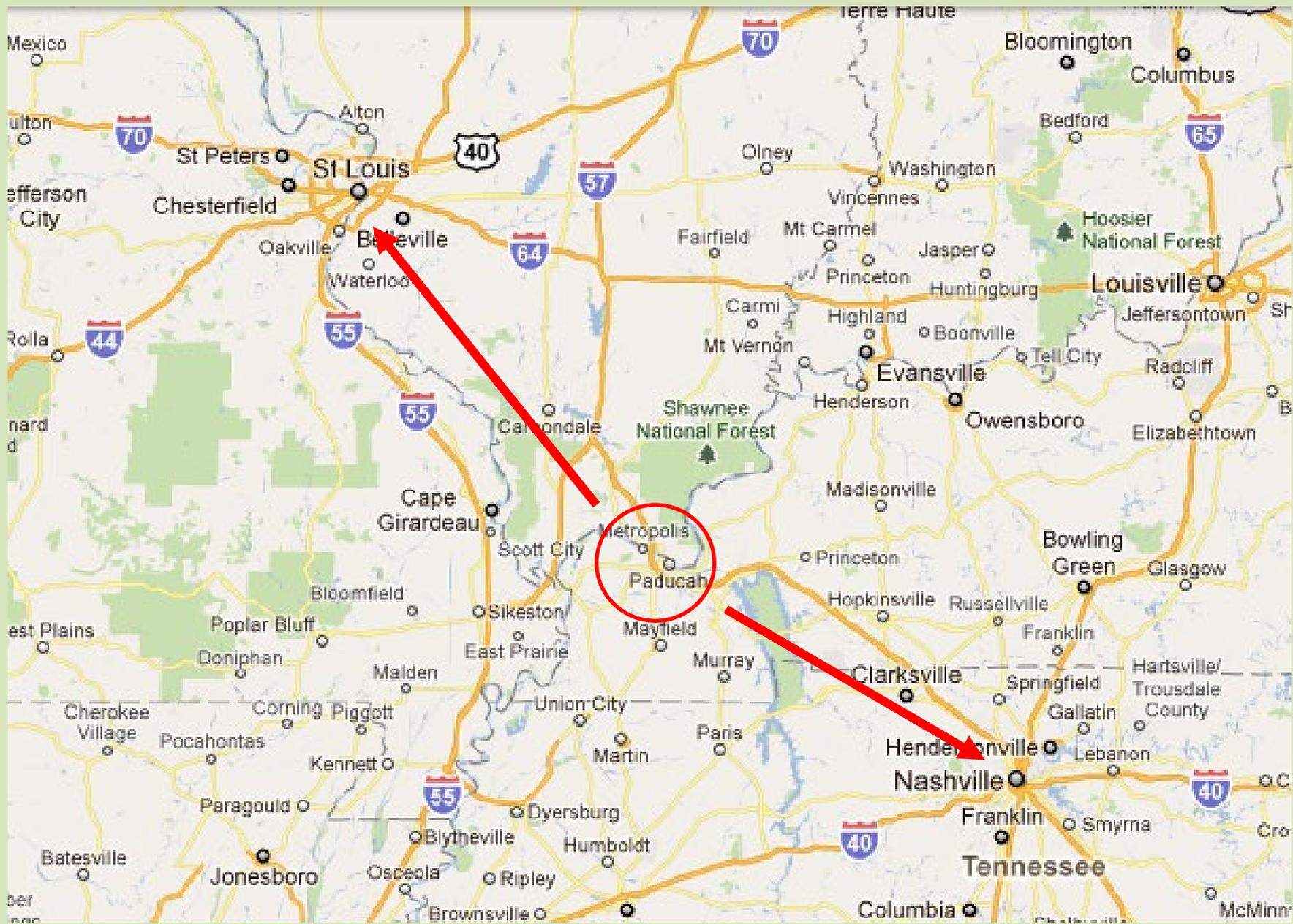


# The Story of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

## Megatons to Megawatts









CENTER FOR MARITIME EDUCATION  
THE MARINE'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

CENTER FOR MARITIME EDUCATION  
THE MARINE'S CHURCH INSTITUTE

ONE CENTRAL & CLAY PLAZA  
DURHAM, NC 27701

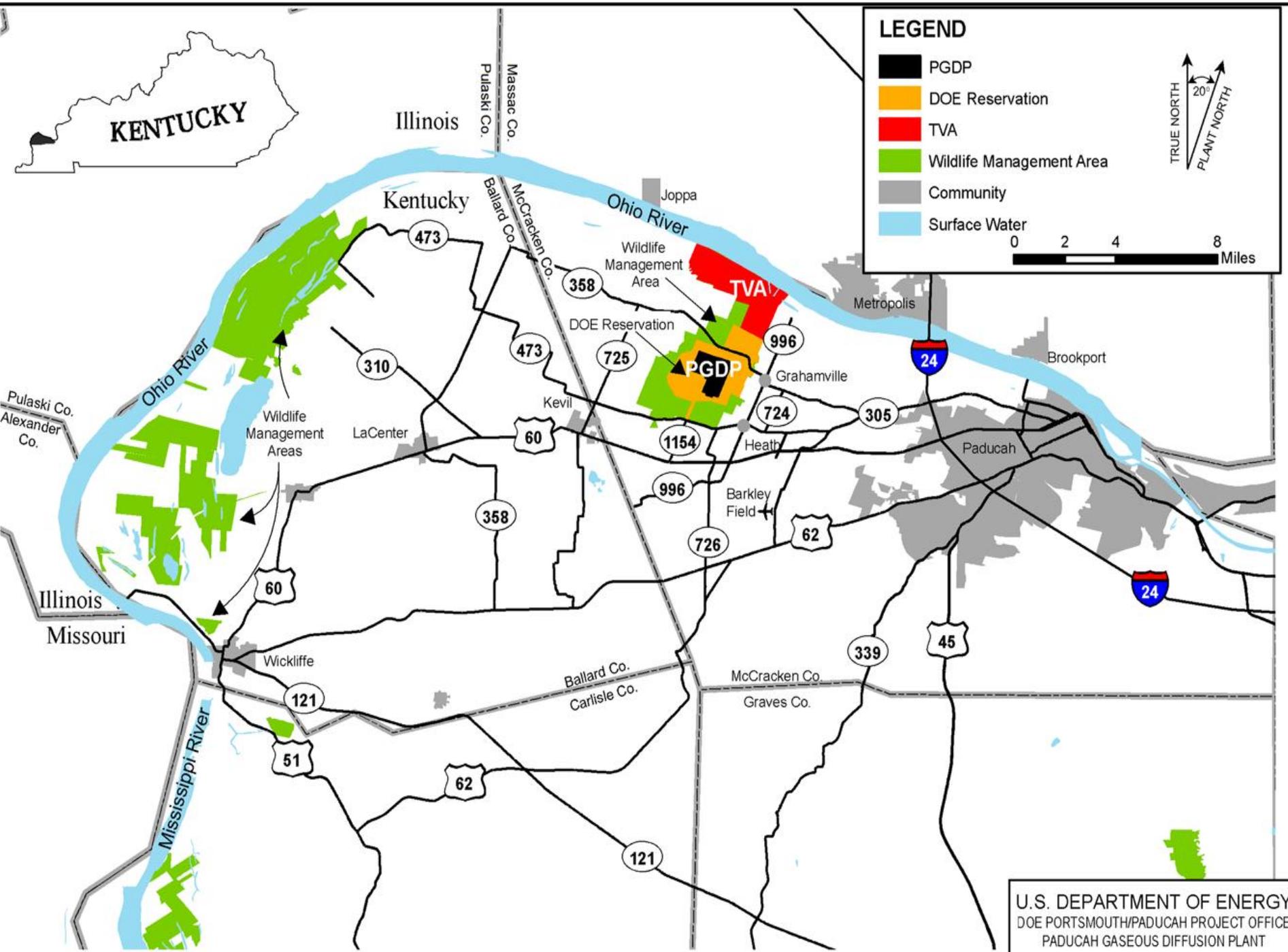
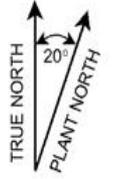
POUCH  
TOBACCO





**LEGEND**

- PGDP
- DOE Reservation
- TVA
- Wildlife Management Area
- Community
- Surface Water



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
DOE PORTSMOUTH/PADUCAH PROJECT OFFICE  
PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

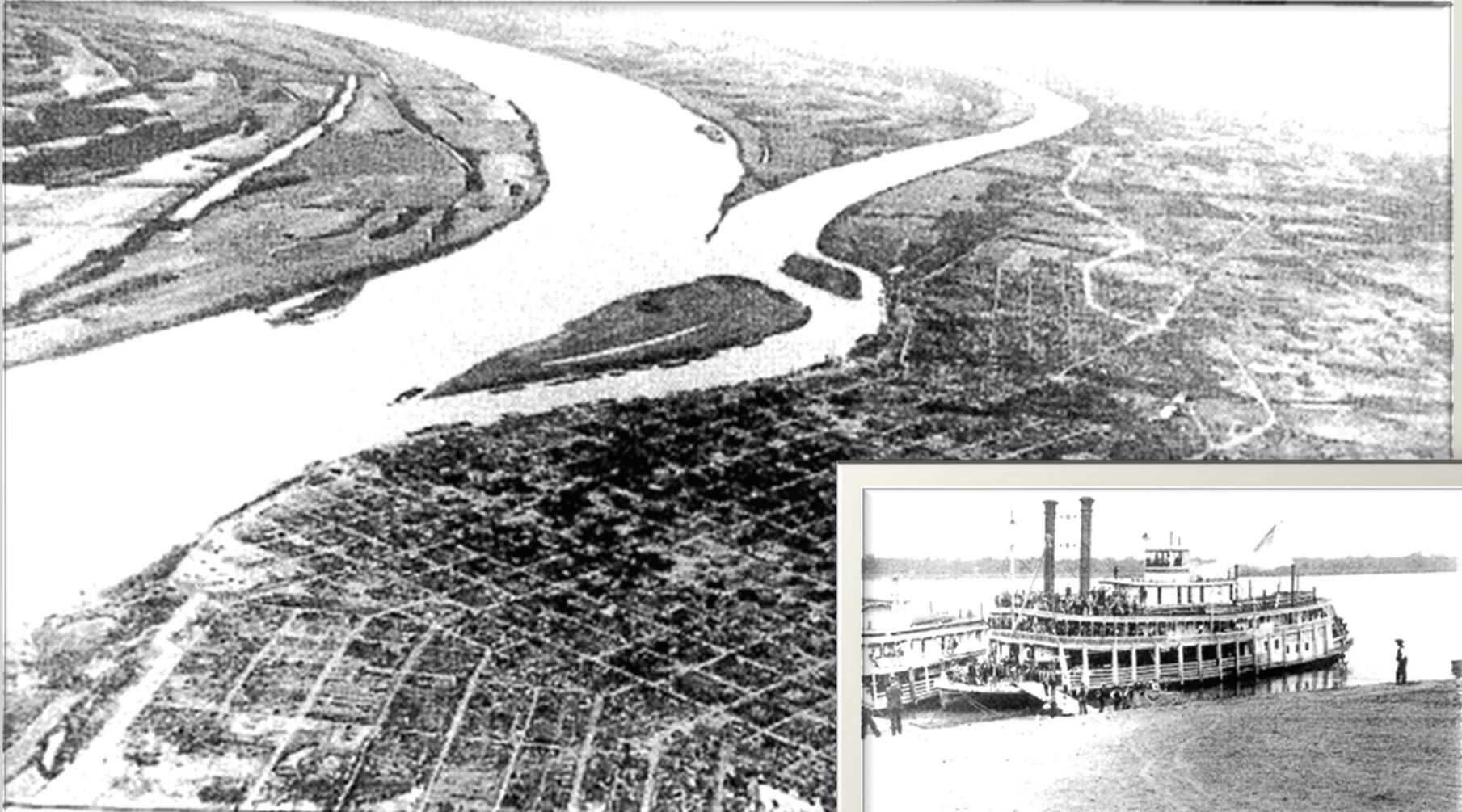






Woburn Rd

# Incorporation and steamboats

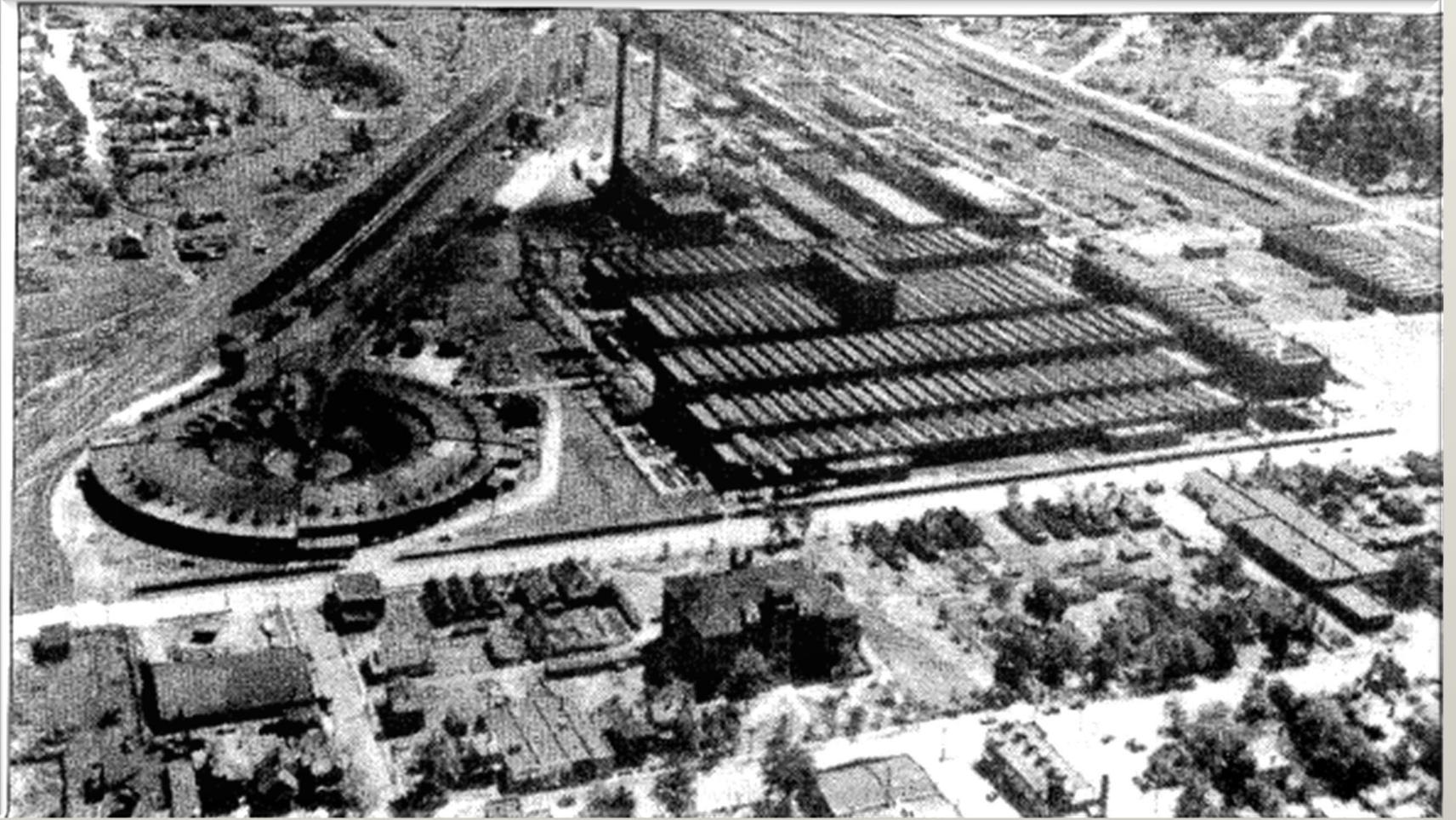






# Incorporation, steamboats, and railroads













# The Paducah Sun-Democrat

Report: High 41, Low 15  
Year ago: High 40, Low 12  
River, Lake Stages  
Stage at T. A. M.: 20.1 feet, Fall  
of 24 feet in 24 hours  
Kentucky Lake level 212.2 feet  
San And Moon  
Sun sets today 4:38 p. m.; rises  
tomorrow 7:22 a. m.; moon sets  
11:47 p. m.

Paducah, Ky., Friday Evening, December 15, 1950

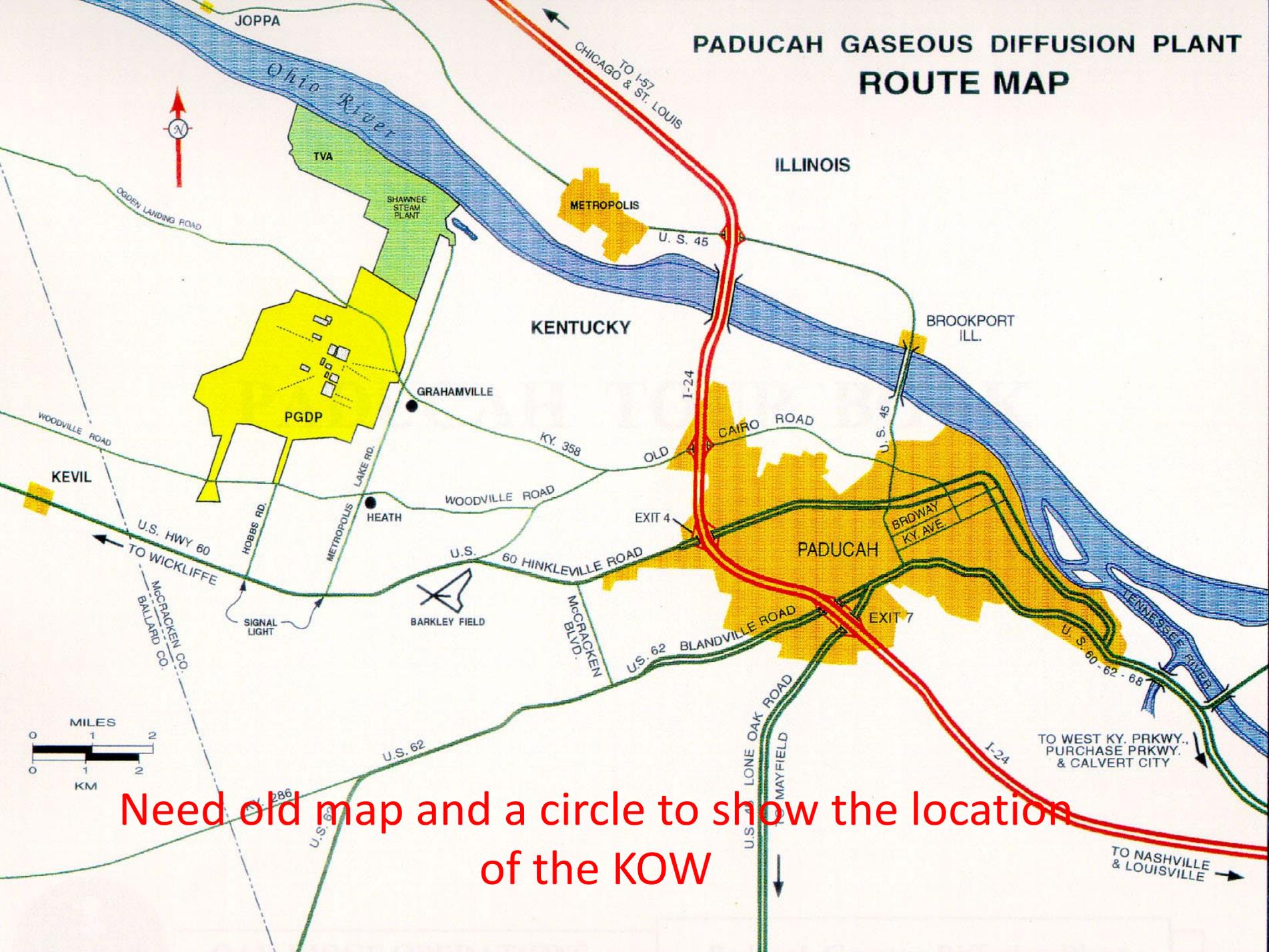
\*\*\*

4 Editions Daily—2 Sunday

## \$30,000,000 Munitions Plant in McCracken County

Need to find old front page or create a replica

# PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT ROUTE MAP



Need old map and a circle to show the location of the KOW

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY  
AT PADUCAH

NO. 144

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITIONER

VS

NOTICE TO VACATE

16,100 ACRES OF LAND, more or less,  
situate in McCracken County,  
Kentucky, Mrs. A. M. Anderson, et al.

DEPENDANTS

TO: W. D. T. Lockett,  
Route 1, Kevil, Ky.

Please take notice that a petition in condemnation and  
Order of Immediate Possession covering the land which you own  
or occupy has been filed and entered in the office of the Clerk  
of the United States District Court for the Western District of  
Kentucky.

IT WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT YOU VACATE THIS  
LAND NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON, APRIL 20, 1942.

You are further advised that if you have any questions  
to ask relating to the acquisition of your land, or if you desire  
to negotiate regarding the sale price of same, you should call  
immediately at the Kentucky Ordnance Works, Paducah, Kentucky.

*W. H. Brown III*

W. H. Brown, III  
United States Attorney

April 3, 1942.





OLD KENTUCKY  
ORDNANCE WORKS  
Tank (Aban'd)

Sewage  
Disposal

Tanks

Gravel Pit

Tank

ABAND'D

Tanks

Tanks

Gravel Pit

Magruder Sch

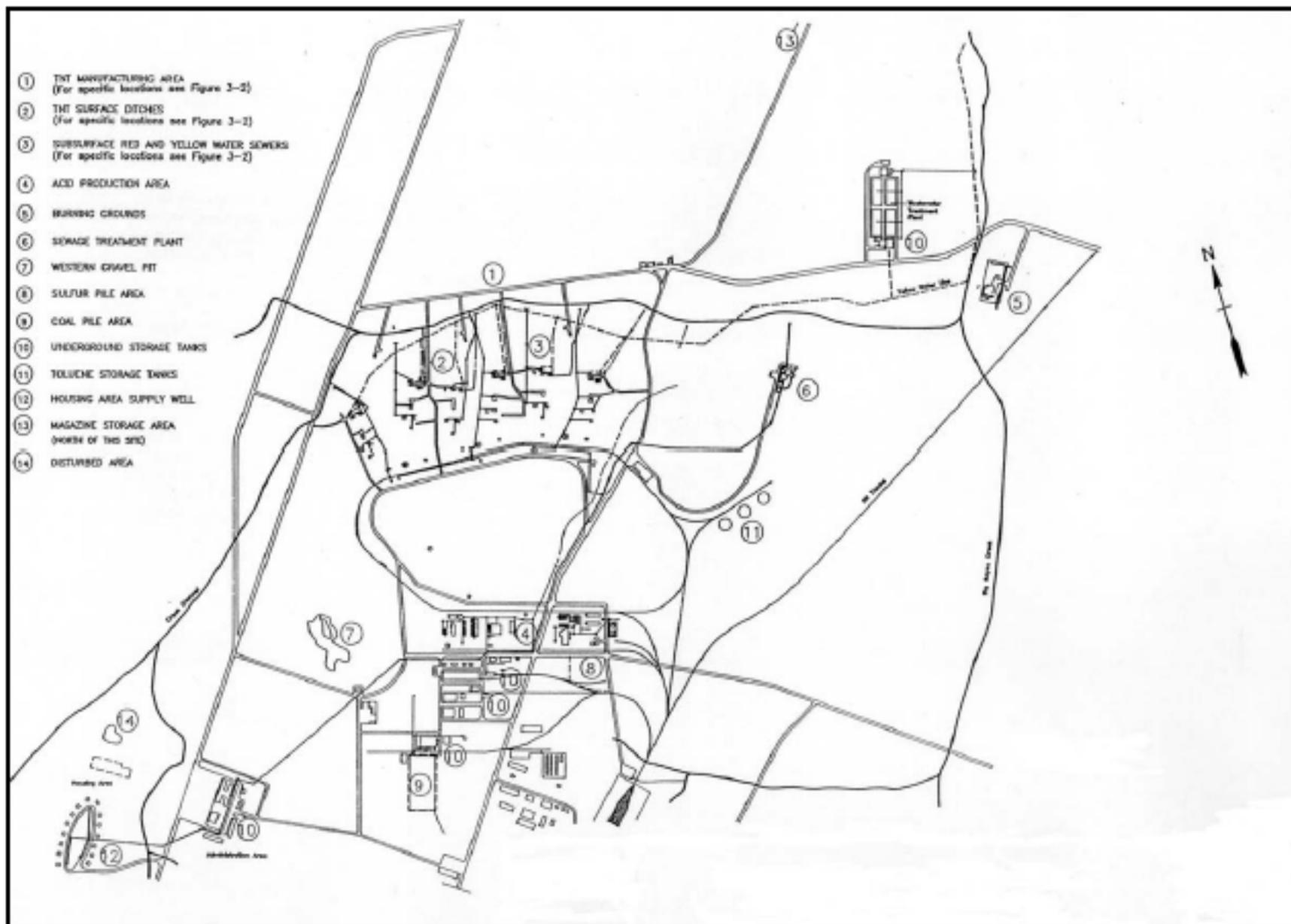
Bethel Ch

Cimota  
City

Forestdale  
Sch

Spring Bayou  
Ch

Bayou



**Fig. 3. Site plan for the KOW TNT Production Area.**  
 (Plan courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

