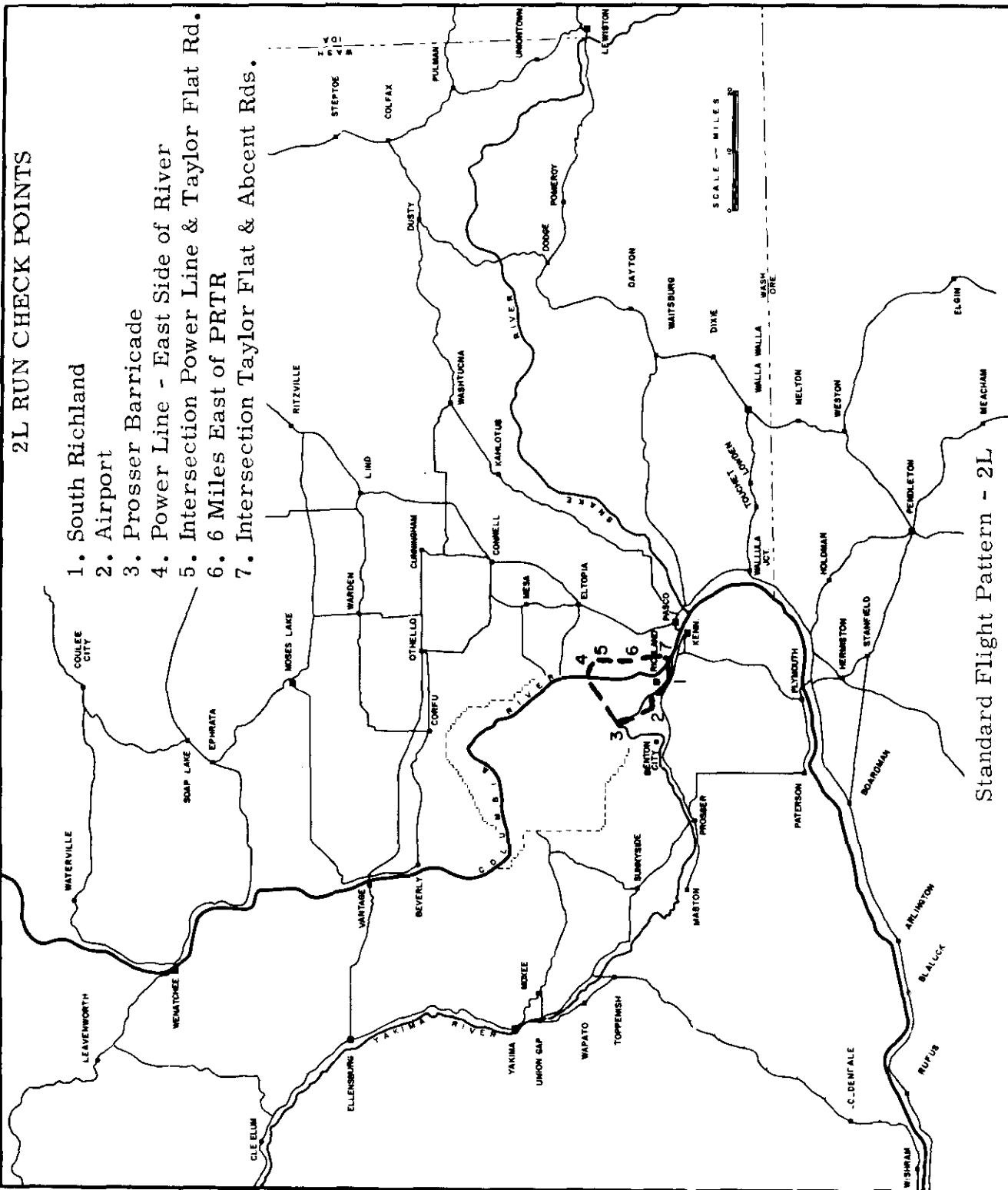


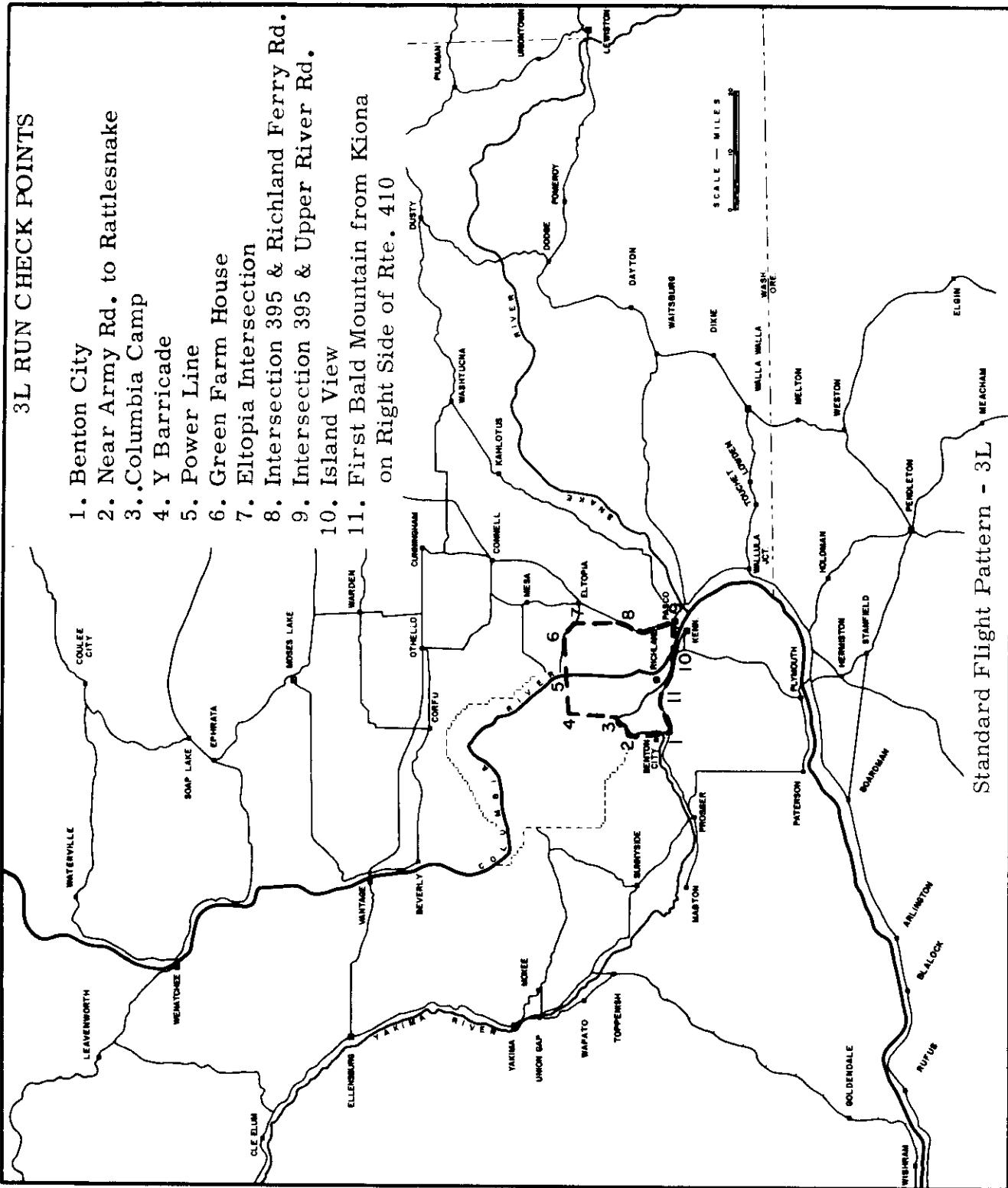