# Impact of KOW to local residents

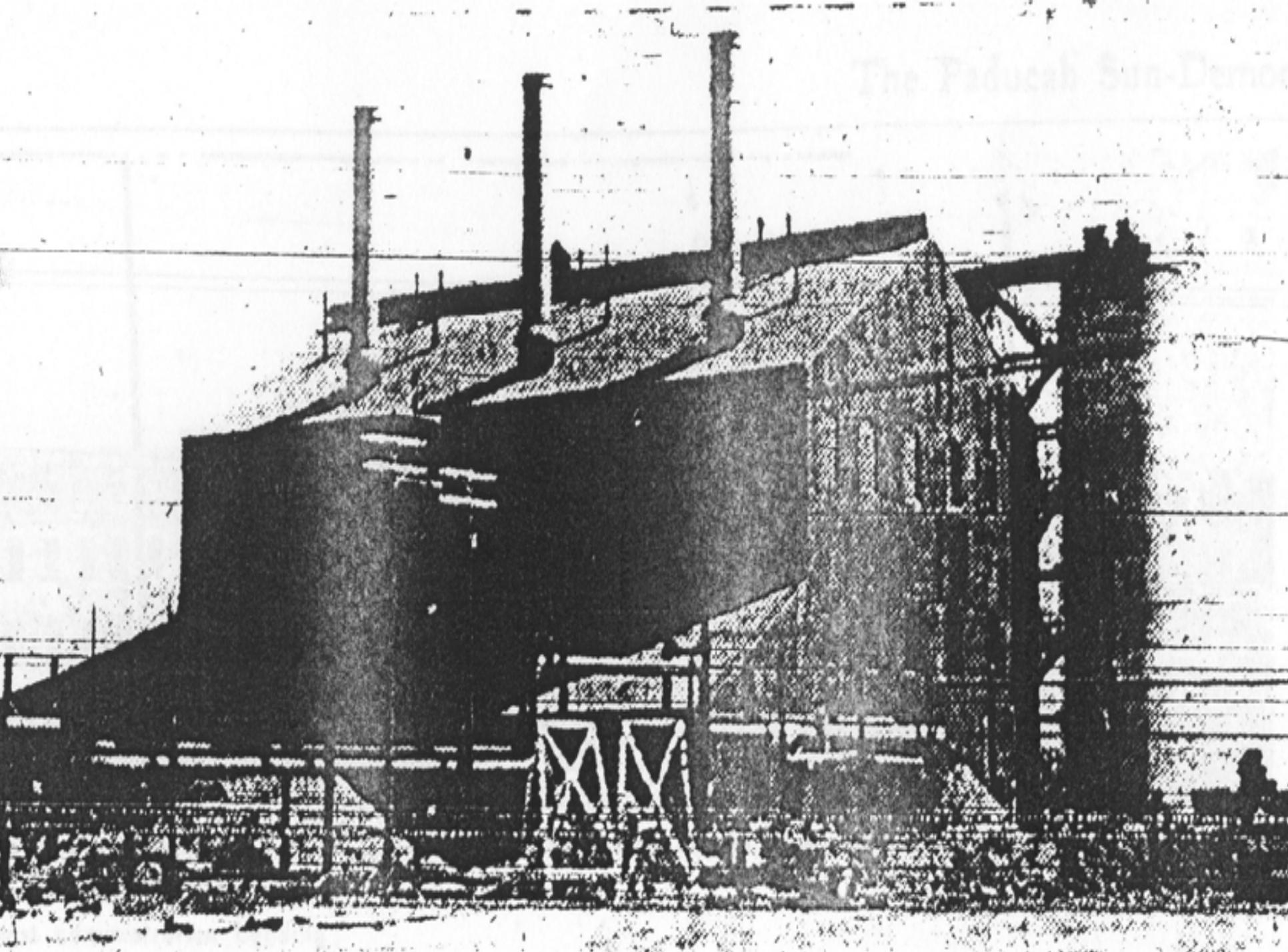
# Impact of KOW to local residents

# KOW Construction

KOW

KOW

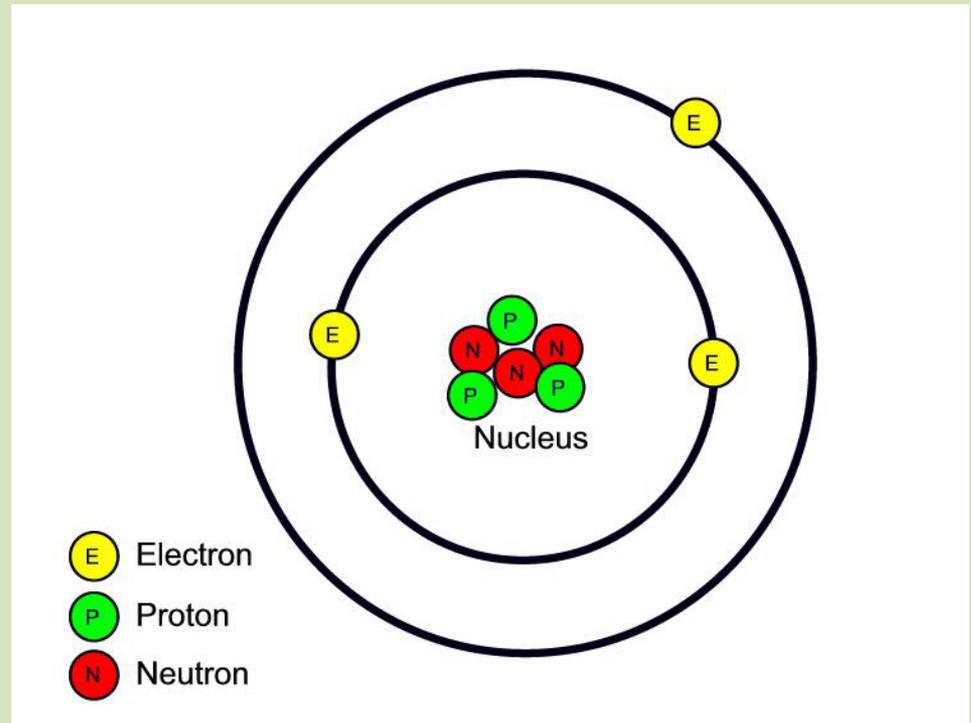
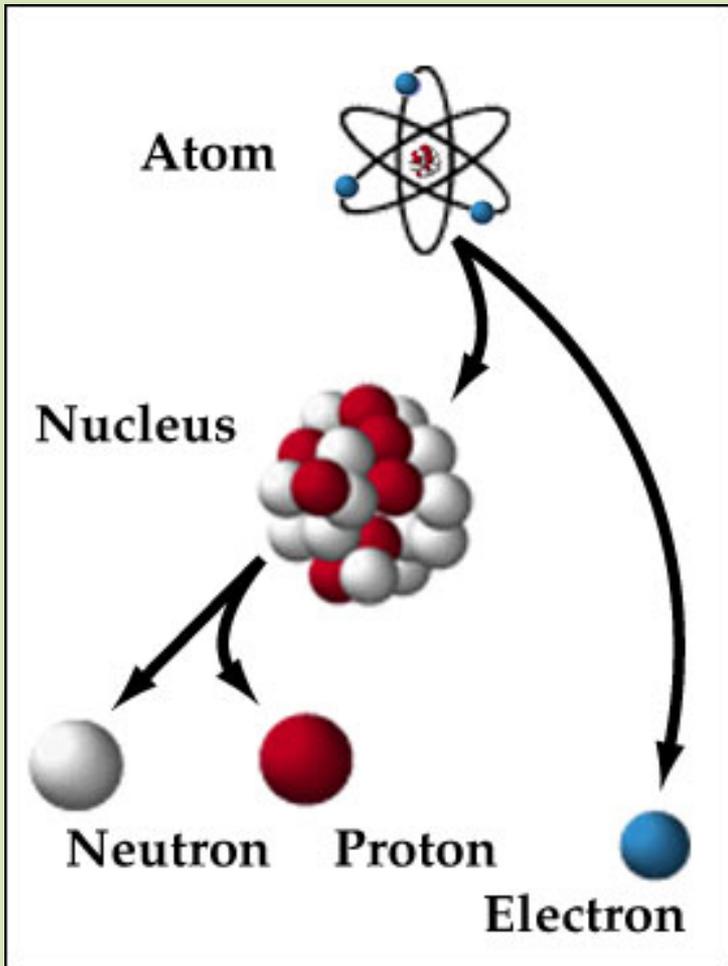
KOW



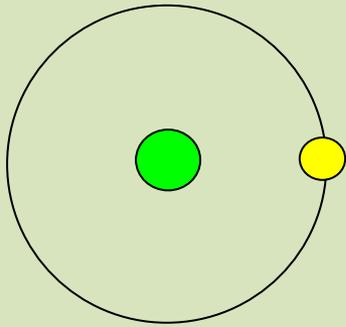
# The Manhattan Project



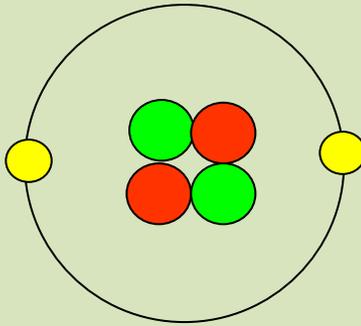
# Atomic Physics



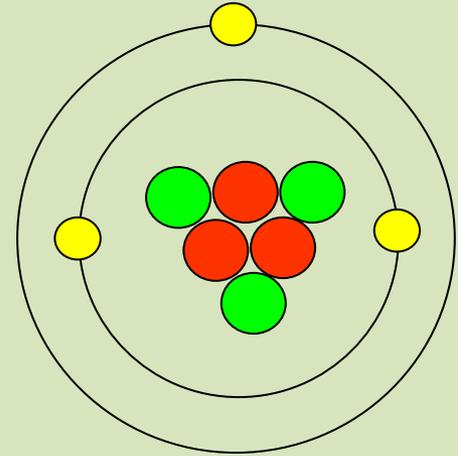
# Examples of Atoms



Hydrogen

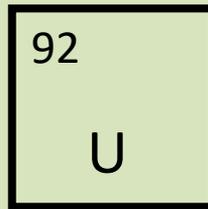


Helium



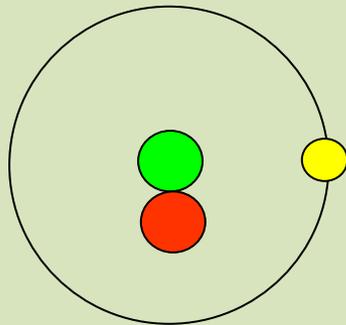
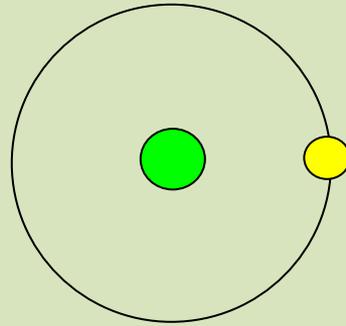
Lithium

Atomic Number  
(number of protons)

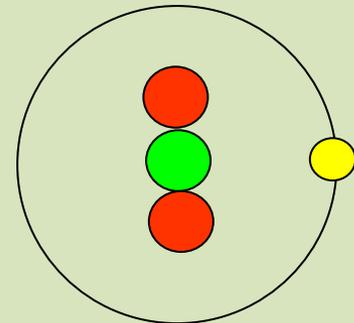


Symbol  
(uranium)

# Hydrogen Isotopes

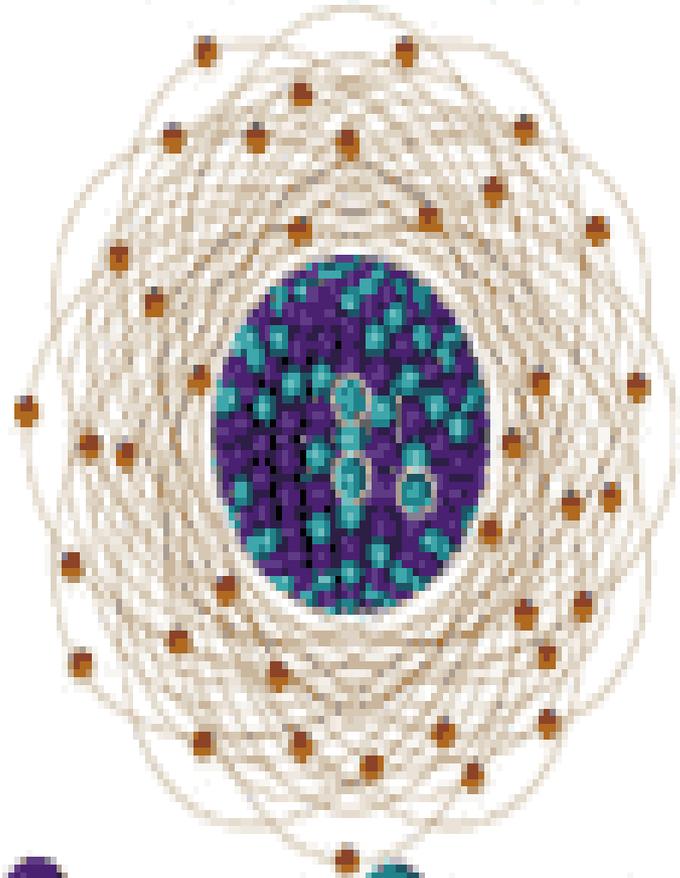


Deuterium



Tritium

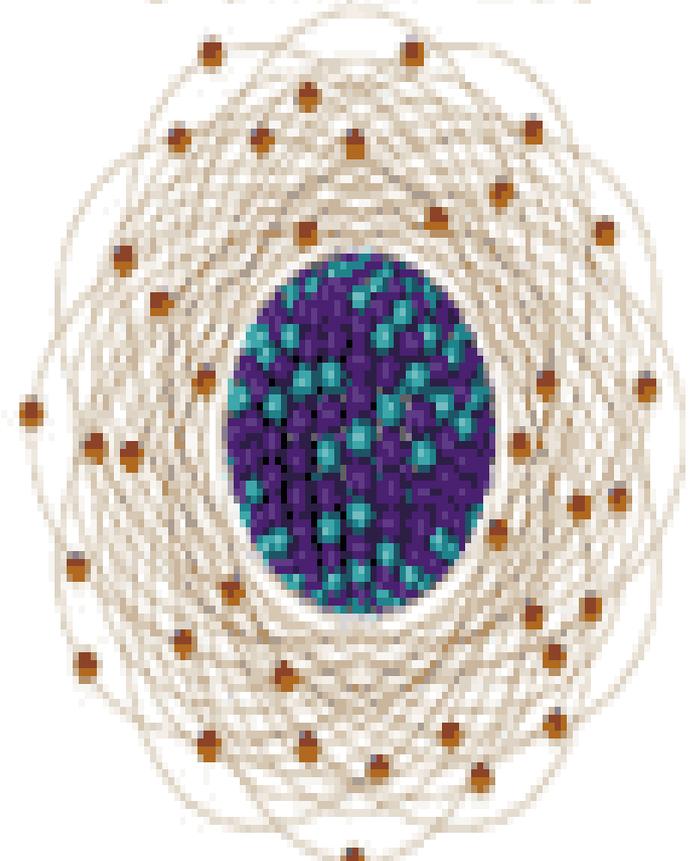
# Uranium-238



92 protons 146 neutrons

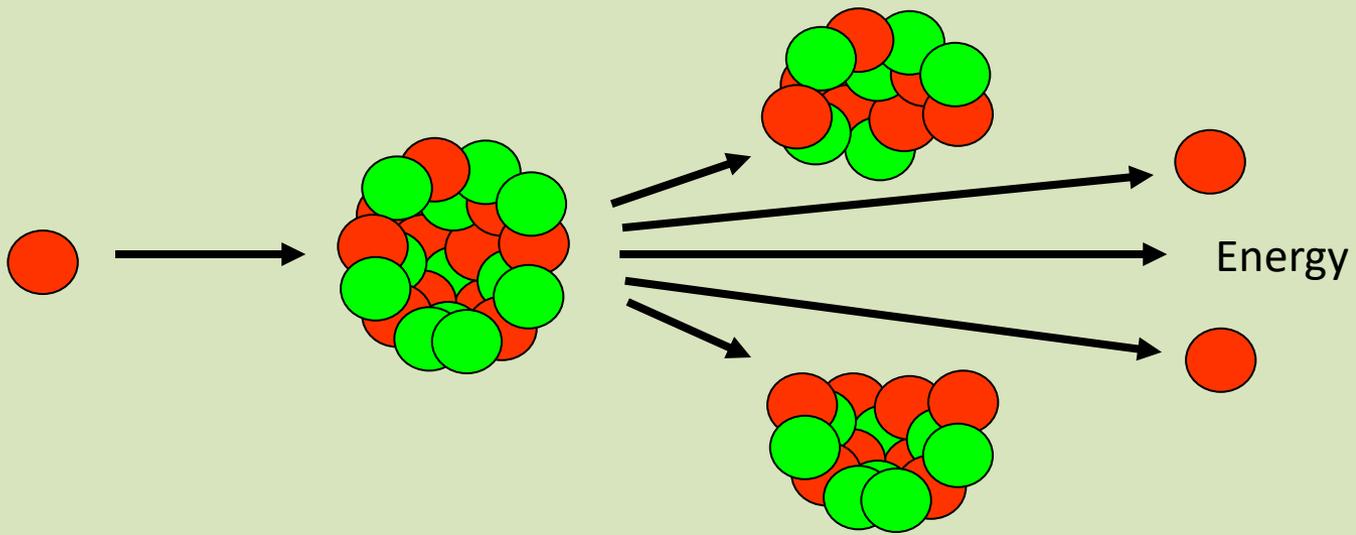
extra neutrons - heavier

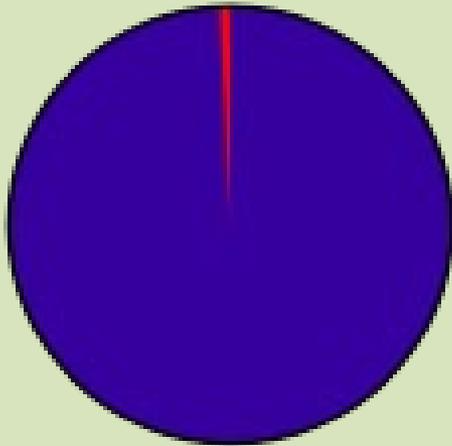
# Uranium-235



92 protons 143 neutrons

lighter and more active

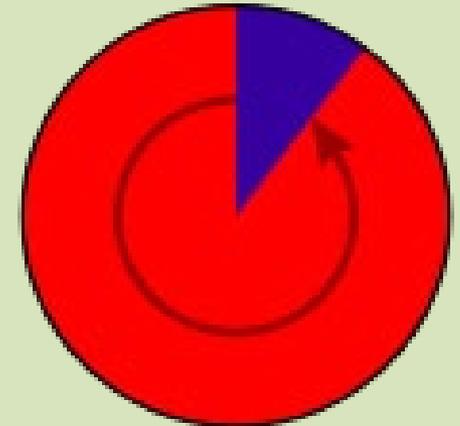




Natural uranium  
> 99.2% U-238  
0.72% U-235



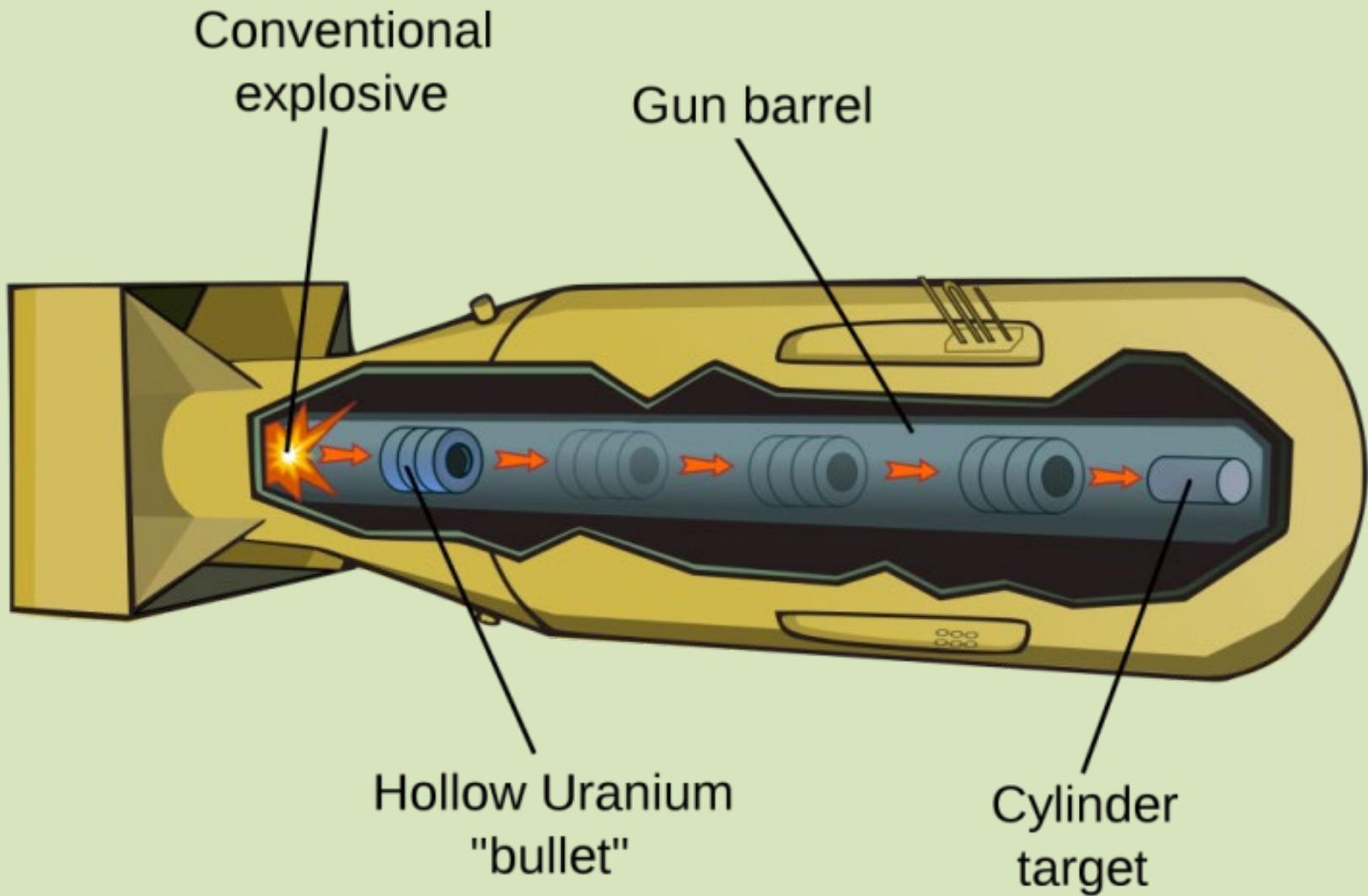
Low-enriched uranium  
(reactor grade)  
3-4% U-235

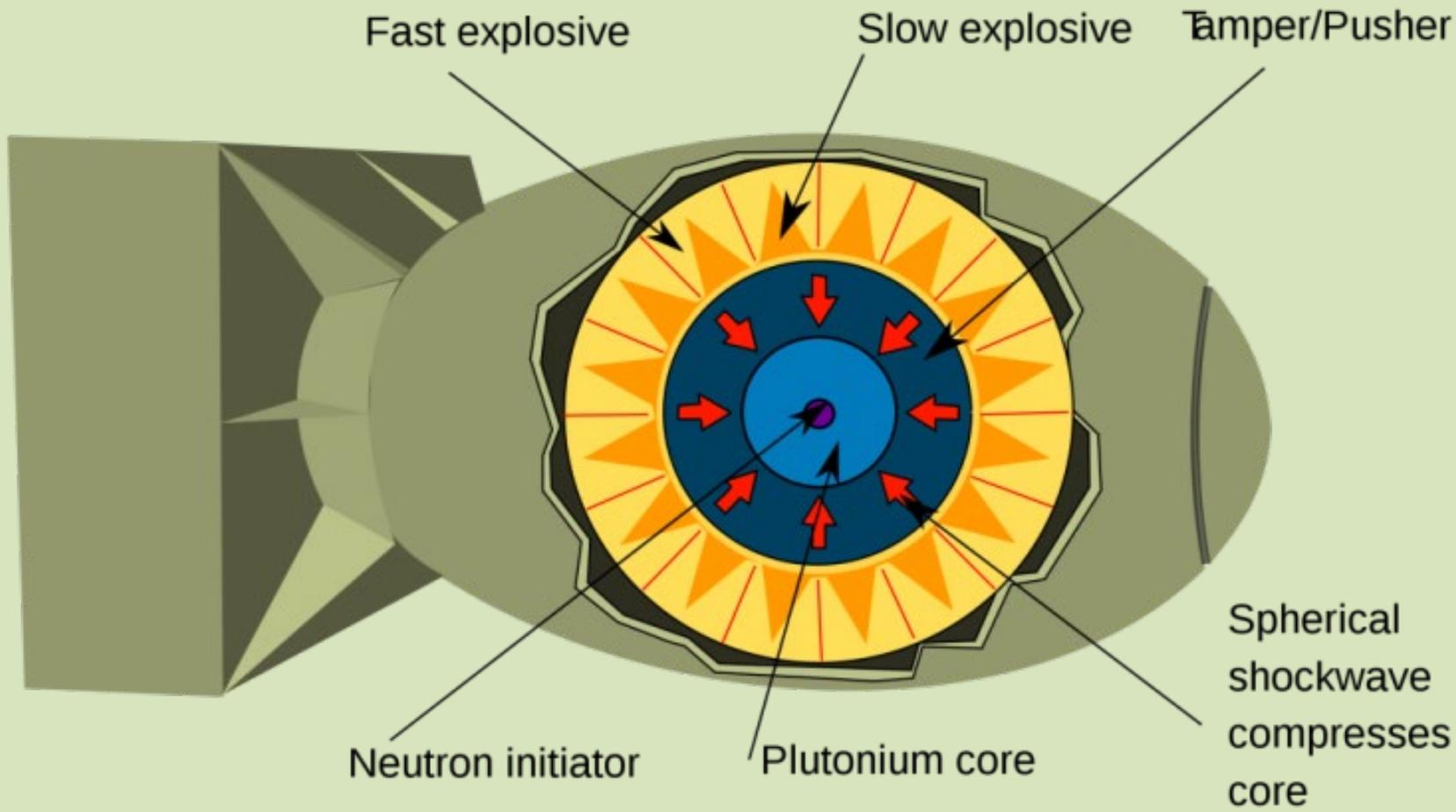


Highly enriched uranium  
(weapons grade)  
90% U-235

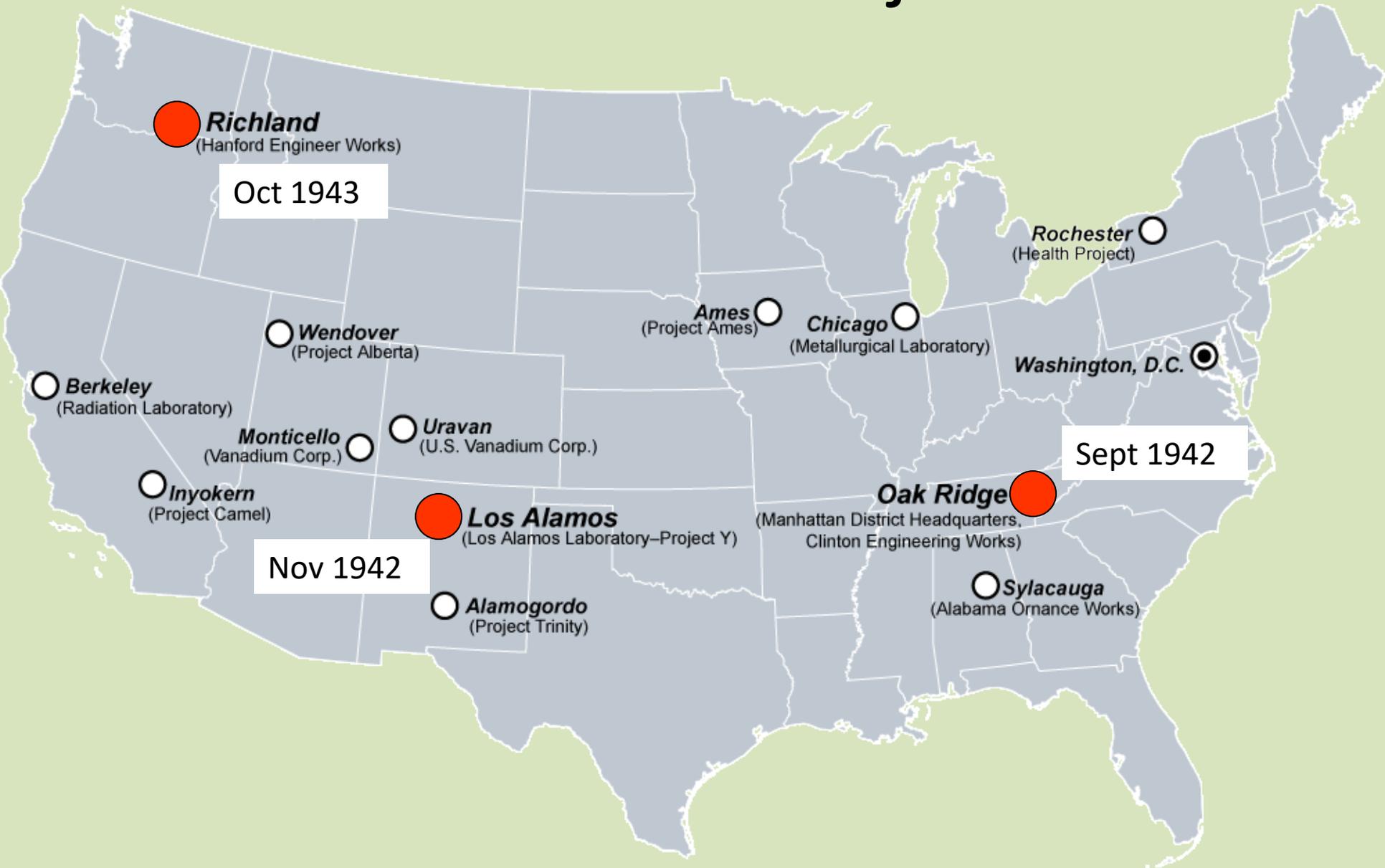






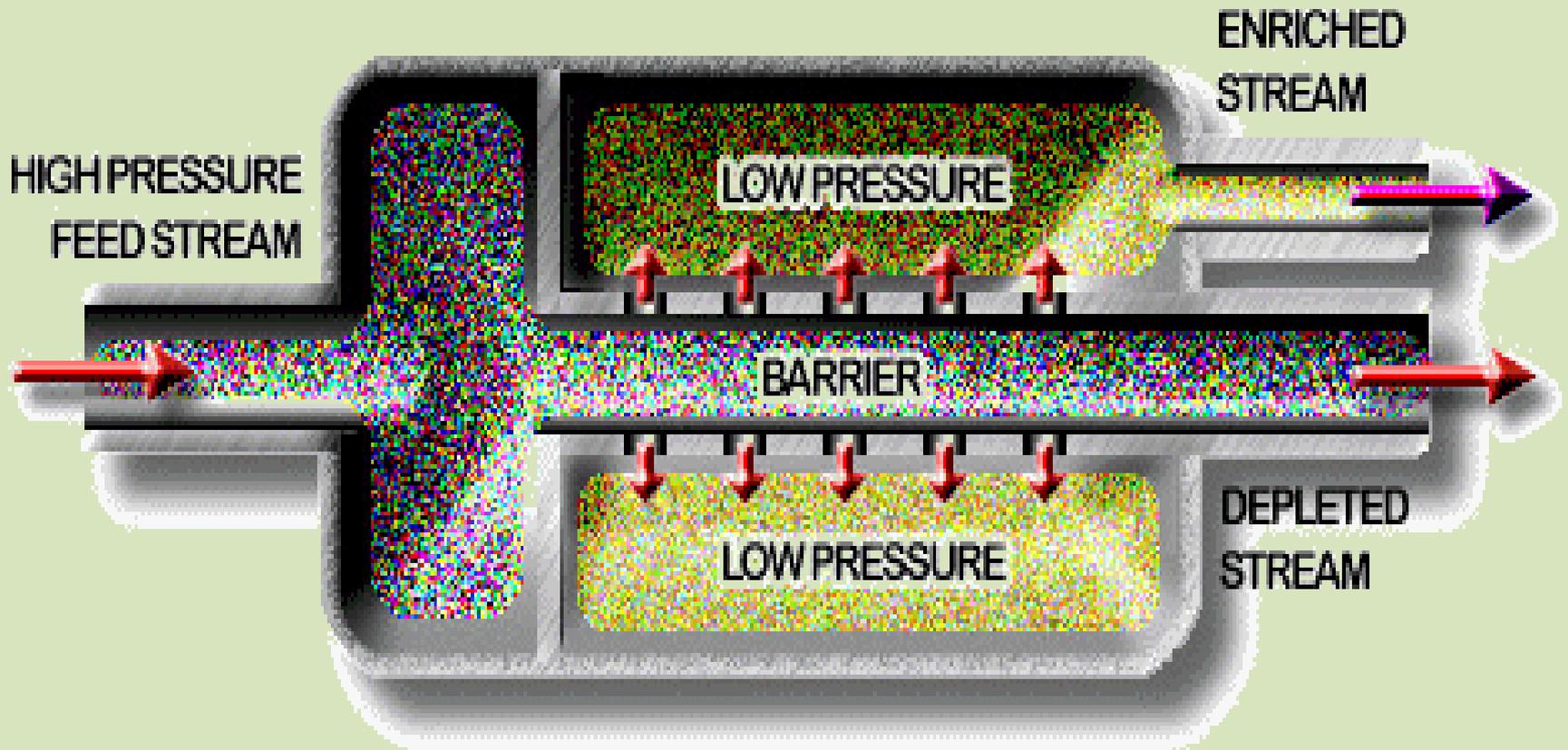


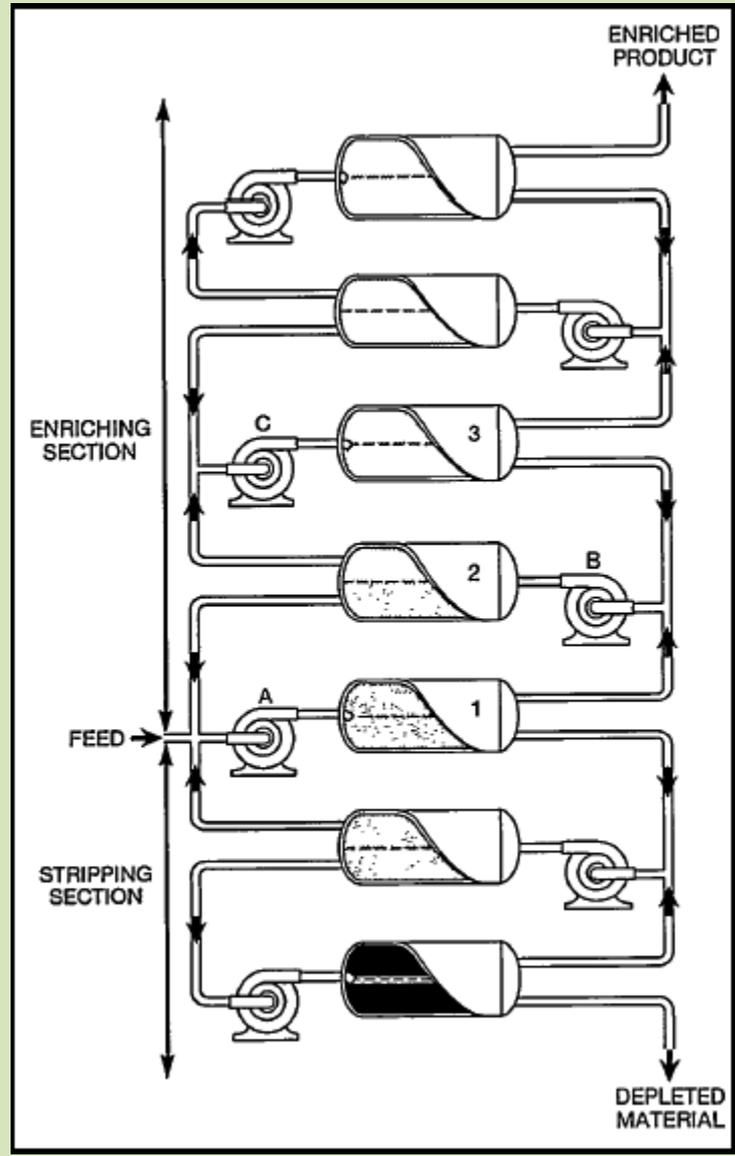
# Manhattan Project





# Uranium

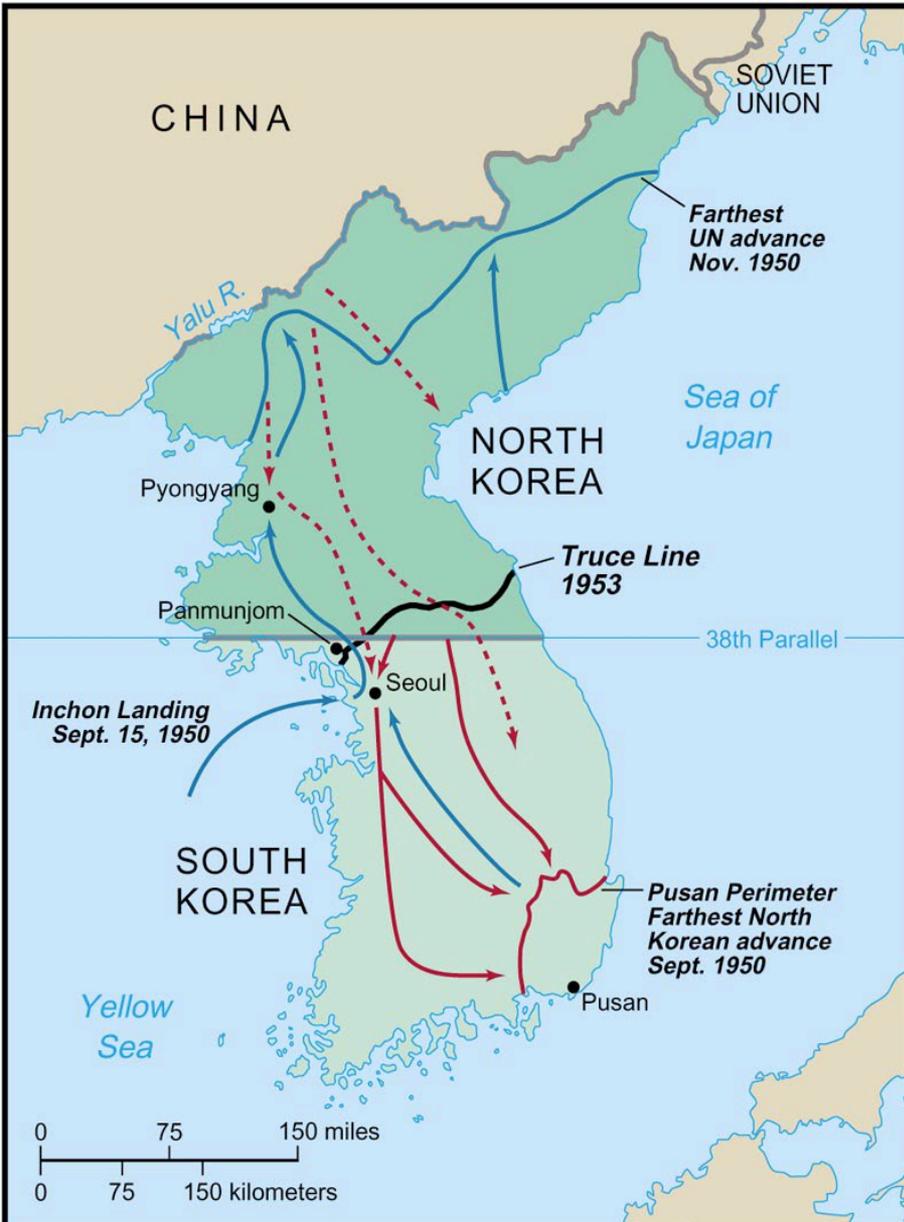




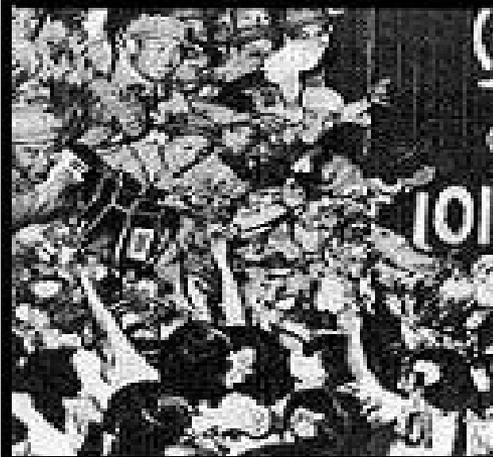


# The Cold War





- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | International boundaries, 1950         |  | UN offensive, Sept.-Nov. 1950                    |
|  | North Korean invasion, June-Sept. 1950 |  | Communist Chinese offensive, Nov. 1950-Jan. 1951 |







# The Paducah Sun-Democrat

August: High 91, Low 18  
Year: High 91, Low 18  
River, Lake Station  
Stage at T. & M.: 10.1 feet, five  
of 64 feet in 24 hours  
Kentucky Lake level 212.2 feet  
Pan and Moon  
Sun sets today 4:39 p. m.; rises  
tomorrow 7:12 a. m.; moon sets  
11:47 p. m.

Paducah, Ky., Friday Evening, December 15, 1950

4 Editions Daily—2 Sunday

## AEC To Build A-Plant At KOW Site

### Chinese Reds Drive Into UN Beachhead

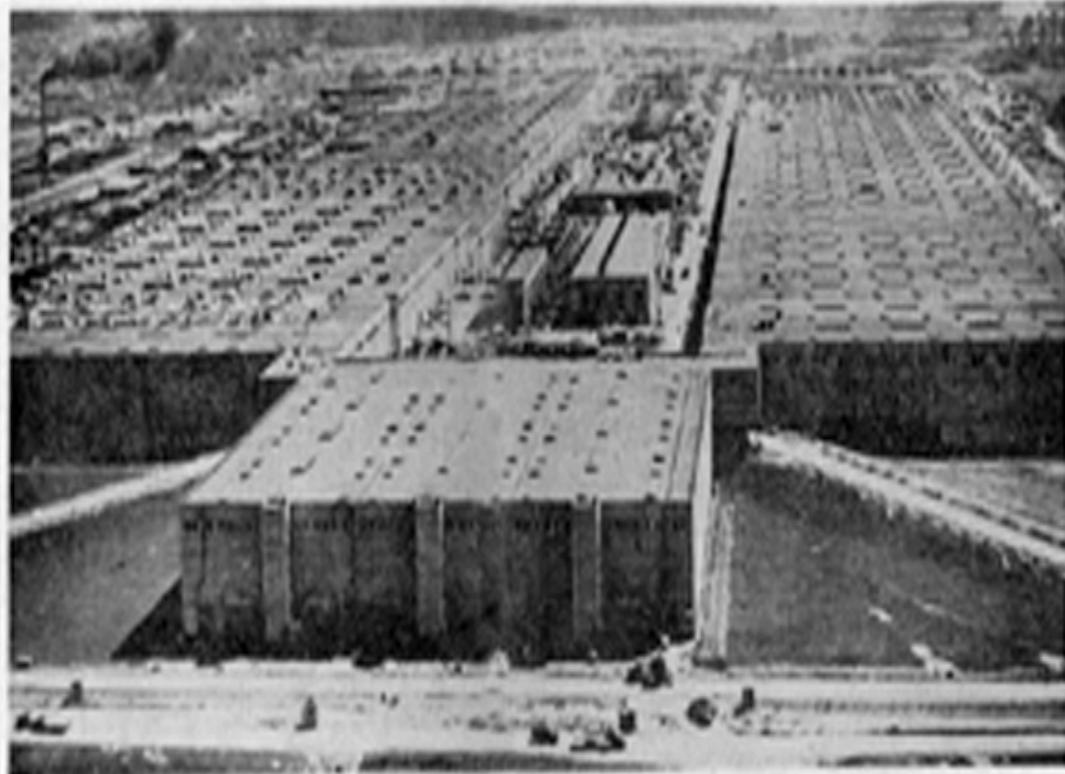
Activity Expected  
On Northwest Front

TOKYO, Saturday, Dec. 16—(AP)—Chinese Red forces smashed over American outposts in the Kumsong-Boengsan defense line in northern Korea Friday night in a rushing battle aimed at annihilating the U. S. Tenth Corps or driving it into the sea.

Two American platoons (totality 20 to 25 men) were cut off in the initial attack during the day by about 1,000 Chinese, but gunfire in the 20-mile-long area Friday night indicated they still fought on.

A North-South coalition had failed to reconquer them. Instead, the Red forces had to fight off frenzied Chinese saboteurs who tried at the beaches with their boats.

After concentrating some abandoned American equipment, the Reds pushed up inland to build up for a large-scale assault on Chongju, 200 miles west of Pyongyang.



IT IS PRESUMED THAT Paducah's atomic bomb plant will look something like this big factory at Oak Ridge, "home of the atomic bomb." The building pictured here may be K-25, the largest gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge. The sides of U-shaped K-25 are 2,100 feet long,

400 feet wide and 60 feet high. About 4,000 persons work there now. Note that there are few windows in the giant building except at the top.

(AP Photo)

### Building Force Of 10,000 May Be Required

Cost Set At \$500,000,000;  
1,600 Permanent Jobs Expected

The Atomic Energy Commission officially announced today that it will build a huge new plant at Kentucky Ordnance Works near Paducah.

The House appropriations committee disclosed about the same time that the project is expected to cost \$500,000,000. The committee has been considering funds for a \$1,050,000,000 expansion program for atomic production facilities, of which the Paducah plant will be a part.

The AEC said the Kentucky site will cover about 5,000 acres, "a considerable part of which will be obtained through purchase," around the present Kentucky Ordnance Works, 16 miles west of Paducah.



Say it with Flowers

AUTO-LOANS

COLUMBIA

FRIGOLY WIGLEY

SINGER

RESTAURANT

A GOOD



**Fig. 9. The site of PGDP is shown as farmland and woodlands in this aerial photograph taken in May 1950. The four sewage lagoons of the KOW water treatment plant are shown in the lower left of the photograph. This facility was retained for use in the operations of the PGDP. (Photograph on file at the McCracken County Property Valuation Office, Paducah, Kentucky.)**

Total DOE Property:  
3,556 acres

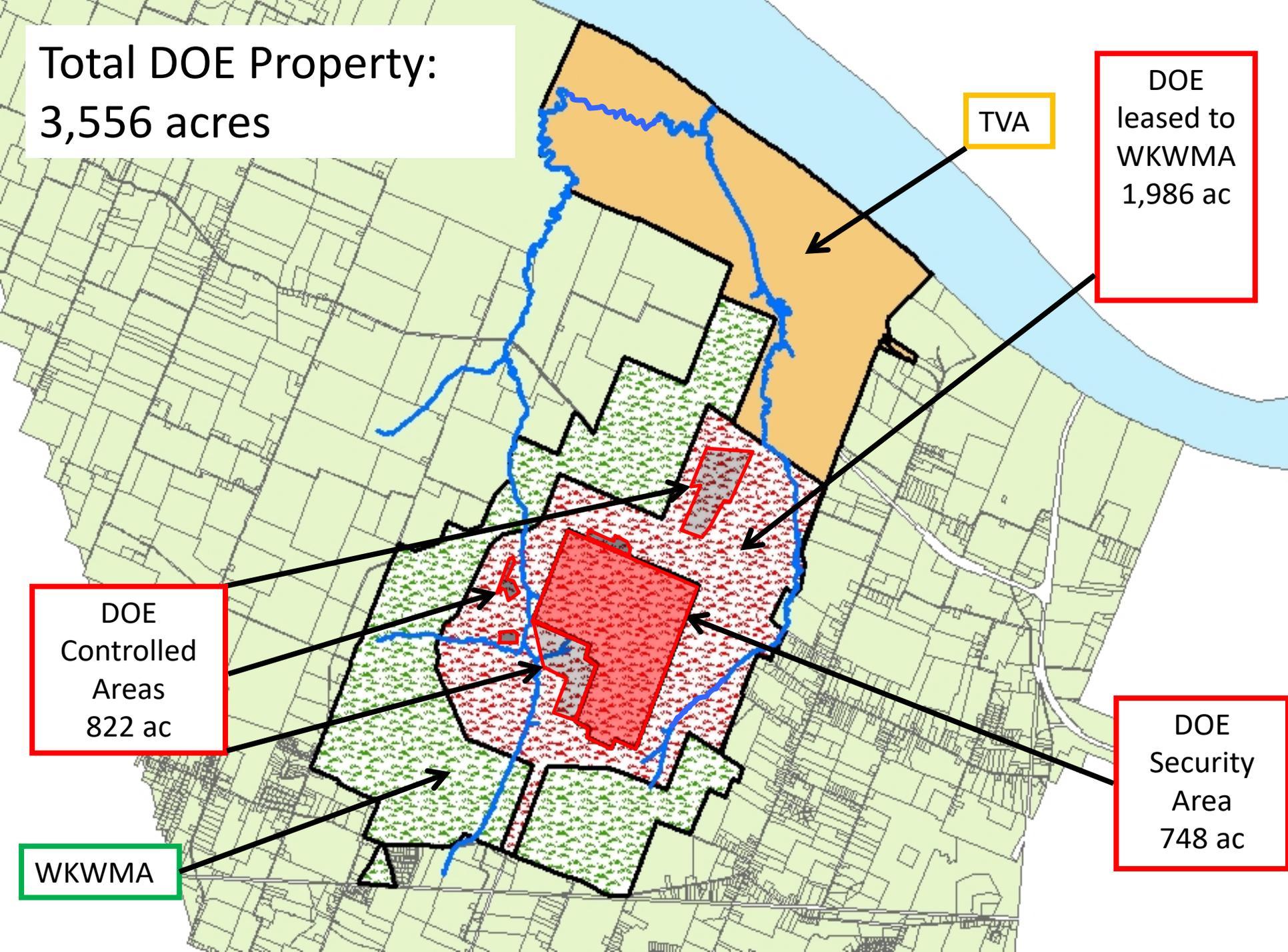
TVA

DOE  
leased to  
WKWMA  
1,986 ac

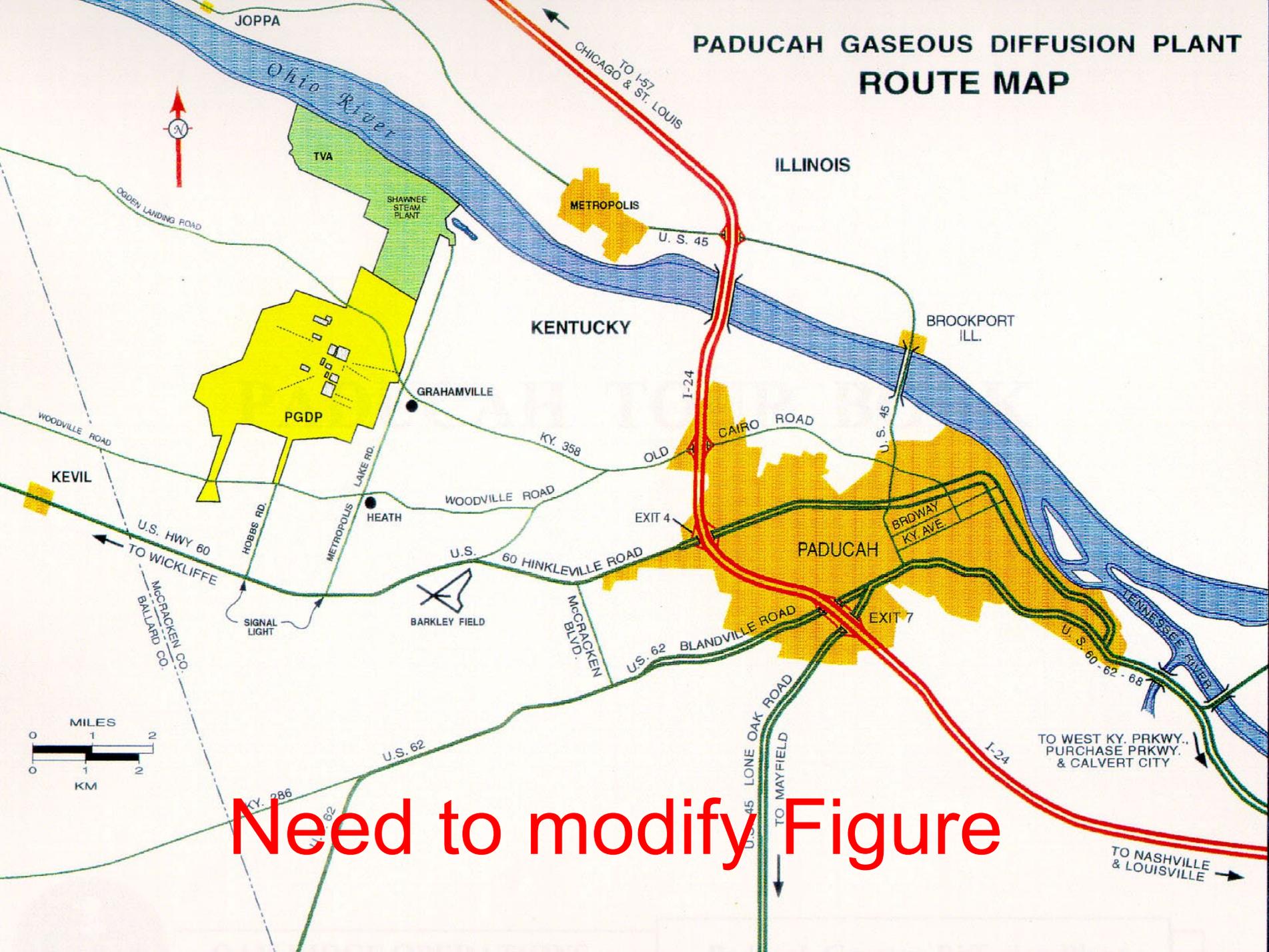
DOE  
Controlled  
Areas  
822 ac

DOE  
Security  
Area  
748 ac

WKWMA



# PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT ROUTE MAP



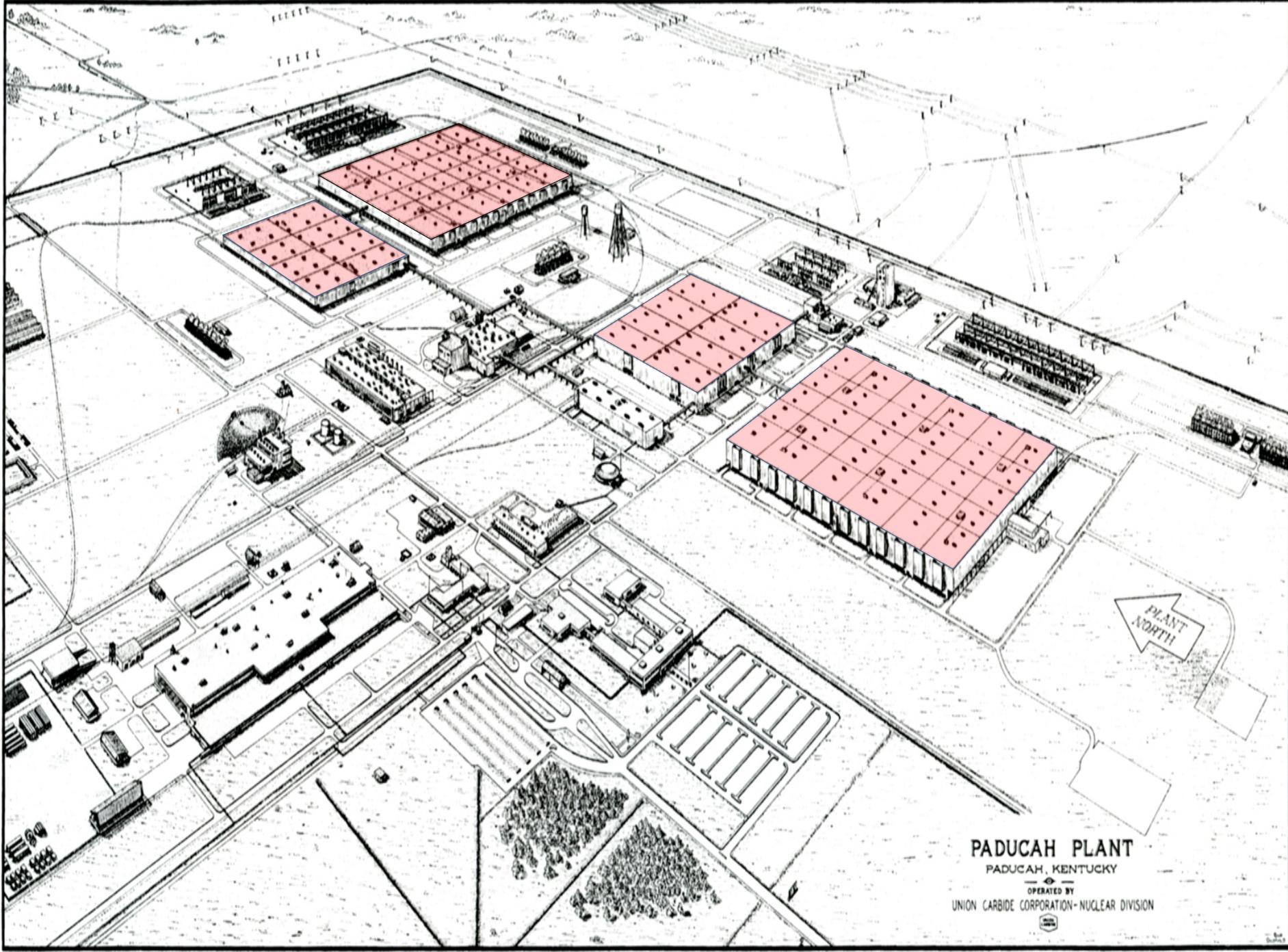
Need to modify Figure



U. S. A. E. C PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING NE TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF  
SWITCH HOUSE BLDG. C-535  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 12-16-52