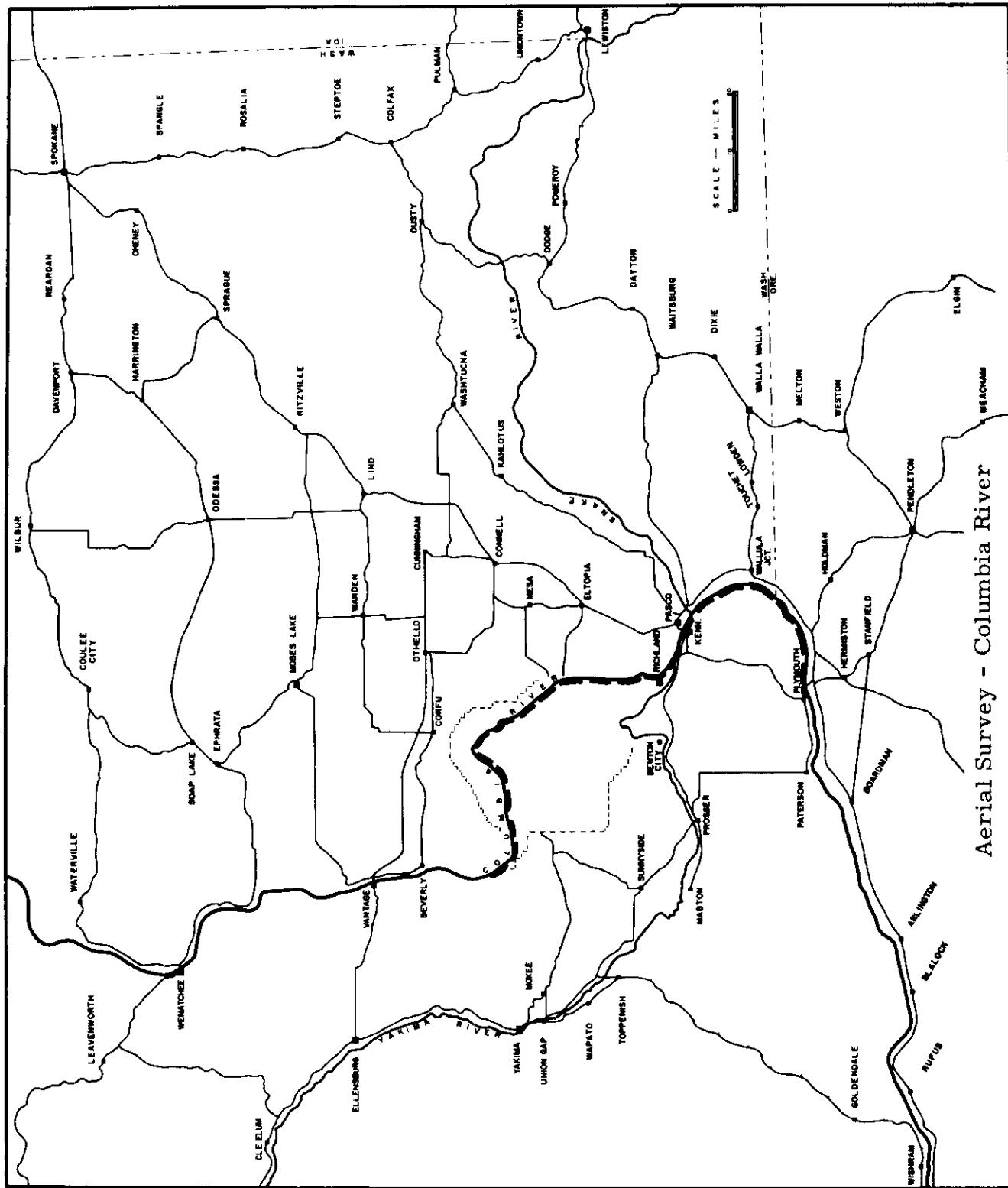






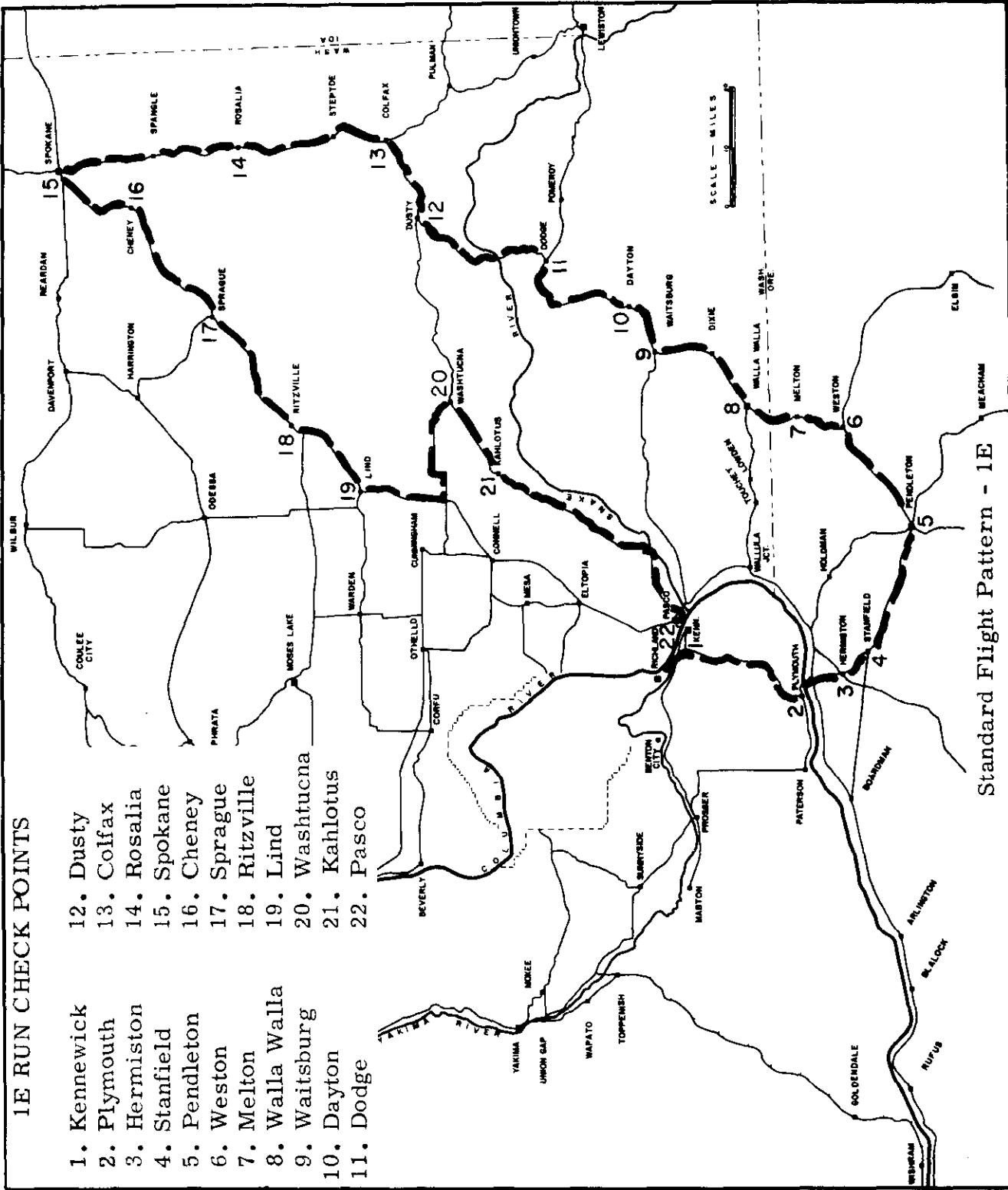




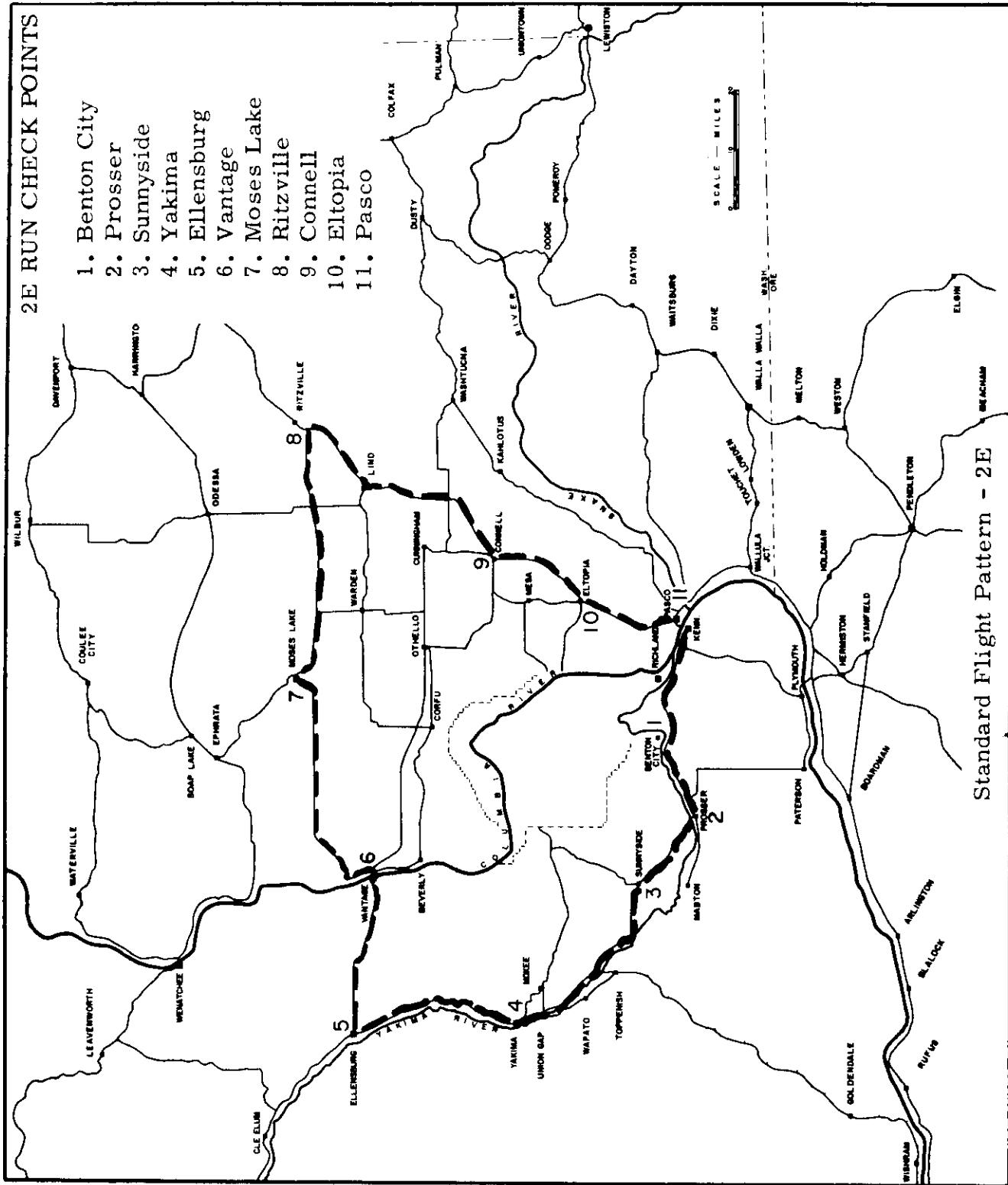


1E RUN CHECK POINTS

1. Kennewick
2. Plymouth
3. Hermiston
4. Stanfield
5. Pendleton
6. Weston
7. Melton
8. Walla Walla
9. Waitsburg
10. Dayton
11. Dodge
12. Dusty
13. Colfax
14. Rosalia
15. Spokane
16. Cheney
17. Sprague
18. Ritzville
19. Lind
20. Washucna
21. Kahlotus
22. Pasco