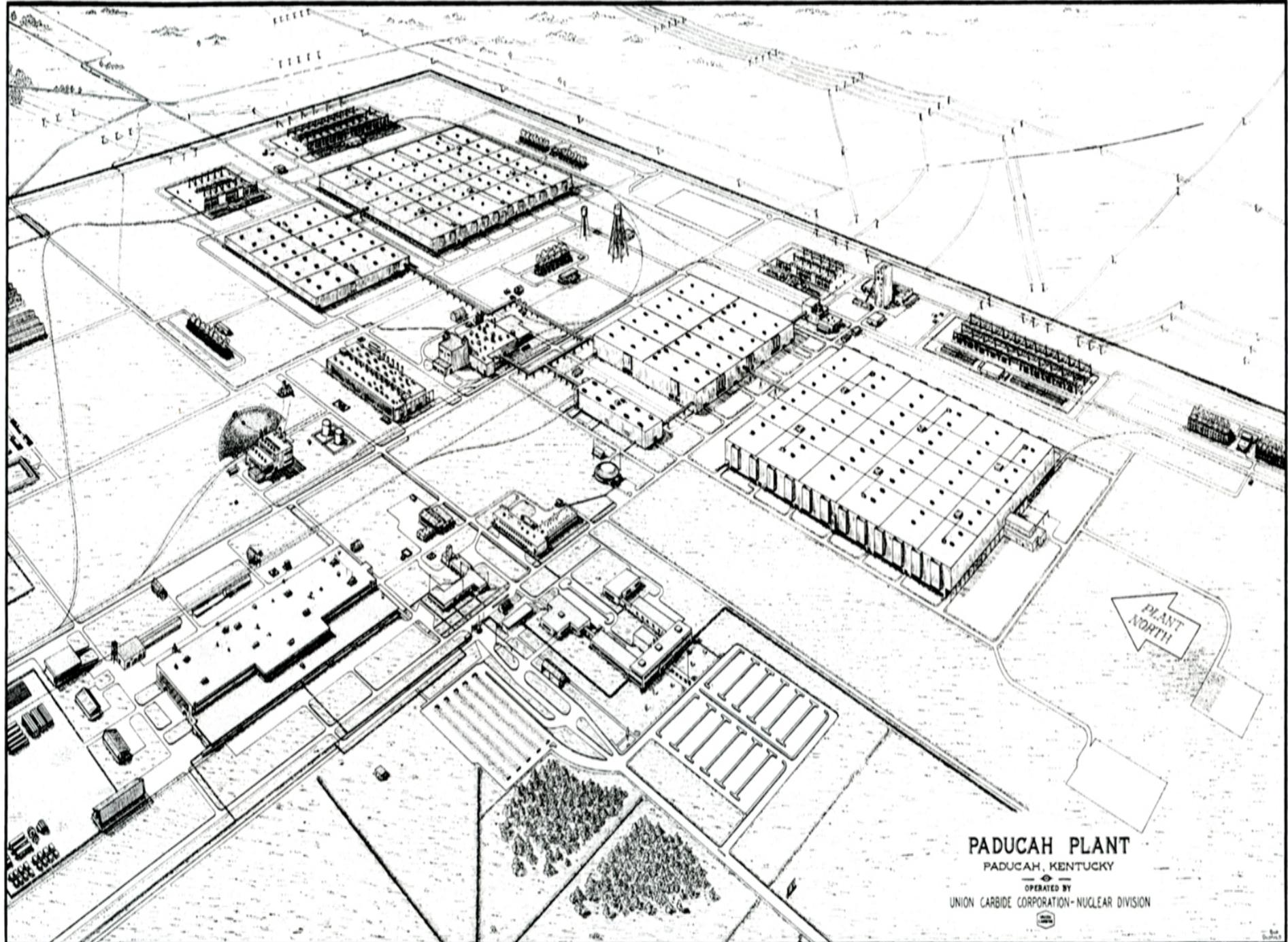
KENTUCKY AREA  
LOOKING SE TOWARD GARAGE BLDG C-750  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 9-13-51



**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION





**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION



1000 1000  
1000 1000

# Power Plants







U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING NE AT CONSTRUCTION OF RELAY  
HOUSE C-536  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 12-16-52



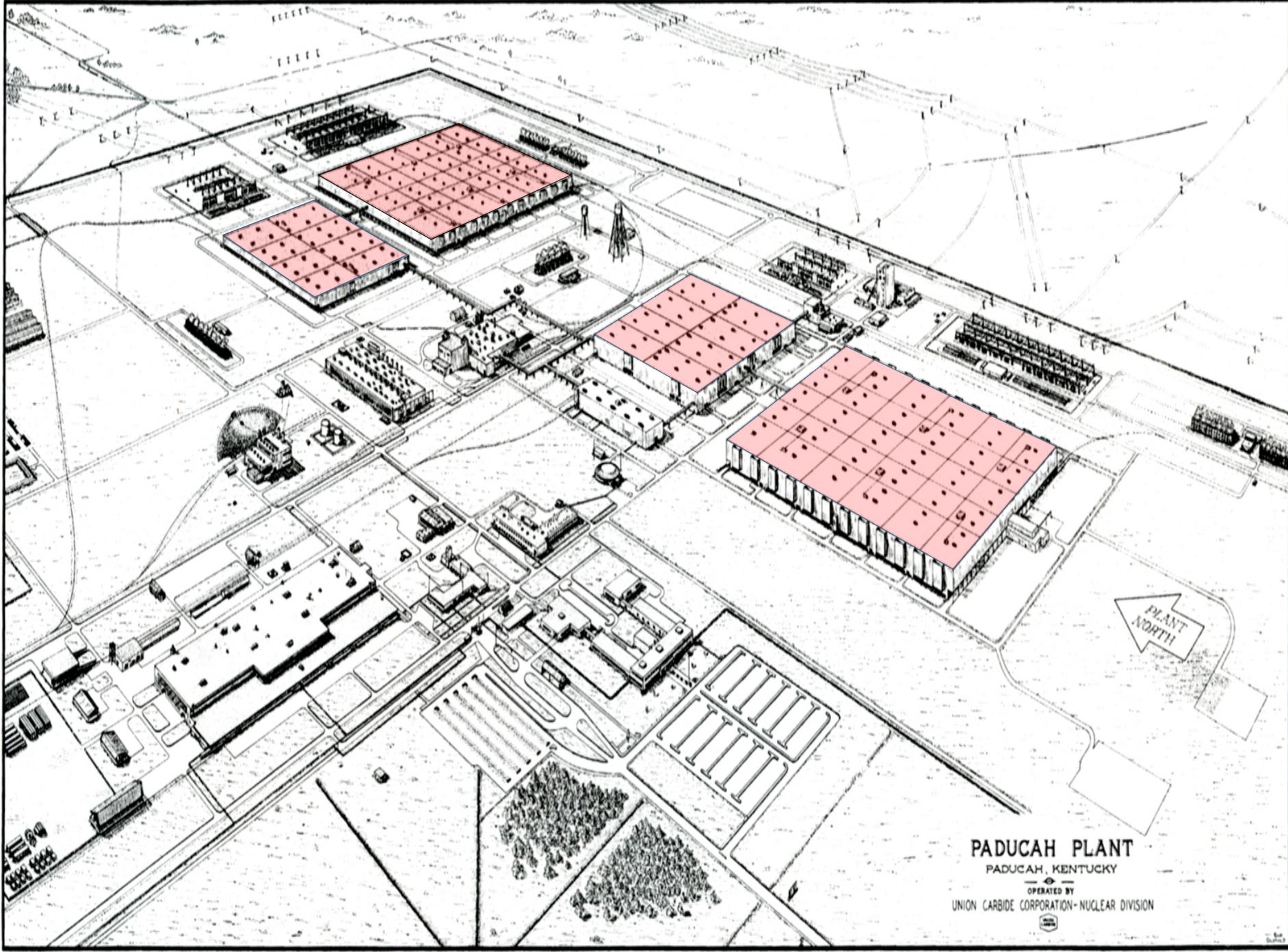
U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
VAPORIZATION AREA C-341,  
10% COMPLETE  
BLOUNT BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CO.  
AT-(15-1)-109 11-21-55



U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
SETTING BASE PLATE IN BLDG. C-337  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 3-19-53



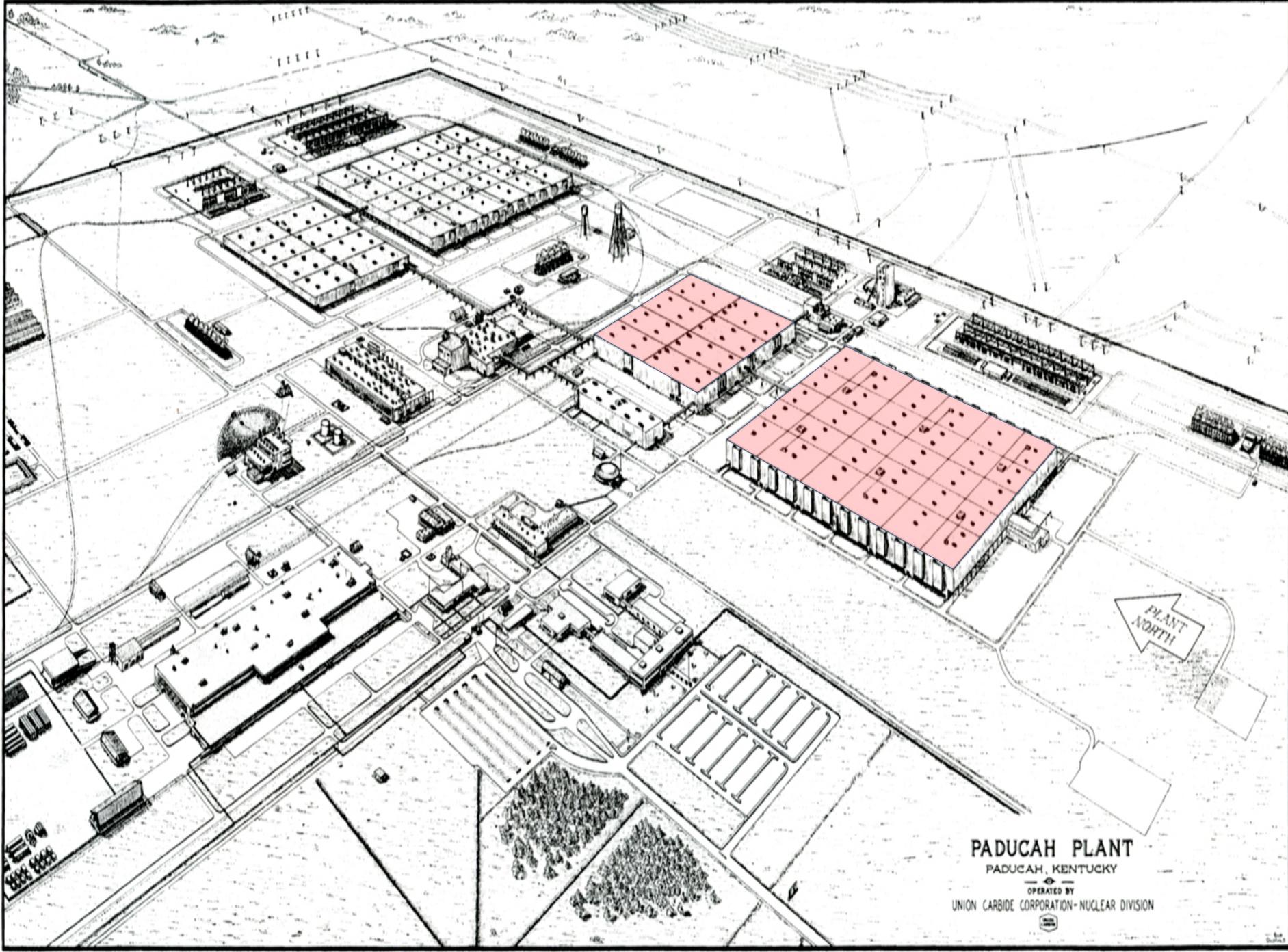
U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
DRILLING FOOTINGS FOR BLDG. C-337  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 2-17-53



**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION





**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION

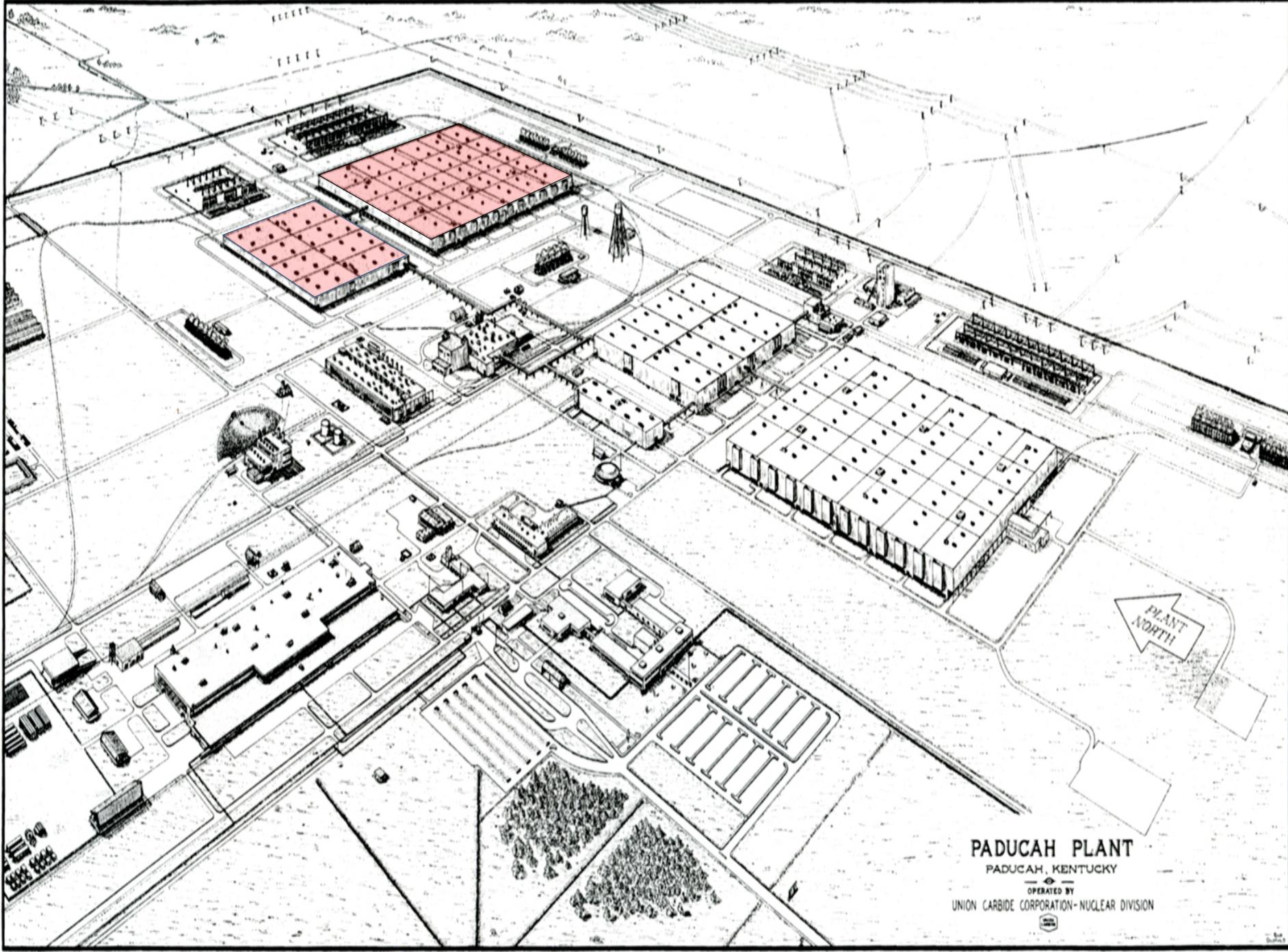




U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING N. TOWARD STEEL ERECTION  
BLDG. C-333  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 9-16-52



U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING NE TOWARD PROCESS BLDG C-333  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 7-16-52



**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION





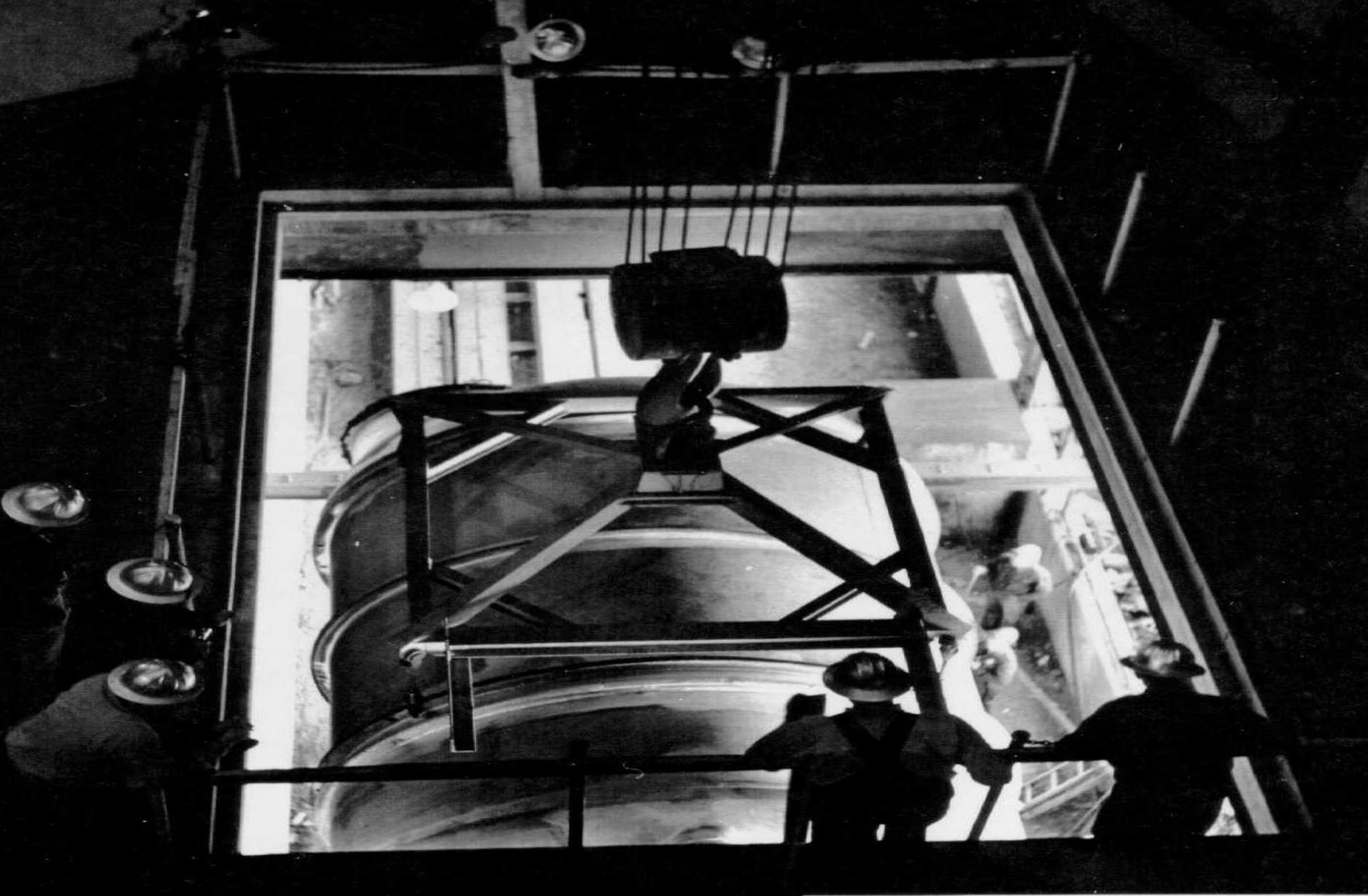
U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING E. ALONG CELL FLOOR IN  
UNIT NO. 4, PROCESS BLDG. C-335  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 4-21-53



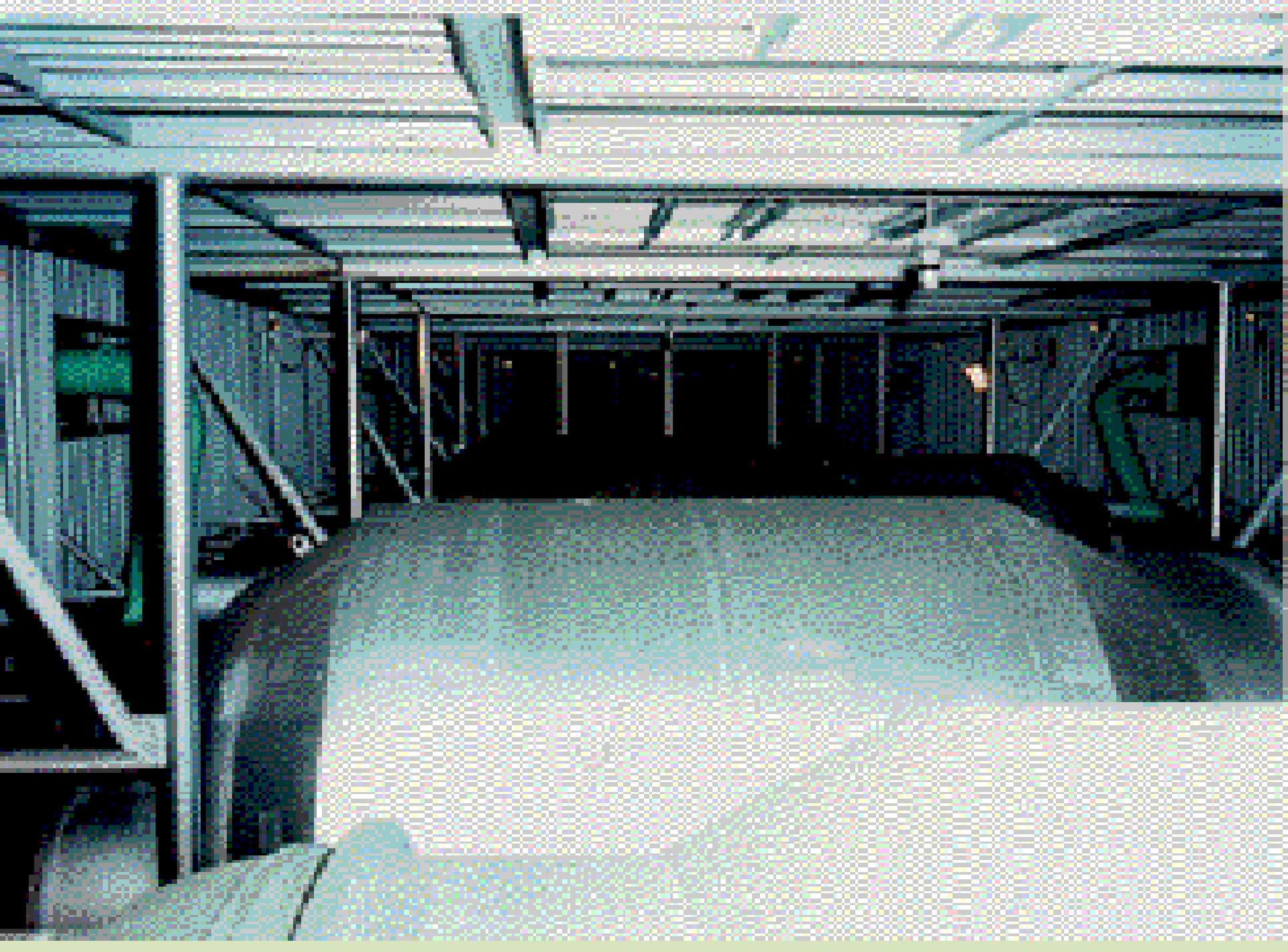
U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
OUTSIDE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM N. OF PROCESS BLDG. C-337  
55% COMPLETE  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 2-10-54







U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
RAISING COMPRESSOR FROM FLAT CAR  
THROUGH OPENING IN CELL FLOOR  
BLDG. C-333  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 3-19-5