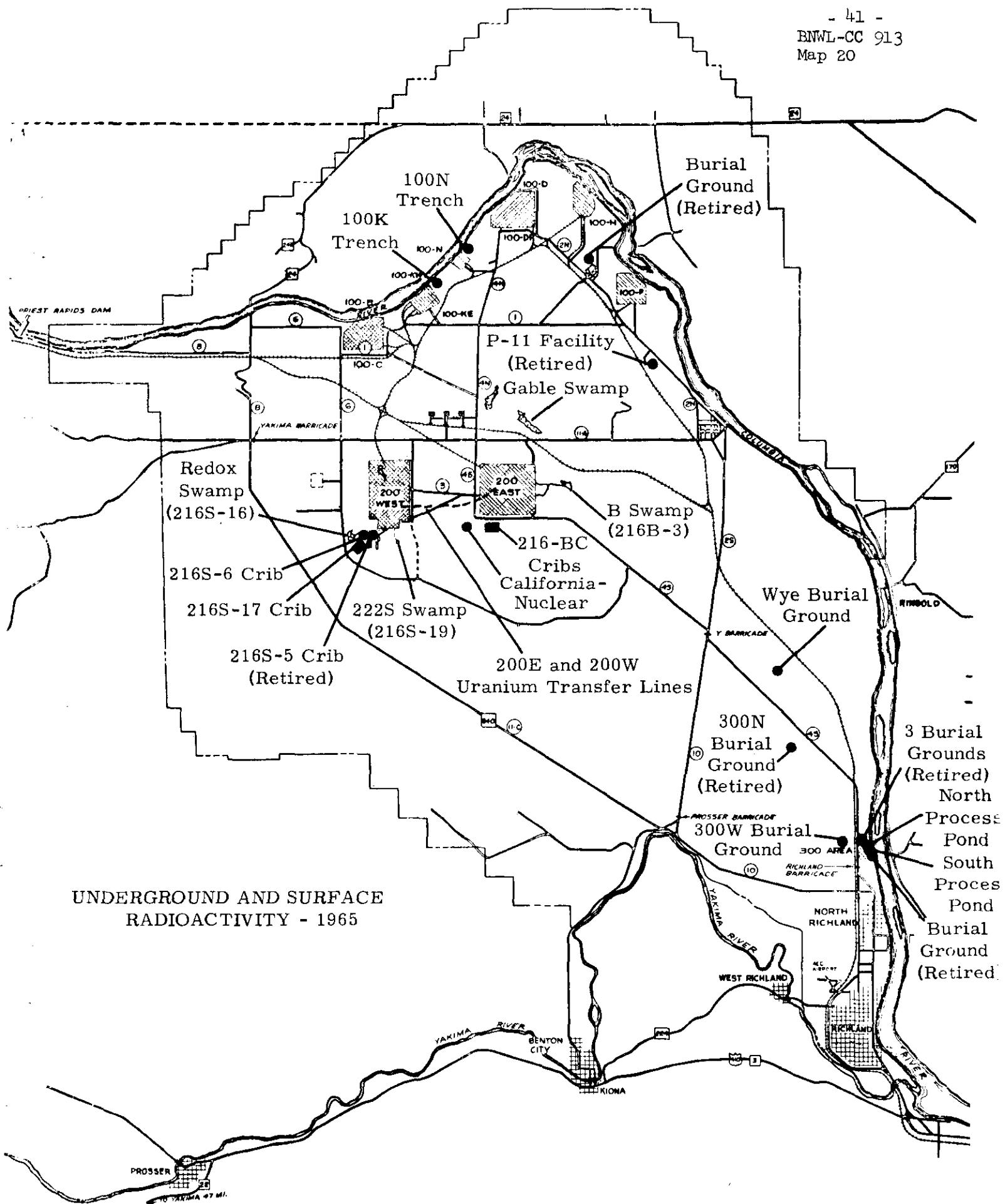


Standard Flight Pattern - 1E



5. Summary of Underground and Surface Radioactivity

There are several locations within the Hanford project outside of area perimeter fences which contain underground or surface radioactivity and, therefore, require controlled access. These sites include swamps, ponds, burial grounds, etc., and are shown in Map 20 which follows.



## 6. Special Surveys

### 100-K Area

On June 2, 1965, wind blew radioactive particles out of a dry 107-KW Basin. The contamination was confined to a path which extended southeast from the 107-KW Basins. The contamination path outside of 100-K Area was about 500 feet wide and about 1000 feet long, and contained particles having radiation levels up to 10,000 c/m (GM measurement). Two particles were recovered for a gamma scan analysis, with the following results:

Particle Location	Radionuclide			
	Sc <sup>48</sup> (nCi)	Cr <sup>51</sup> (nCi)	Zn <sup>65</sup> (nCi)	Np <sup>239</sup> (nCi)
100-K Area Fenceline	2.5	12	1.0	3.0
Power Line Road	4.0	16	2.6	6.0

Since the contaminated area was away from principal roads and the contamination was reasonably well fixed, no special restrictions or control measures were invoked for the 100-K Area environs.

### 200-W Area

During the period September 17-19, 1965, a large quantity of Ru<sup>103</sup> and Ru<sup>106</sup> was released from the 202-S Building stack. A thorough survey of the environs within the Hanford project and off-project failed to reveal any discrete particles. The only measurable effects of the radioruthenium release were increases in atmospheric contamination at several air sampling sites. A summary of ruthenium concentrations measured in air following the release is given below.

Location	Week Ending	Ru <sup>103</sup> -Ru <sup>106</sup> (in units of pCi/m <sup>3</sup> )		
		Average	Maximum	% 40-hr MPC <sub>a</sub> (max.)
200-W Area	9/20/65	37	84	0.11
200-E Area	9/20/65	5.1	7.7	0.01
100 Areas	9/20/65	4.5	9.8	0.01
ERC	9/22/65	9.8	9.8	0.01
Rattlesnake Springs	9/22/65	2.2	2.2	0.003
All other locations	9/22/65	0.92	1.3	0.002

\* The most restrictive MPC<sub>a</sub> (Ru<sup>106</sup>) was used in this calculation.

300 Area

On September 29, 1965, the process tube in the Fuel Element Rupture Test Facility at the FRTR failed, resulting in a release of tritium, radioiodines and noble gases to the atmosphere and to the Columbia River. The effects of this release were minor and did not affect the environs within the Hanford project. The off-plant effects of the release are included in BNWL-316, "Evaluation of Radiological Conditions in the Vicinity of Hanford for 1965".

B. External Radiation Exposure Rates

1. Exposure Rates on Plant

Both scintillation-type gamma monitors and film badges were used during 1965 to measure ambient exposure rates. Neither system provided data comparable to that obtained in 1966 with ionization chambers. The gamma monitors were designed for emergency levels and were too insensitive to measure the normal background radiation levels. The film badge results were erratic, probably because of weather transients.

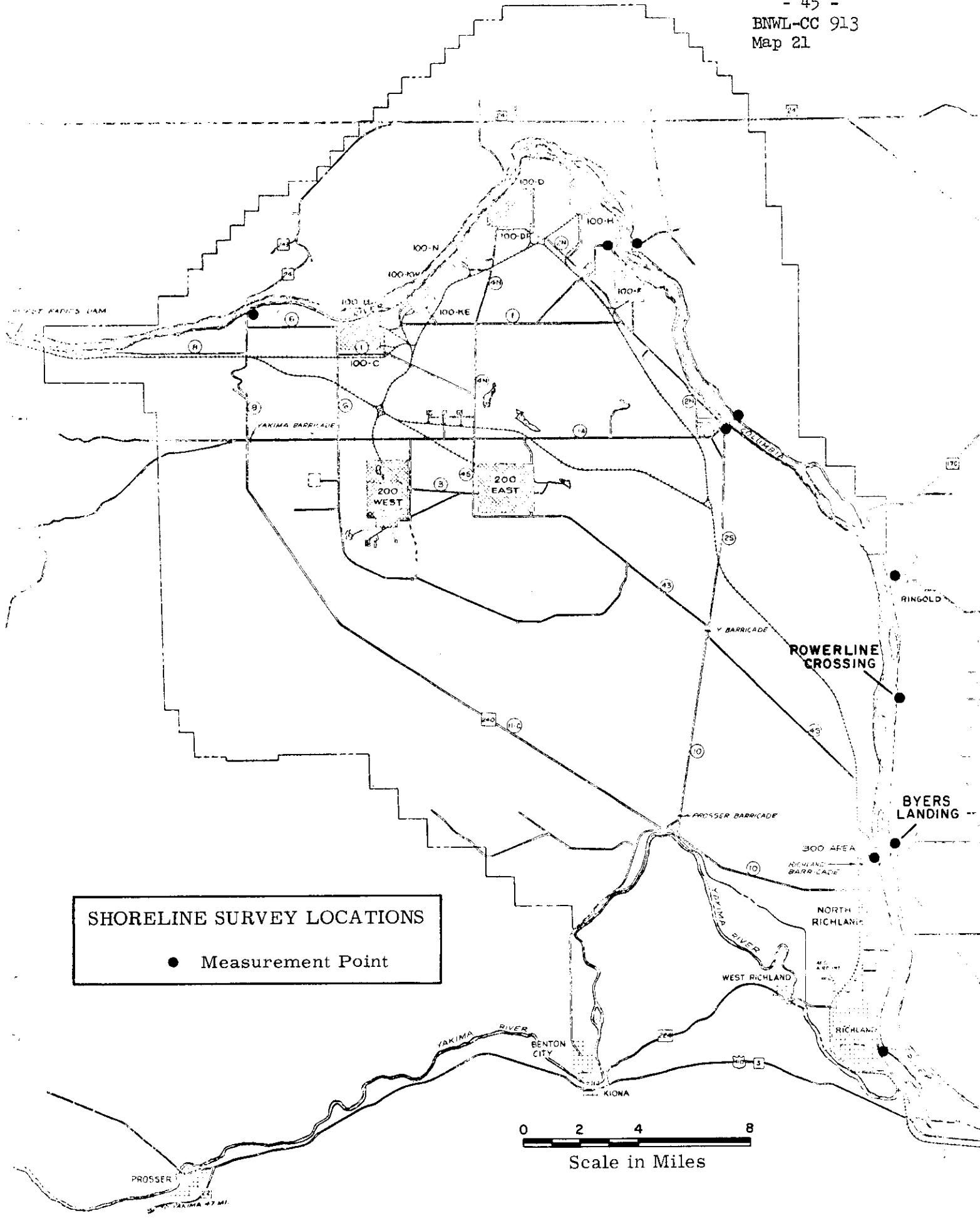
2. Exposure Rates at the Columbia River Shoreline