**Ashland**  
PRODUCTS

**PADUCAH PLANT**  
OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE NUCLEAR COMPANY  
DIVISION OF UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION  
FOR  
THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
→ 3 MILES →

PAVEMENT  
NARROWS

Coca-Cola

SINCLAIR

JAN

GRIEF

JAMES GRIEF

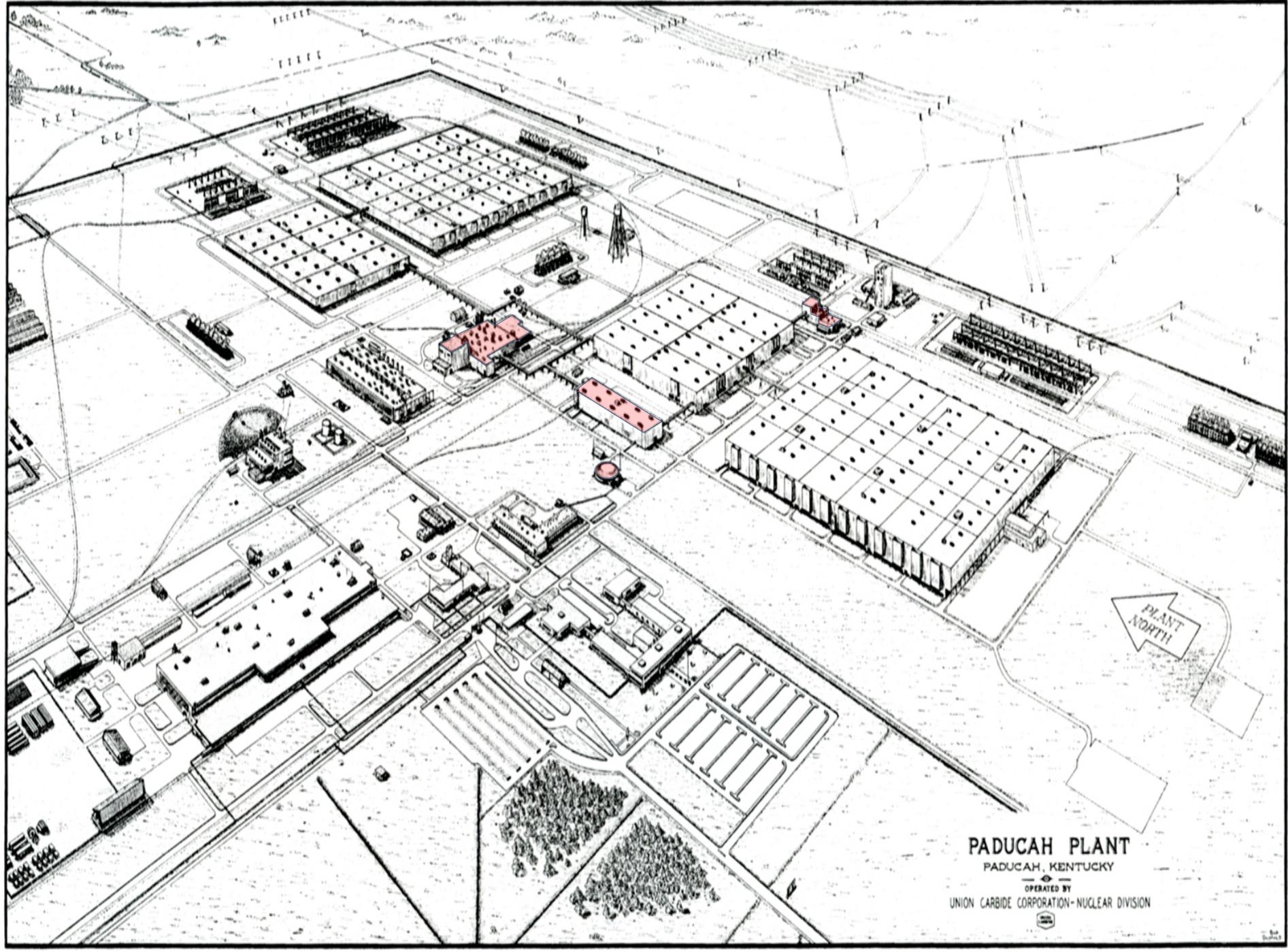
SEWER  
STATION

WATER  
PUMP

**ASHLAND**



U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING NW TOWARD PROPOSED SITE OF  
C-335  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 7-16-5



**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION







U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
HOISTING REACTOR FURNACES TO 3rd  
FLOOR FEED PLANT BLDG. C-420  
45% COMPLETE  
MALAN CONSTRUCTION CORP., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-100 12-14-5



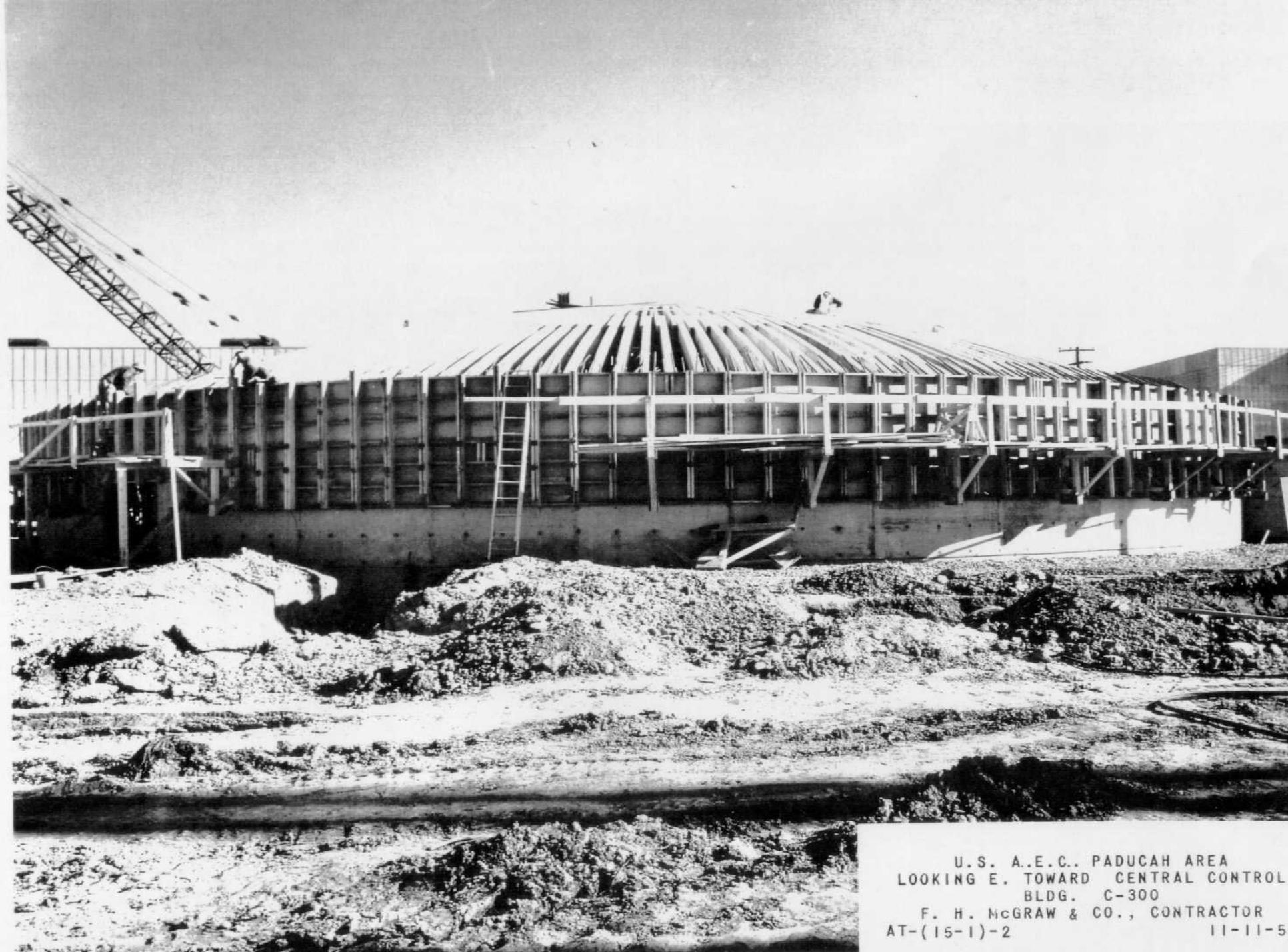
U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
FLORINE PLANT IN FEED PLANT C-410  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 12-17-5



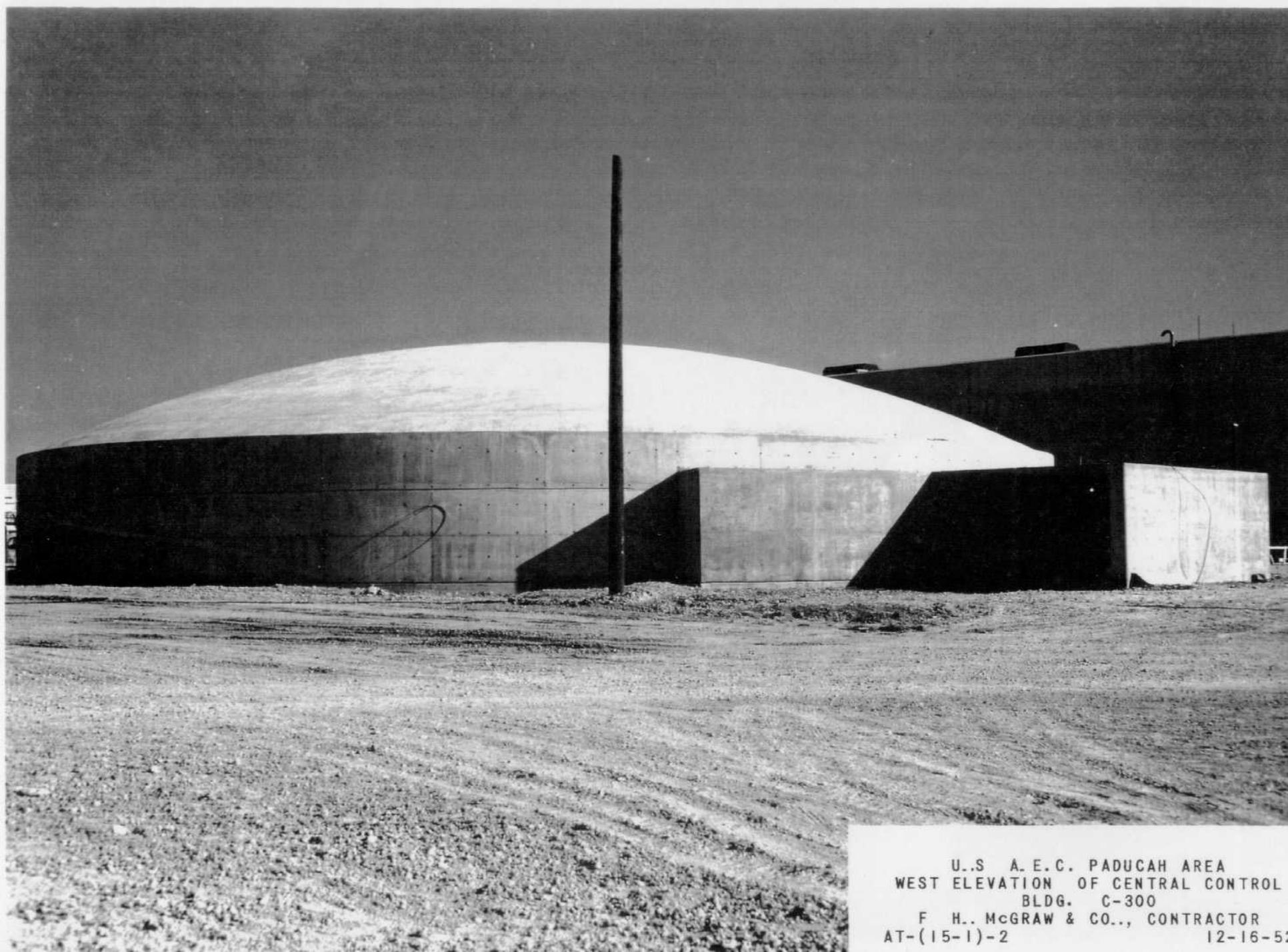








U.S. A.E.C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING E. TOWARD CENTRAL CONTROL  
BLDG. C-300  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 11-11-5

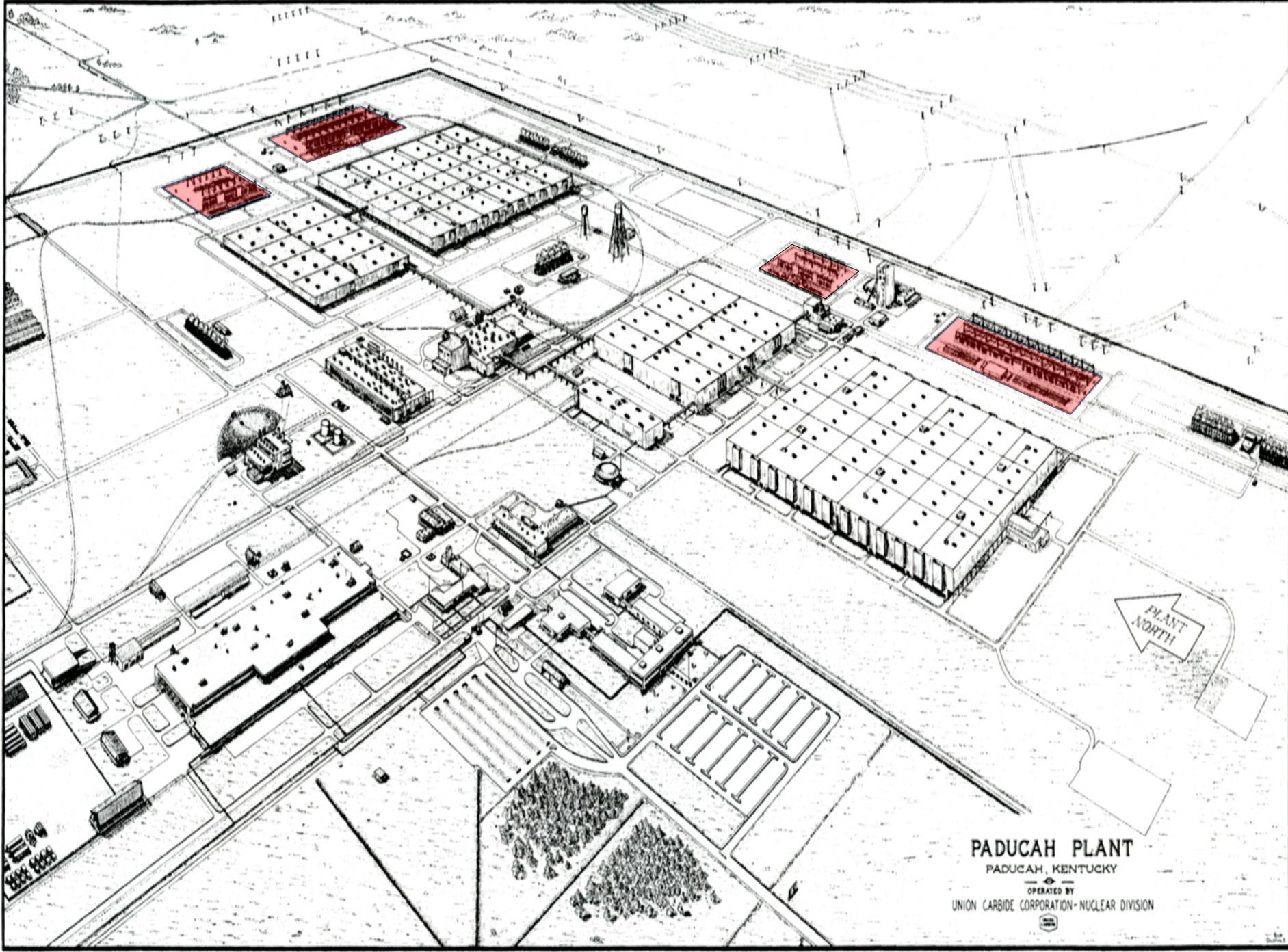


U.S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
WEST ELEVATION OF CENTRAL CONTROL  
BLDG. C-300  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 12-16-52



U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
INTERIOR OF GROUND FLOOR  
CENTRAL CONTROL BLDG. C-300  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 3-17-53





**PADUCAH PLANT**

PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY

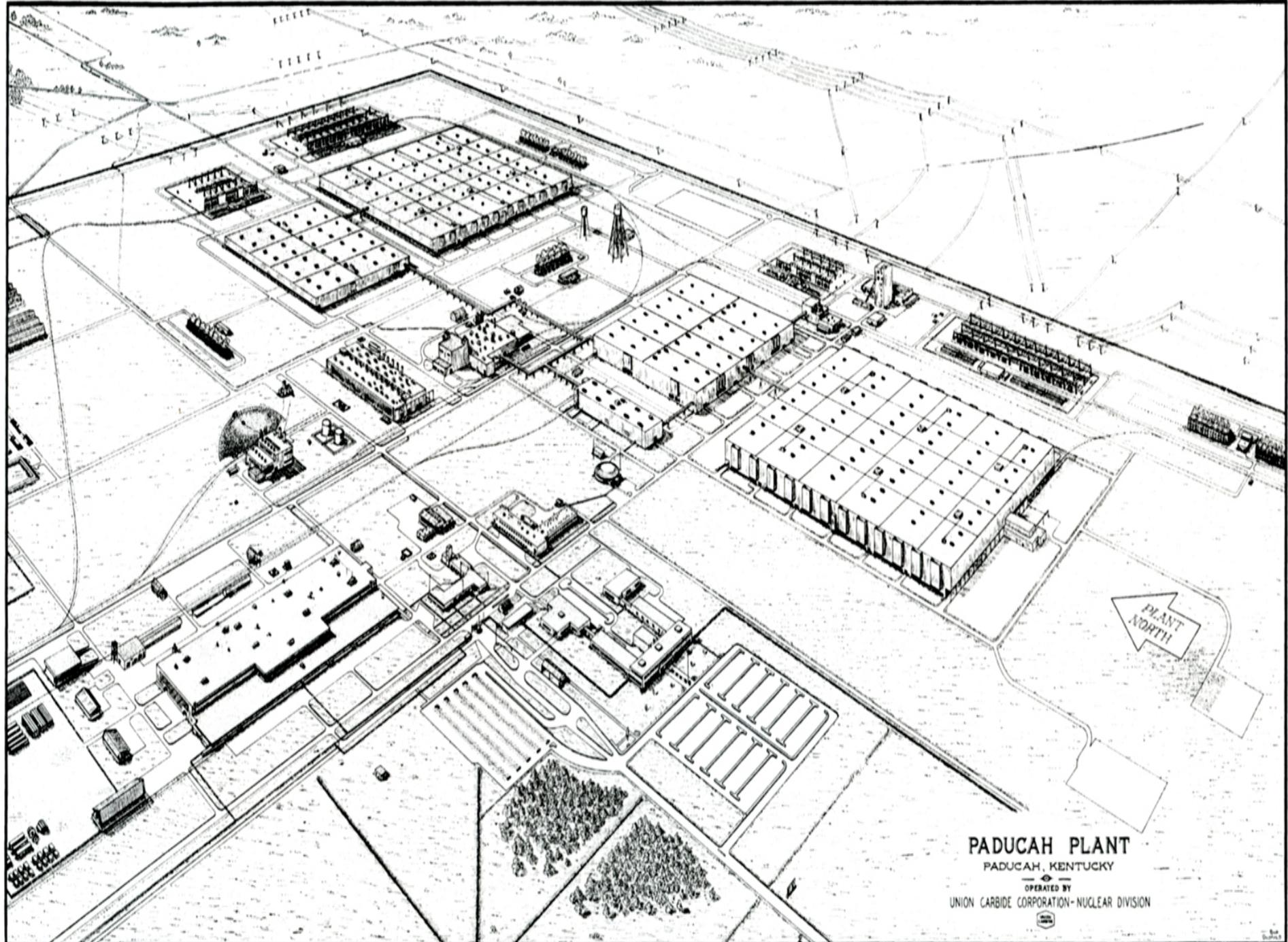
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION





U.S. A.E.C. KENTUCKY AREA  
LOOKING NE TOWARD C-531 SWITCHHOUSE  
AND SWITCHYARD

F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 2-18-52



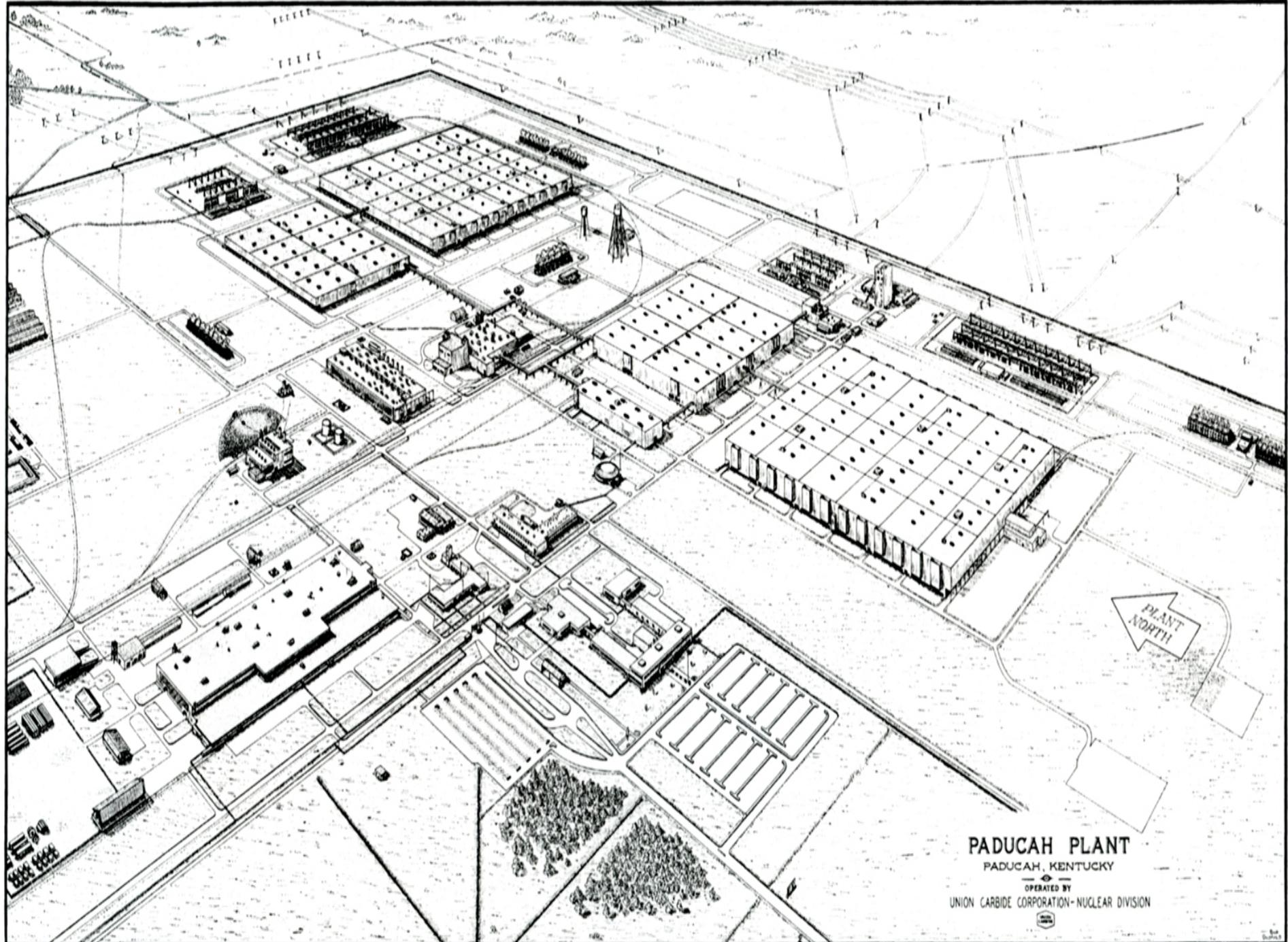
**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION





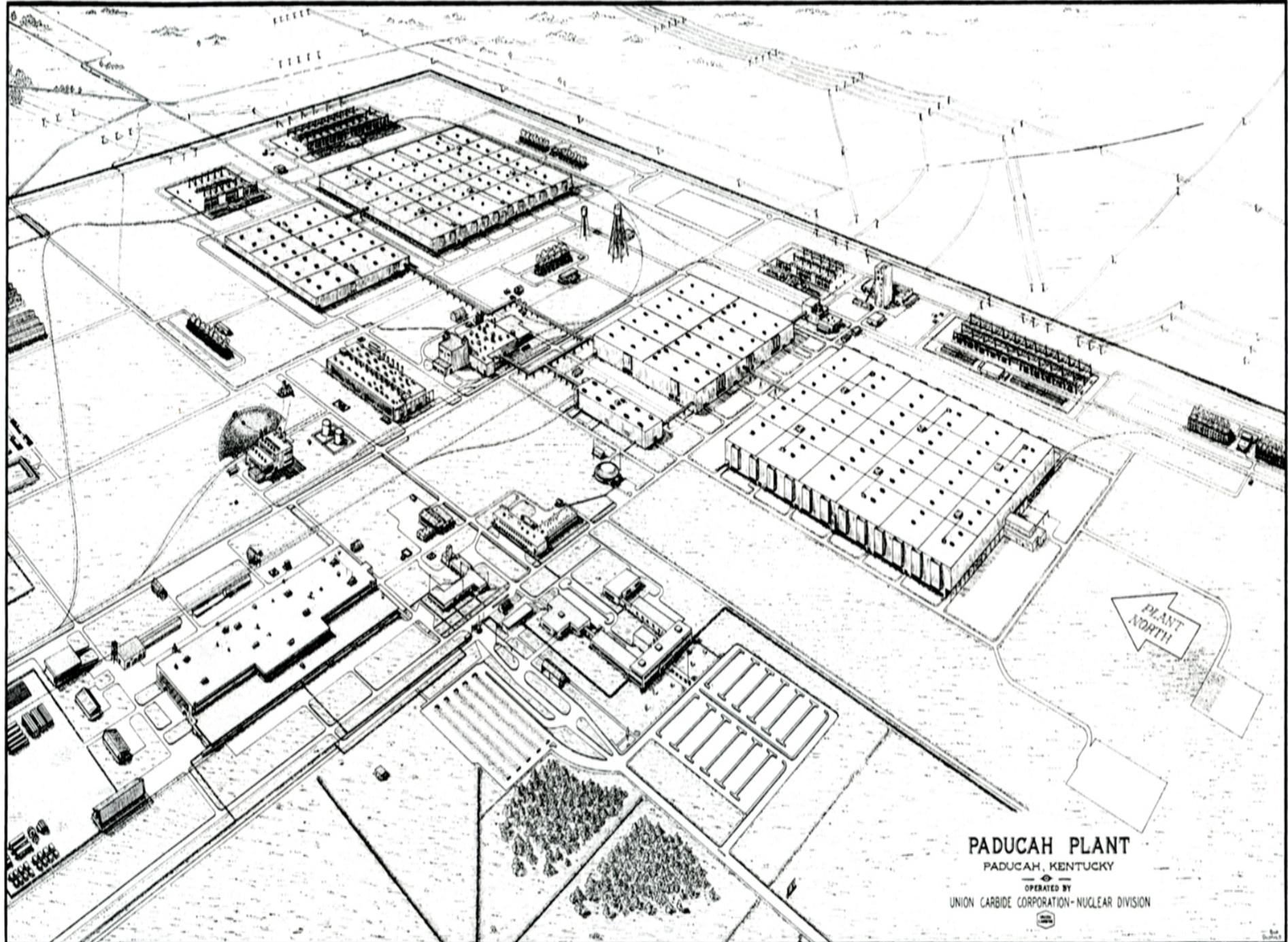




**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION

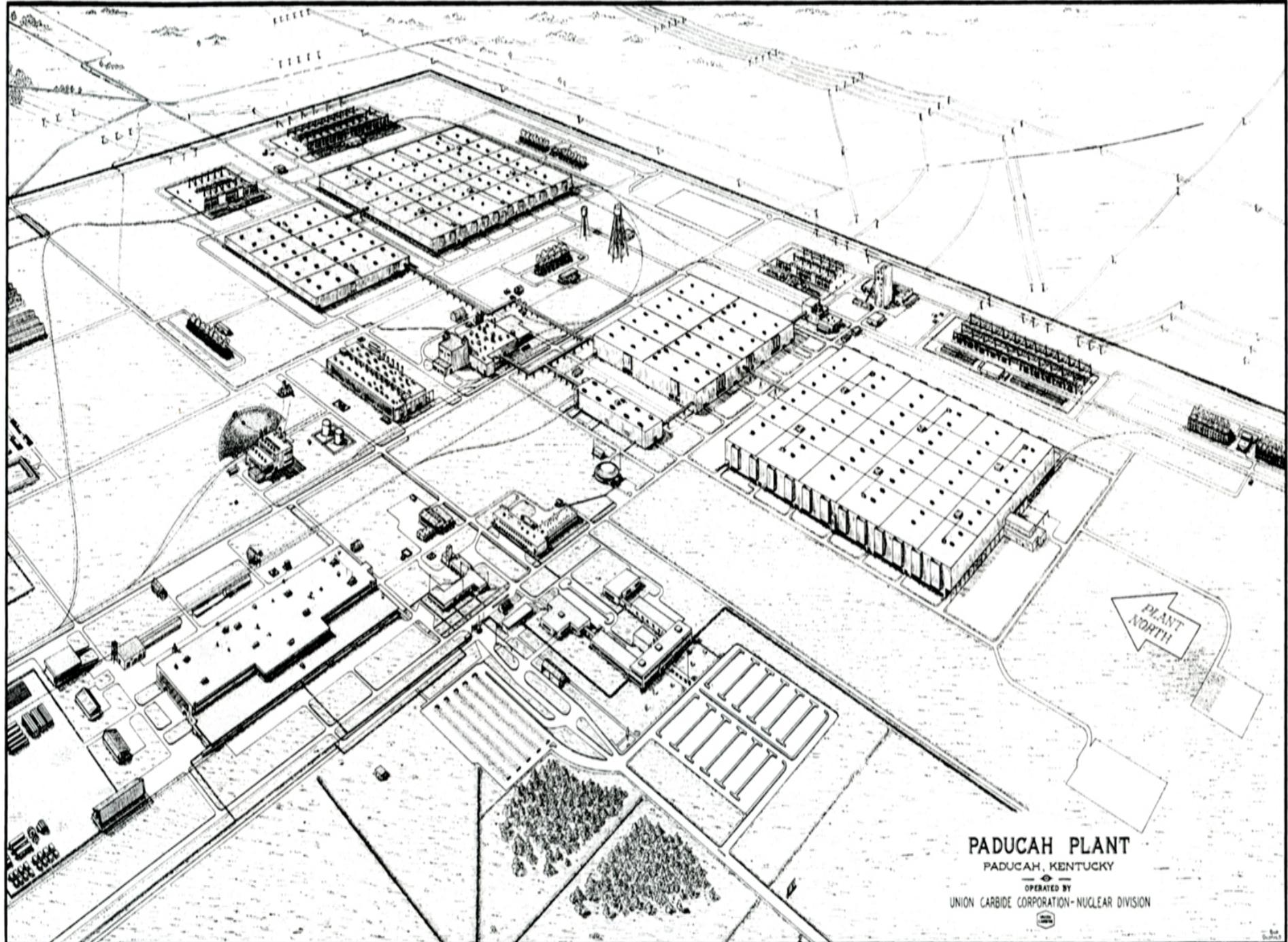




**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION

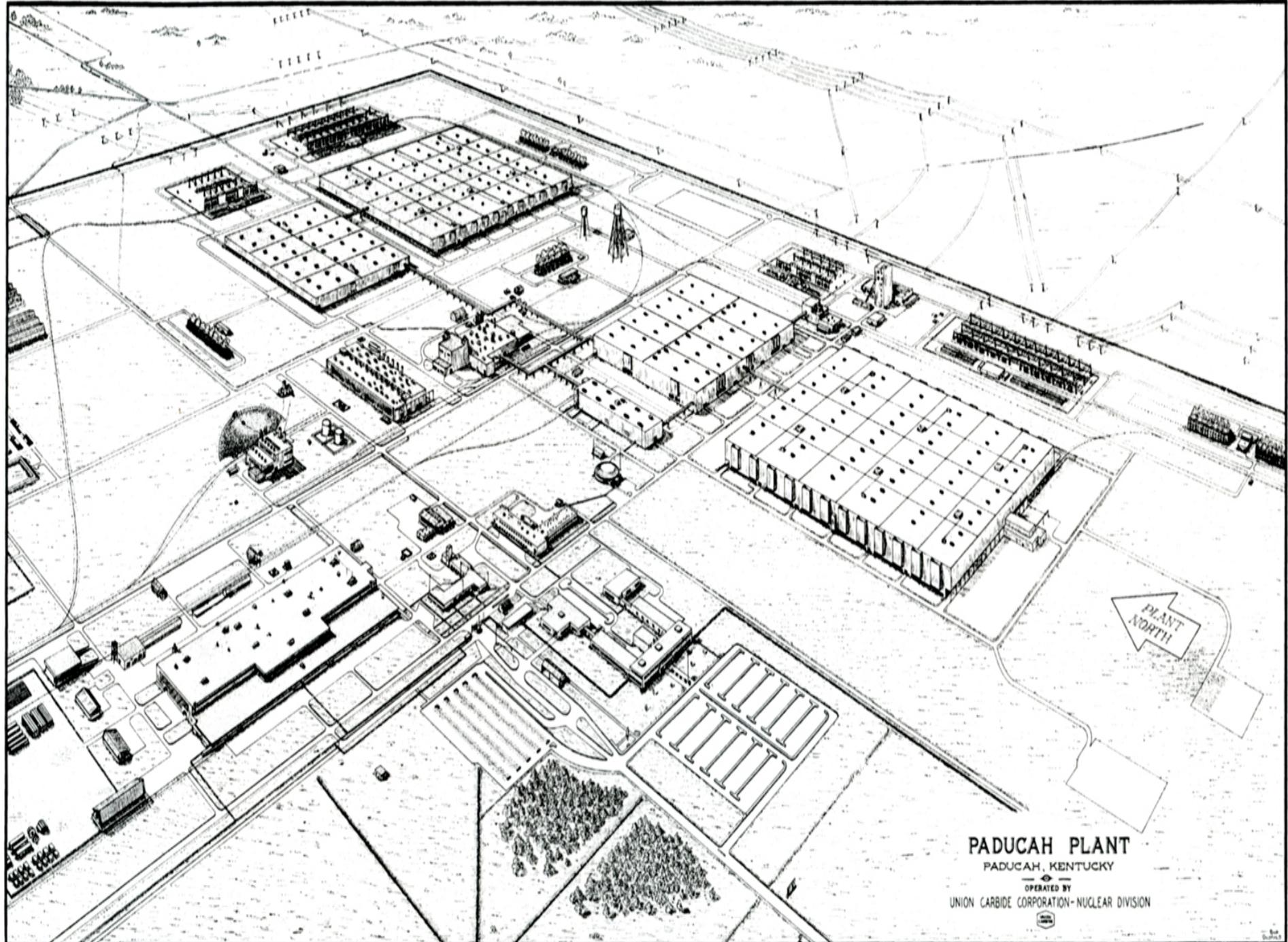




**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION

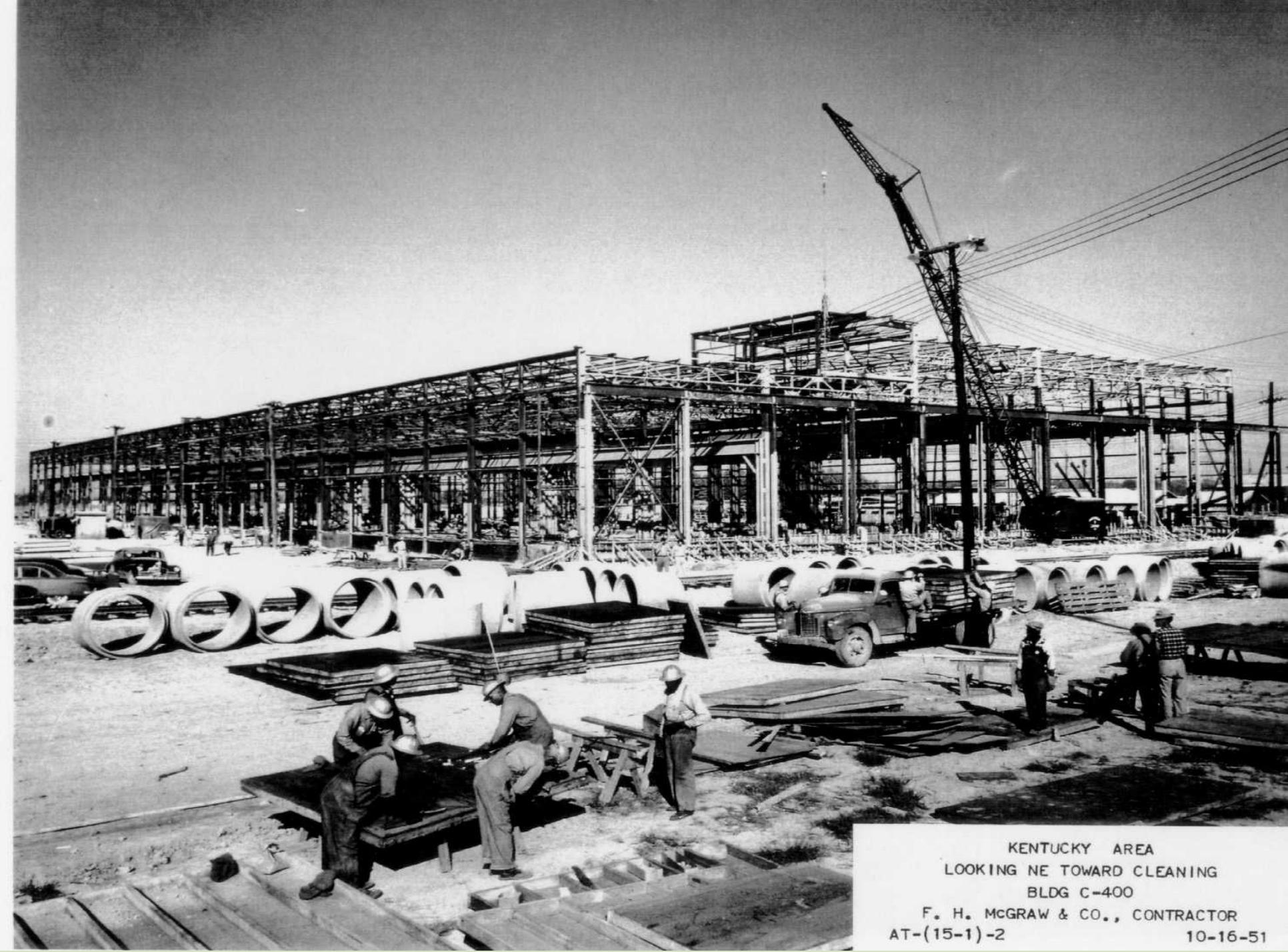




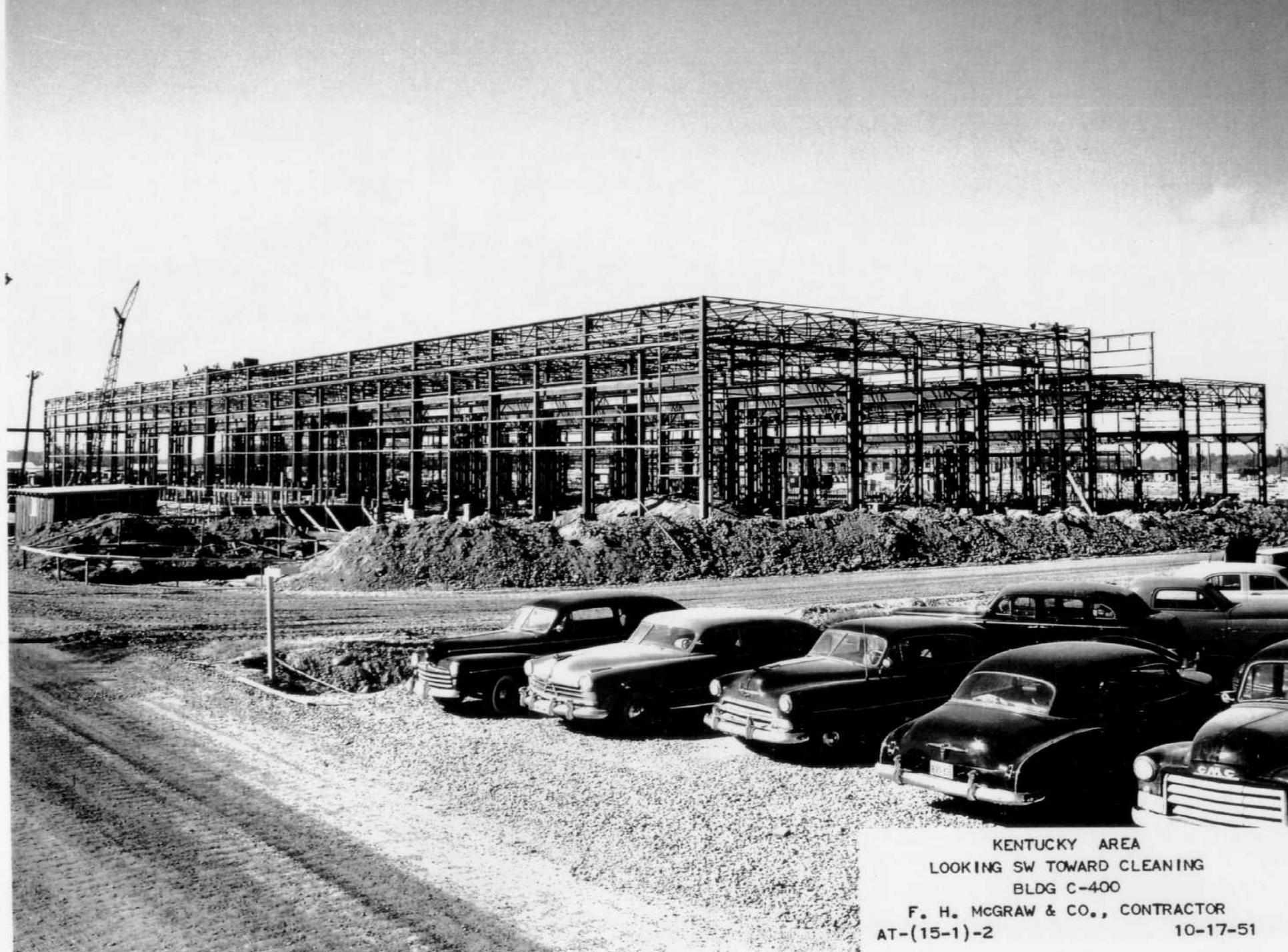
**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION



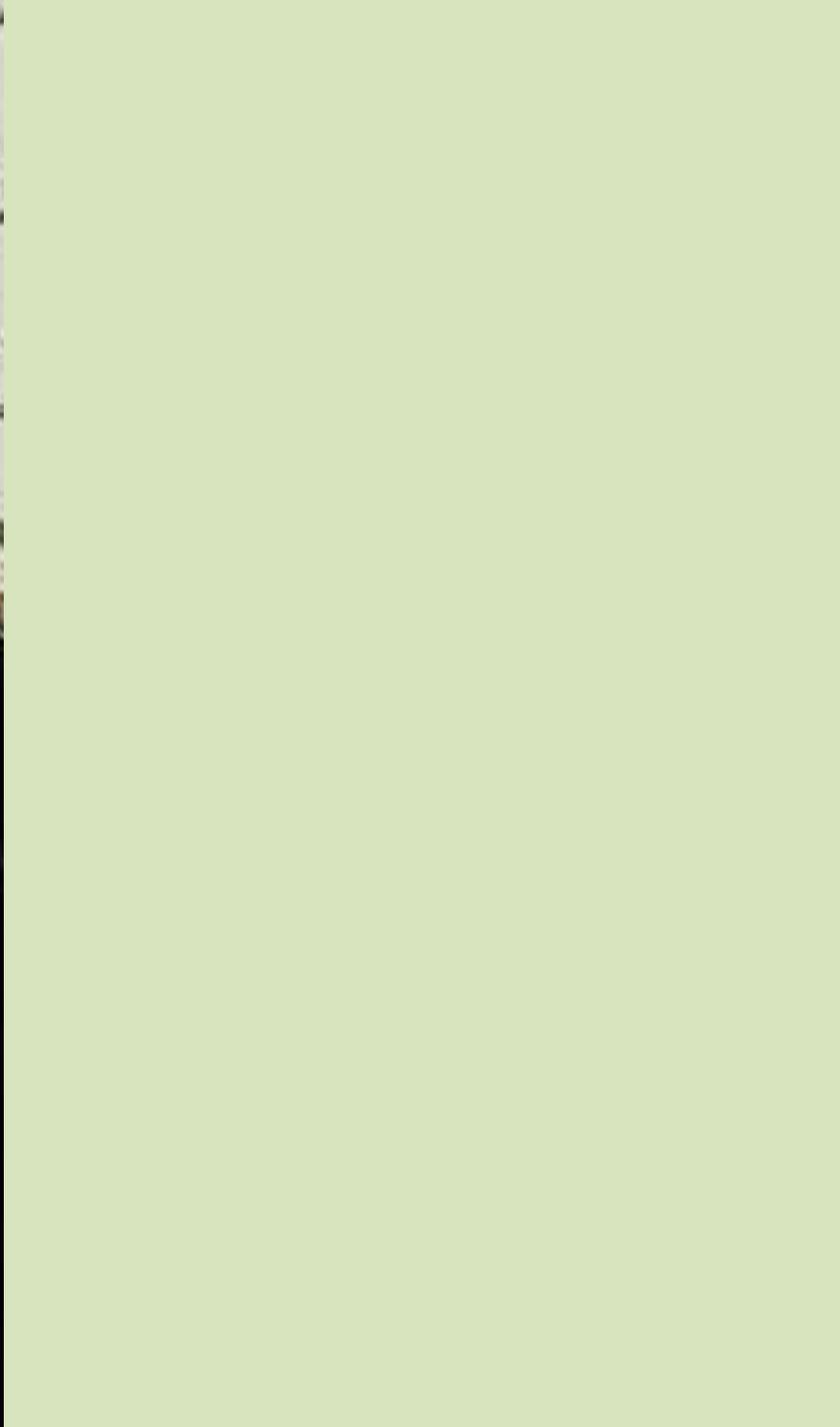


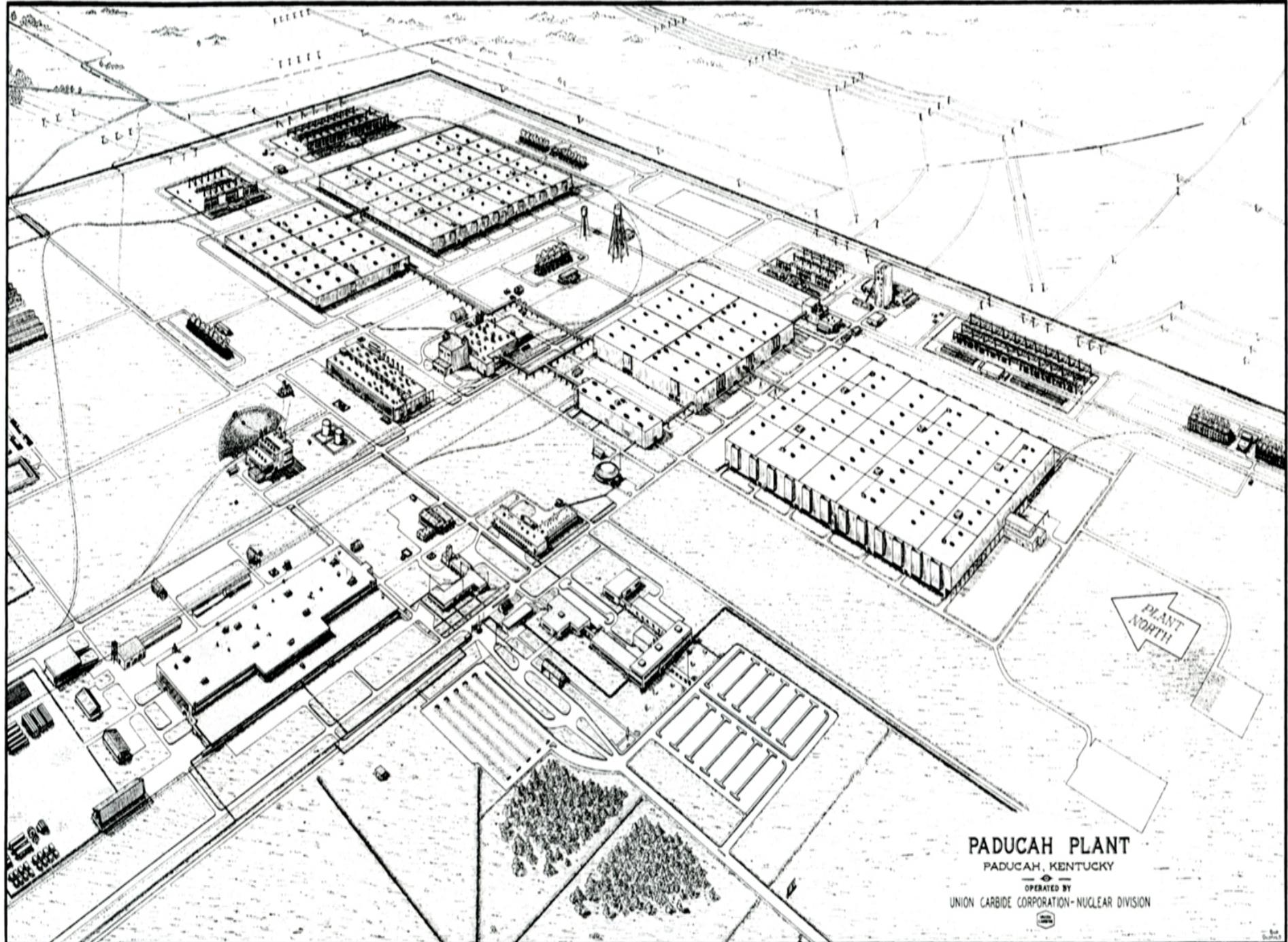
KENTUCKY AREA  
LOOKING NE TOWARD CLEANING  
BLDG C-400  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 10-16-51



KENTUCKY AREA  
LOOKING SW TOWARD CLEANING  
BLDG C-400  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 10-17-51







**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

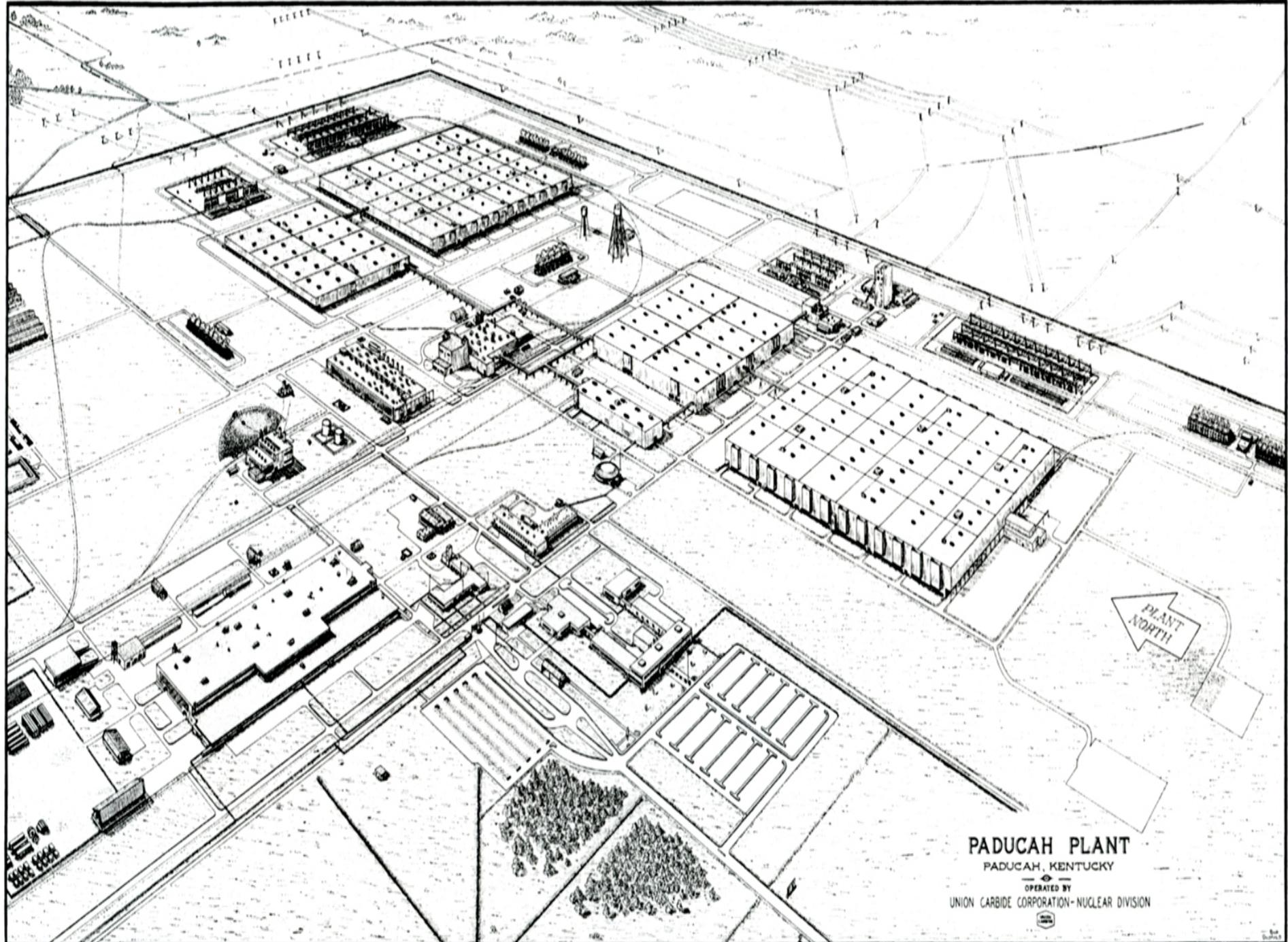
OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION











**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

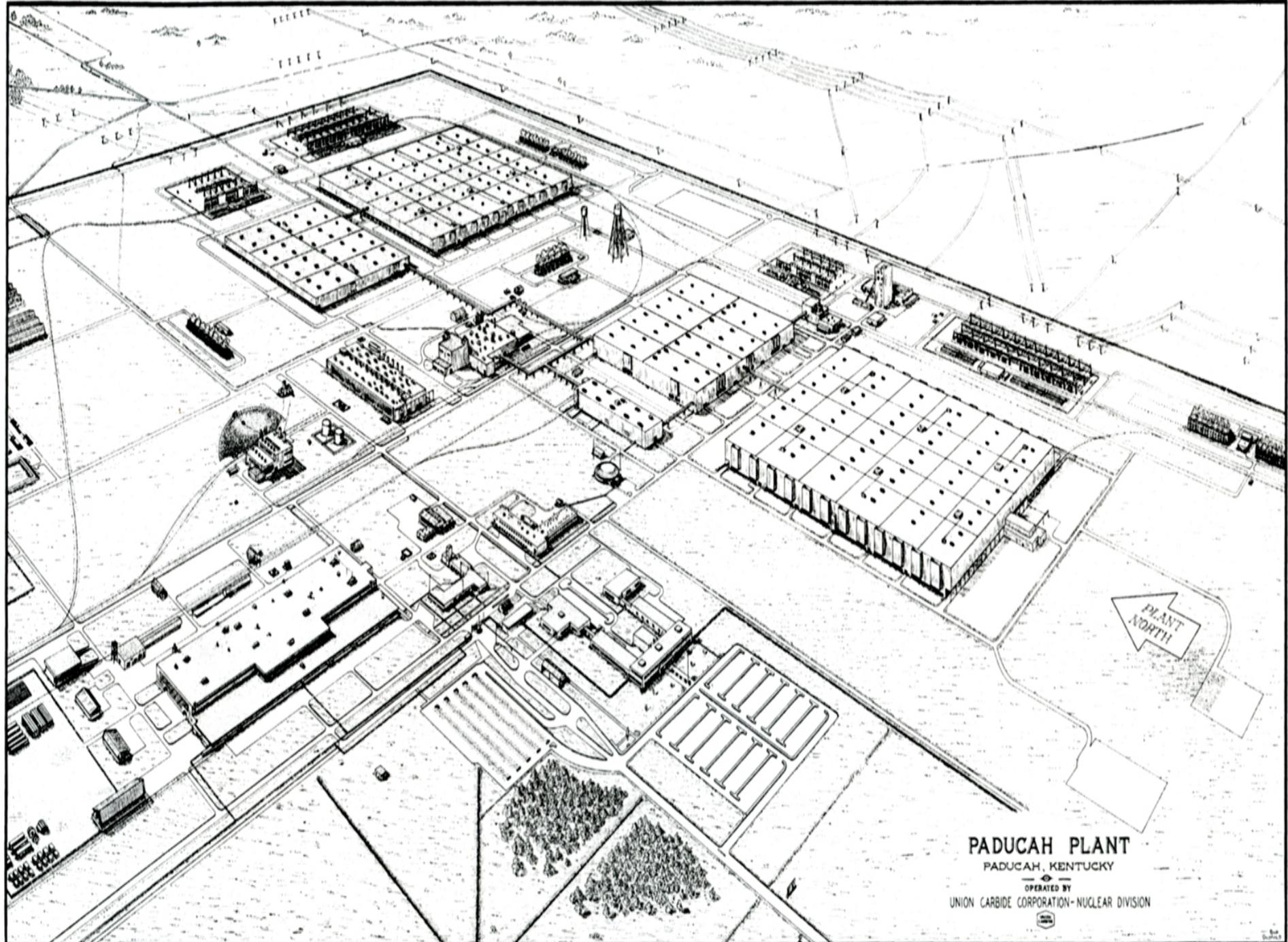
OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION









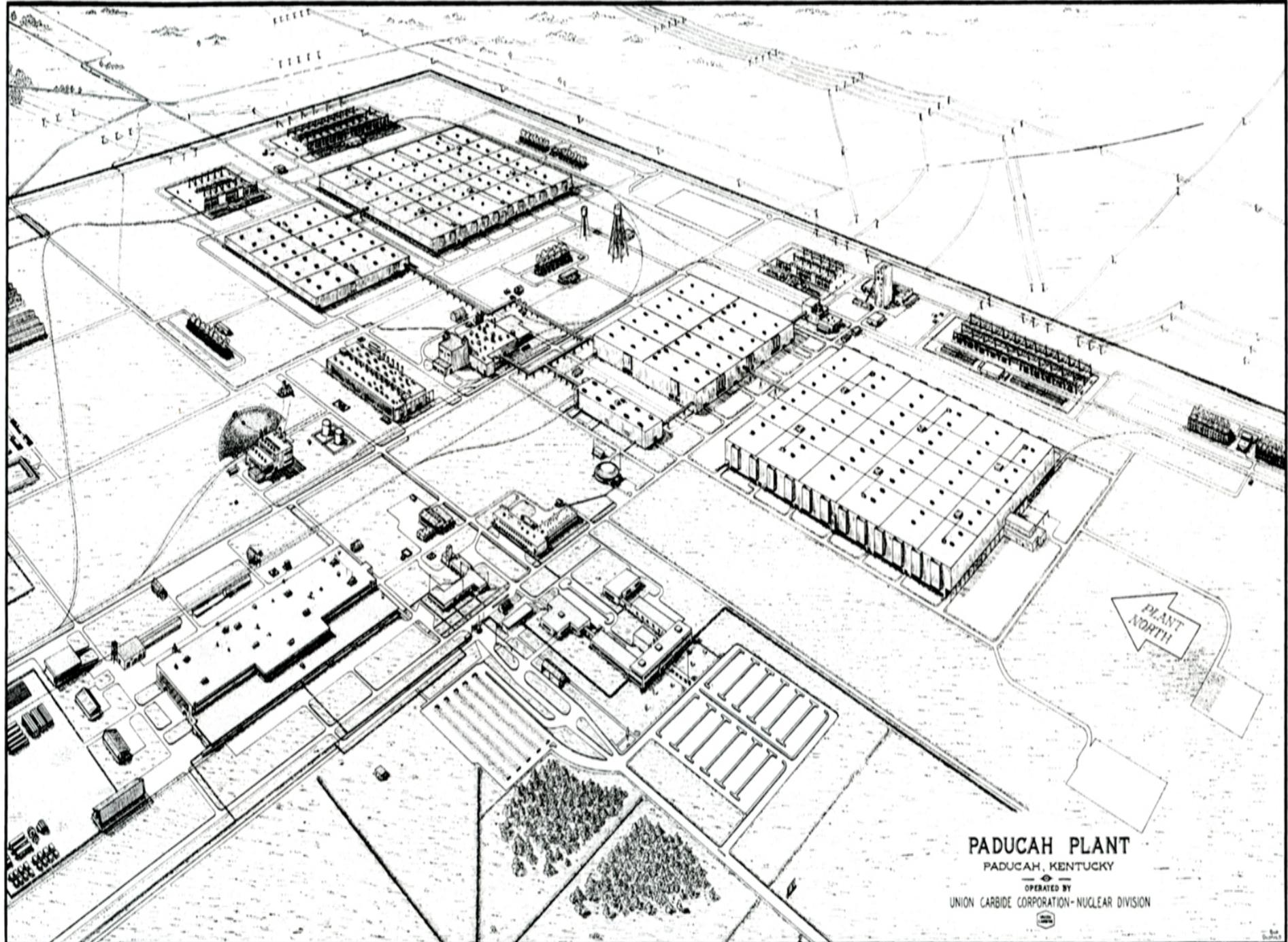


**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION



1000 1000  
1000 1000



**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION







**River Port**









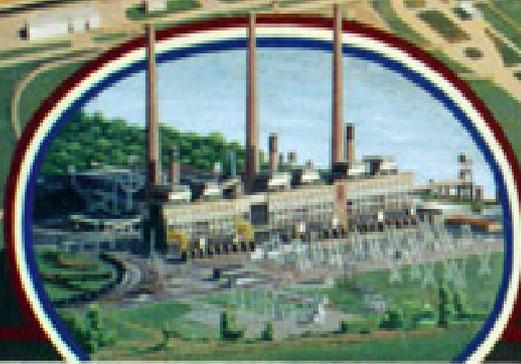
# Burial Grounds

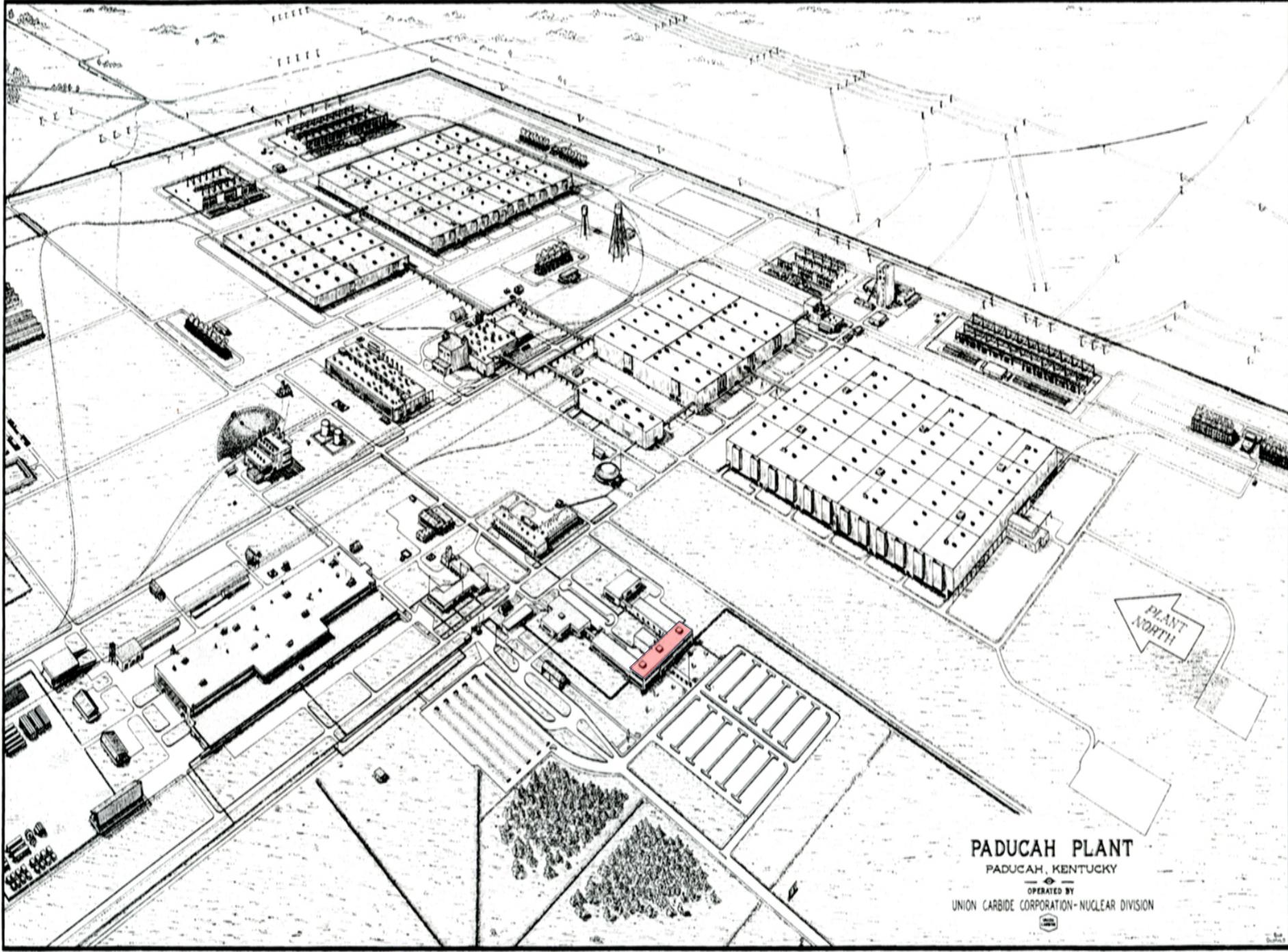
# Landfills

**WELCOME**

to the

**ATOMIC CITY**





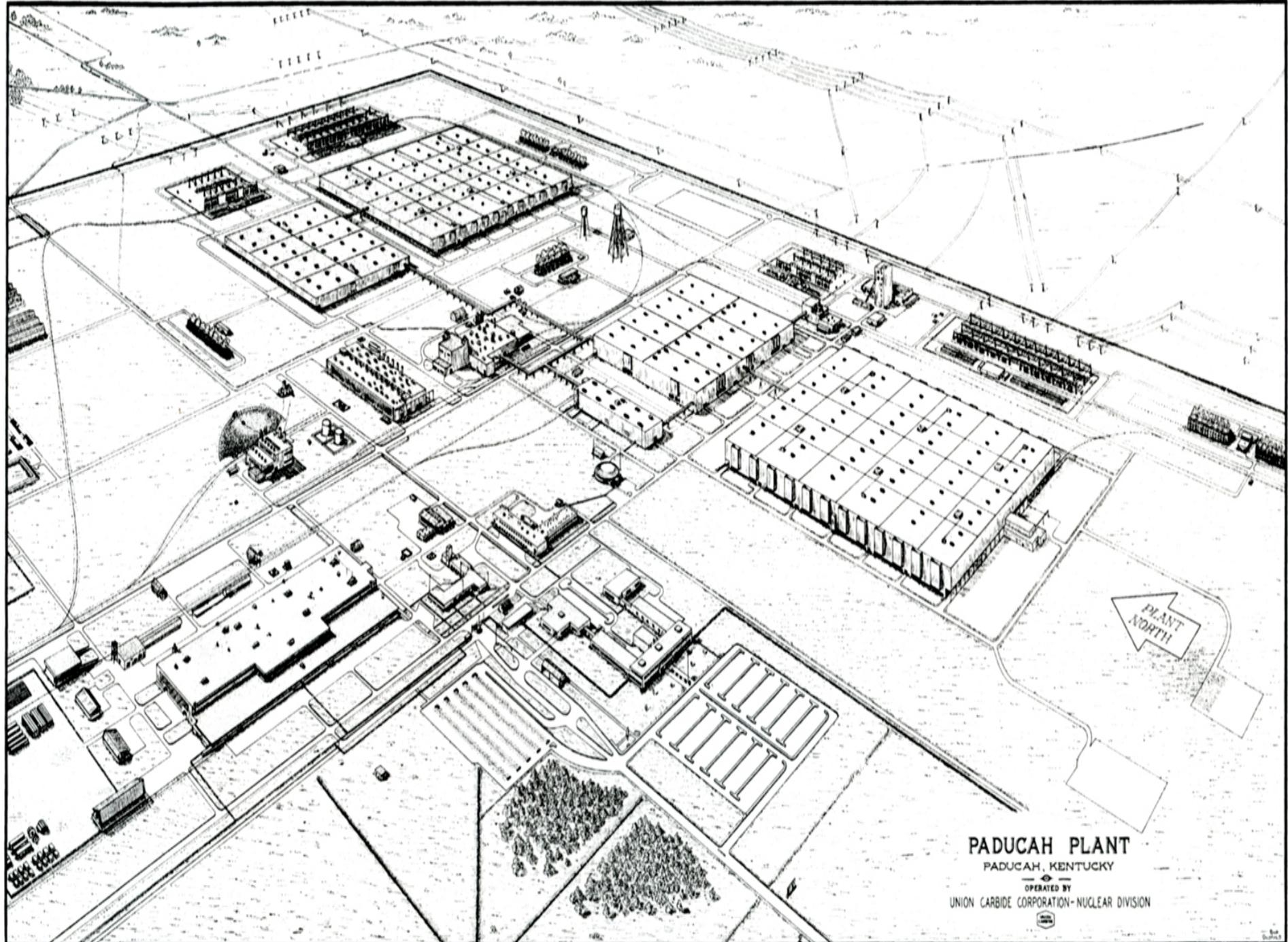
**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION







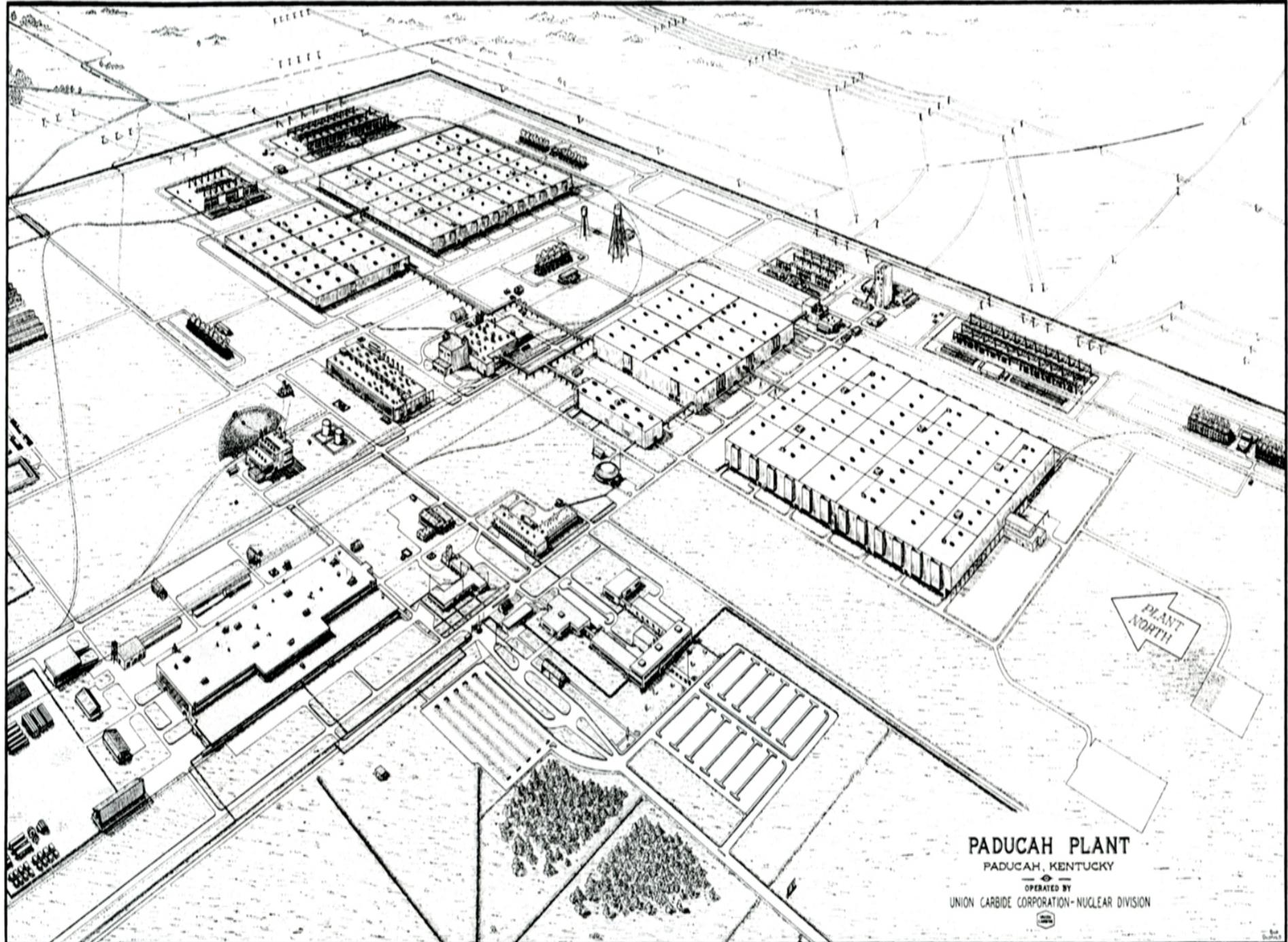


PLANT  
NORTH

**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION





**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION

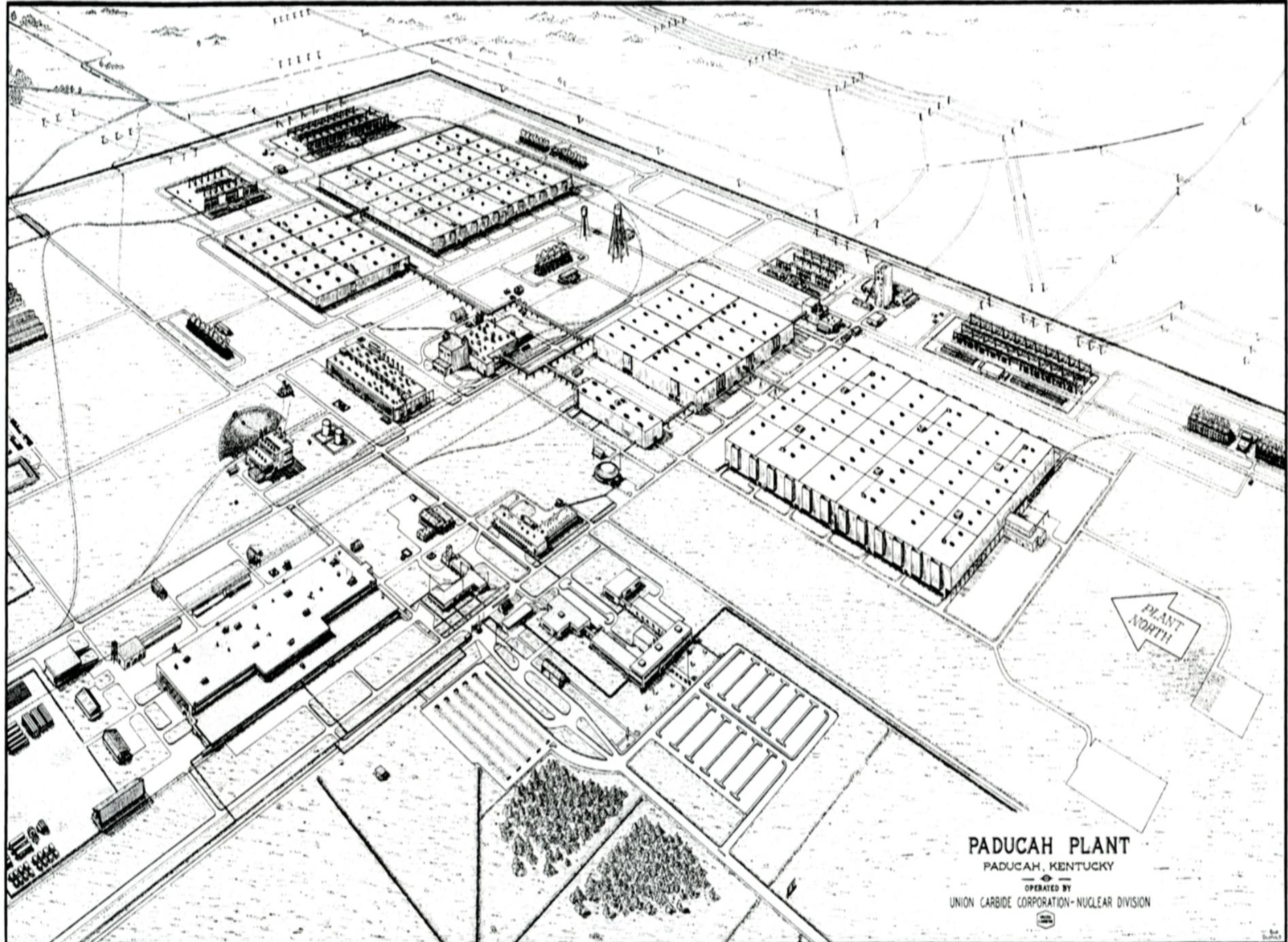






ATOMIC ENERGY  
COMMISSION





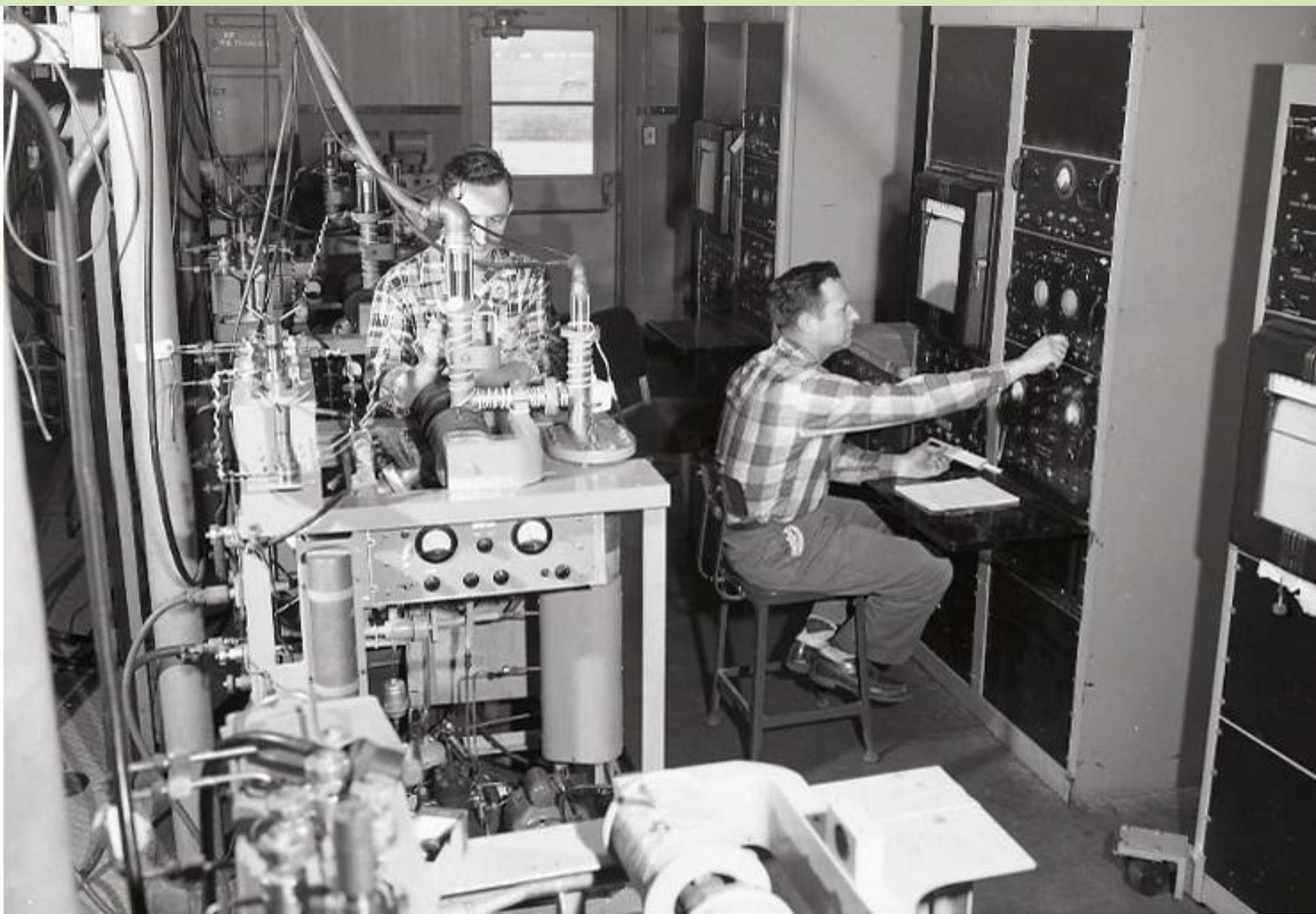
**PADUCAH PLANT**  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

OPERATED BY  
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION - NUCLEAR DIVISION











**UNION CARBIDE NUCLEAR COMPANY  
PADUCAH PLANT**

**AT HOME  
ON THE ROAD  
AT PLAY  
AT WORK**

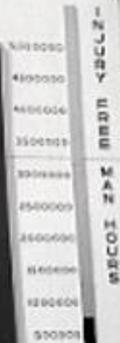
**SAFETY  
EVERYWHERE**



**... all the time!**



**OUR PLANT HAS WORKED 86 DAYS  
WITHOUT A DISABLING INJURY**





**UNION CARBIDE NUCLEAR COMPANY  
PADUCAH PLANT**

**PRECAUTION  
IS THE KEY  
TO FIRE  
PREVENTION**

**FIRES DESTROY**  
LIVES • HOMES  
JOBS

PRECAUTION IS THE *key* TO FIRE PREVENTION



**I  
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**OUR PLANT HAS WORKED 253 DAYS  
WITHOUT A DISABLING IN JURY.**



5017 0 0

5024 0

TOTAL  
LAST MONTH

15

5027 1  
5015 1

TOTAL  
LAST YEAR

323

# YOU CAN PREVENT FIRES!

CHECK FOR  
HAZARDS



**NO  
SMOKING**



KEEP BLAZE  
FROM SPREADING

WHERE IS  
YOUR NEAREST  
FIRE ALARM BOX  
OR FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER ?