Shoreline exposure rates are measured with a NaI(Tl) scintillation detector, whose response is interpreted in terms of  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hour}$  (radium-gamma calibration). The measurements are made 3 feet above ground, thus approximating the dose rate to the gonads of a person standing on the river bank. Results of shoreline surveys conducted during 1965 are shown in Table V-1. In addition to the locations shown in Map 21, measurements were also made at Burbank and Sacajawea Park.

Table V-1  
Monthly Average Shoreline Exposure Rates \*  
(in units of  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hr}$ )

Month	Ringold	Power Line Crossing	Byers Landing	Richland Marina	Burbank	Sacajawea Park
Jan.	56		54	41	13	
Feb.	59		53	52	23	
Mar.	53		52	56	15	
Apr.	57		39	34	11	
May	15		24	24	10	
June	16		13	18	11	
July	32		21	22	10	
Aug.	48		31		15	
Sept.	39	86	70		14	21
Oct.	47	55	36		11	22
Nov.	76	95	51		12	16
Dec.	29	73	26	25	10	13

\* No 1965 data were available for the following locations used in 1966: Vernita Bridge, White Bluffs (Plant and far shore), Hanford (plant and far shore), and PRTT Outfall.



3. Exposure Rates Below the Surface of the Columbia River

Exposure rates in the river are determined from pocket dosimeters contained within submerged bottles. Immersion exposure rates measured during 1965 are given in Table V-2. The measurement points are shown in Map 22.

Table V-2  
Monthly Average Immersion Exposure Rates  
(in units of mR/day)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Vernita Bridge</u>	<u>Old Hanford Ferry</u>	<u>Ringold</u>	<u>300 Area</u>	<u>Richland Marina</u>
Jan.	0.44	6.2		2.9	2.4
Feb.	0.26	5.2		3.1	1.9
Mar.	0.32	5.6		2.8	2.8
Apr.	0.31	6.3		3.6	3.0
May	0.27	3.6		2.9	2.2
June	0.29	3.3		1.4	1.5
July	0.17	2.8		1.8	1.2
Aug.	0.72	3.7		1.6	1.5
Sept.	0.80	2.8	1.7	2.3	2.1
Oct.	0.46	2.6	1.7	1.9	1.9
Nov.	0.73	3.5	3.0	2.1	1.9
Dec.		3.8	2.6	2.1	1.8