## PRECAUTION IS THE KEY TO FIRE PREVENTION !

**DAY-BY-DAY INJURIES**  
INJURIES THIS MONTH INJURIES TO DATE

17

221

THIS YEAR

LAST YEAR

# Fire Department











KENTUCKY AREA  
LOOKING NE TOWARD BRANCH OF PEOPLES  
NATIONAL BANK ON PROJECT SITE  
9-12-51





# Hazards





# Plant Impacts

- Economic Impacts
- Traffic
- Housing
- Schools/Hospitals
- Shopping
- Infrastructure
- Recreational facilities
- Crime





**DANGER**  
NO SMOKING.  
MATCHES OR  
OPEN LIGHTS

PUMP CO.

METRO

GAUL

OTHE

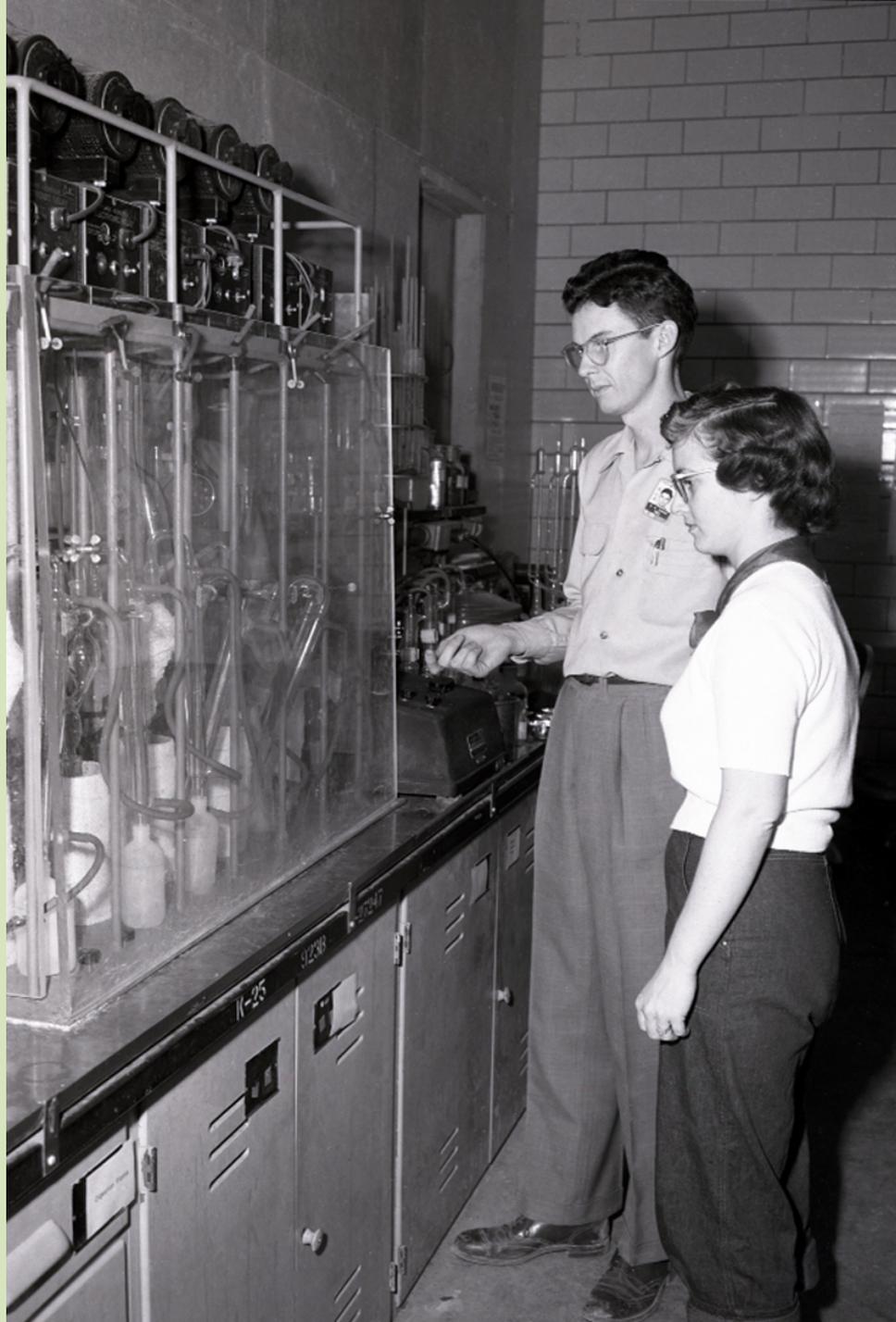
THOMAS

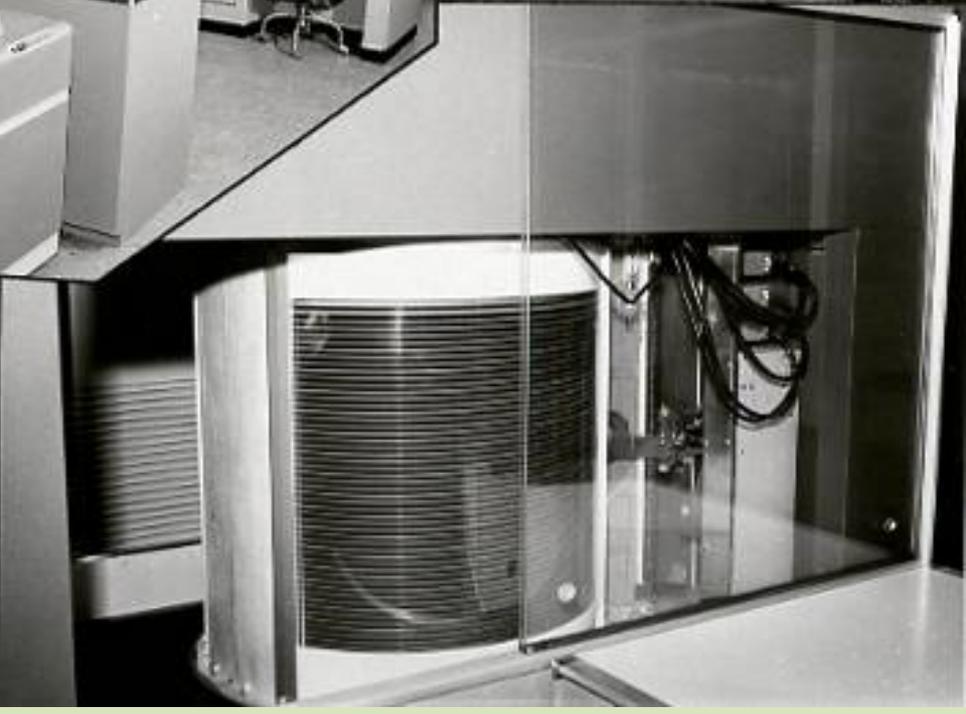
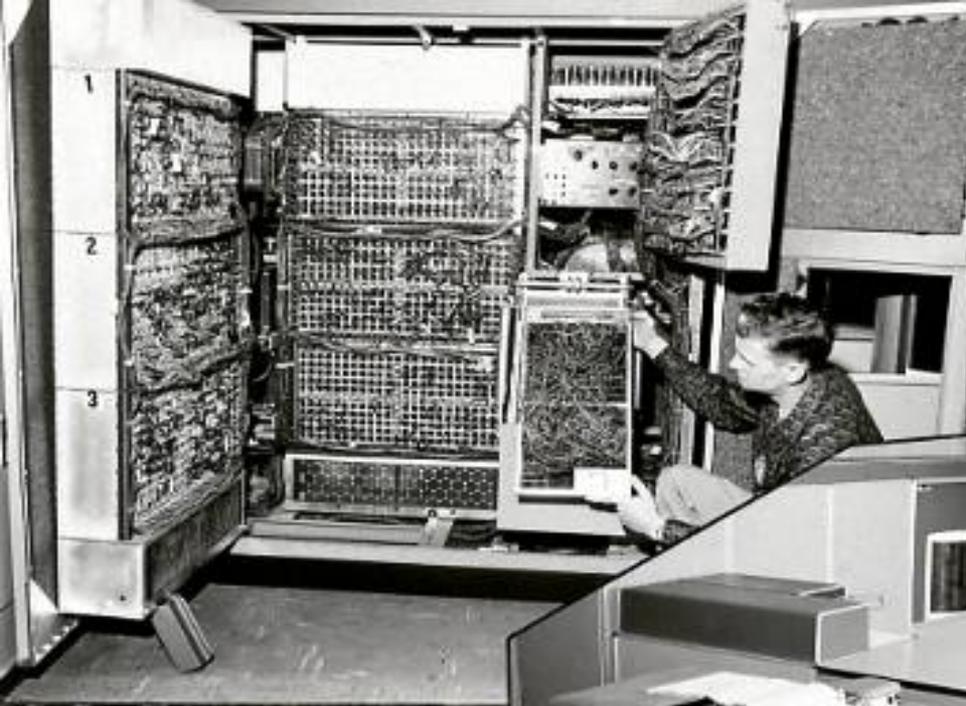
THE TEXAS COMPANY  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
54. TEXCO GAL.  
CANOPUS OIL

COMMERCIAL  
SOLVENTS CORPORATION  
ETHANOL  
SERIAL NO. 18117

GAUL

OTHE









ALCOHOL  
EXTRACT  
OVER  
ENTRUSION  
TONGUE  
LOOSENERS  
PROTECT SECURITY OPERATION

AUTOMATIC AMBITEXIN

BOX OF LAC

# Impacts

# Plant Employment





C-720  
PAY POINT

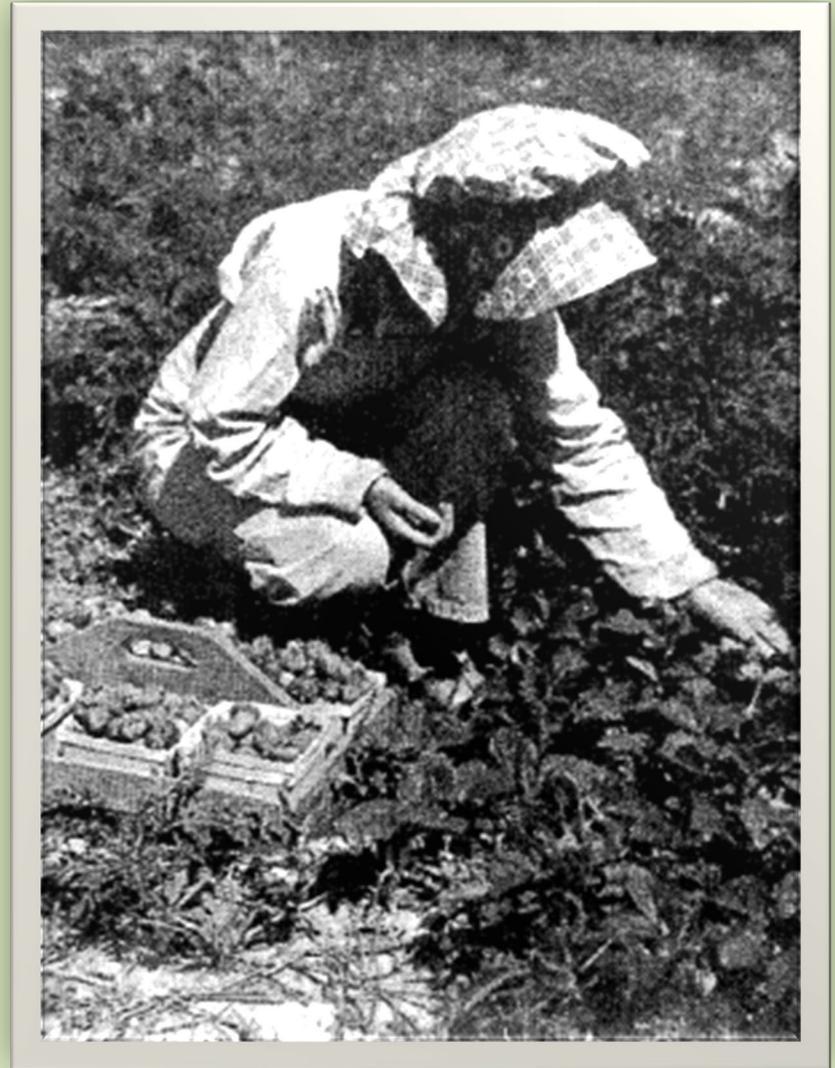


# Pay Day



Labor problems

# Impact on Agriculture







U. S. A. E. C. PADUCAH AREA  
LOOKING N. FROM INTERSECTION OF KY.  
AVE. & 18th ST. AT PAVING OPERATION  
75% COMPLETE  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 9-17-53

# Instant Housing Crisis



KENTUCKY AREA  
VIEW OF CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY  
BARRACKS AREA  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR



KENTUCKY AREA  
GENERAL VIEW OF ERECTION OF  
PREFAB HOMES  
F. H. MCGRAW & CO., CONTRACTOR  
FORREST HARMON, SUB-CONTRACTOR  
AT-(15-1)-2 6-18-51

# Business Impact

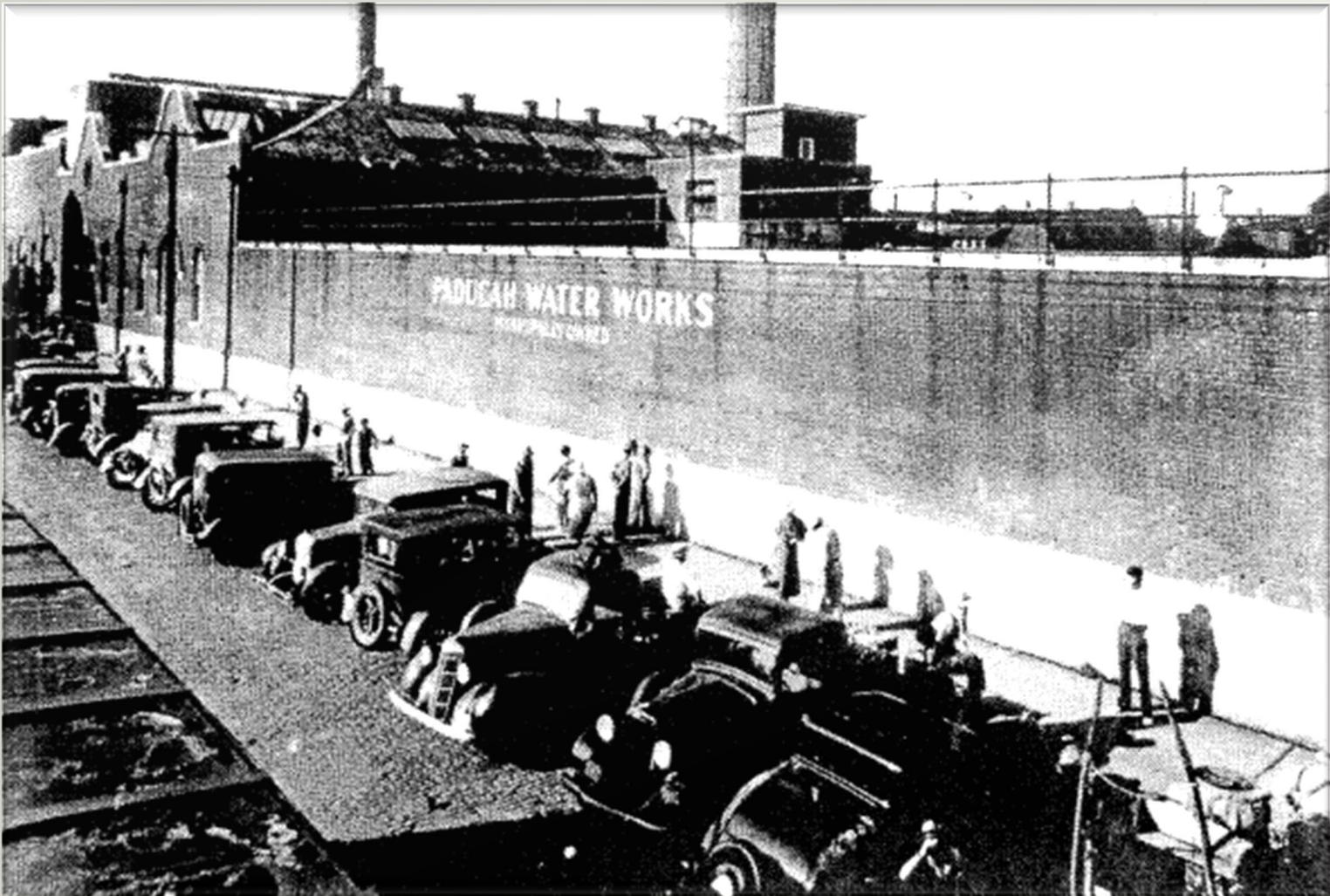
# Shopping



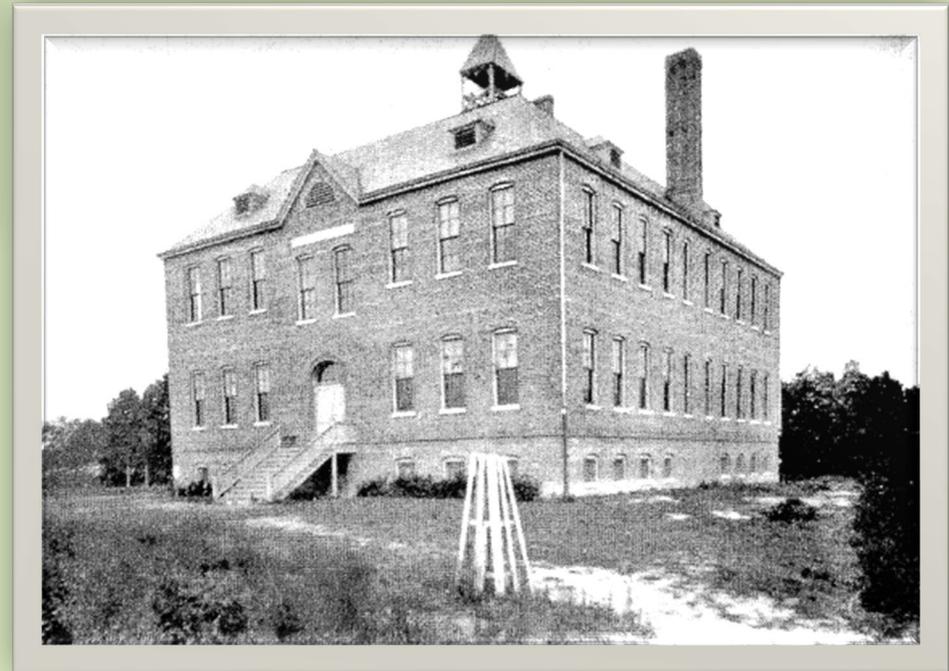
# Business Impact

# Public Services

# Water Shortage



# Overcrowded Schools



# Hospitals







Say it with Flowers

AUTO-LOANS

COLUMBIA

FRIGIDLY WAGGLY

SINGER

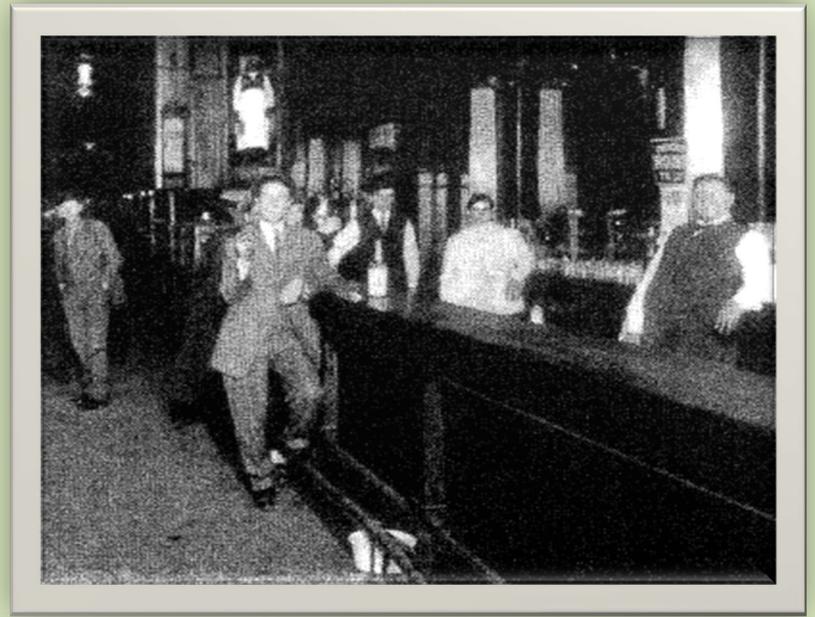
RESTAURANT

A GOOD

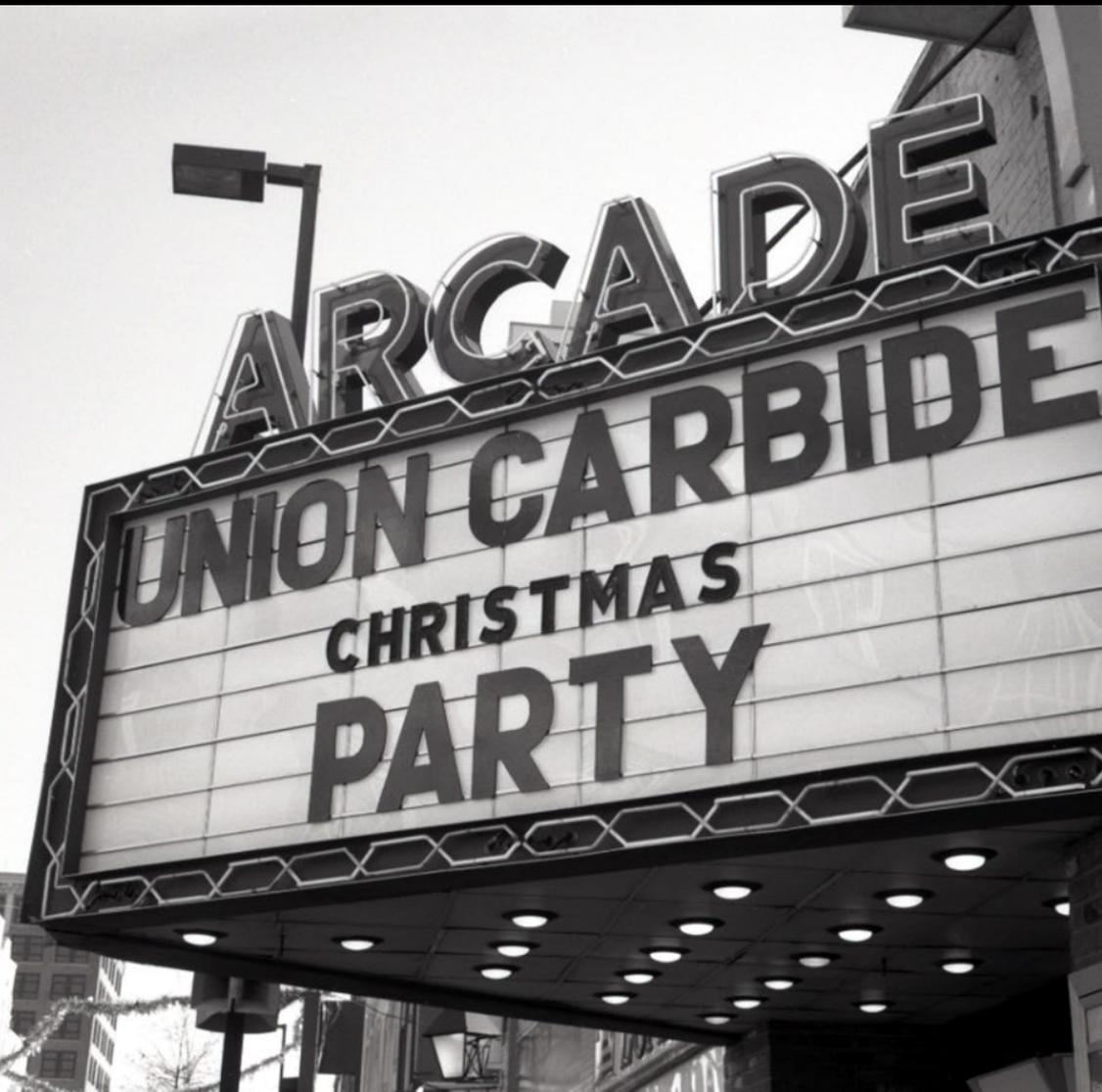




# Entertainment



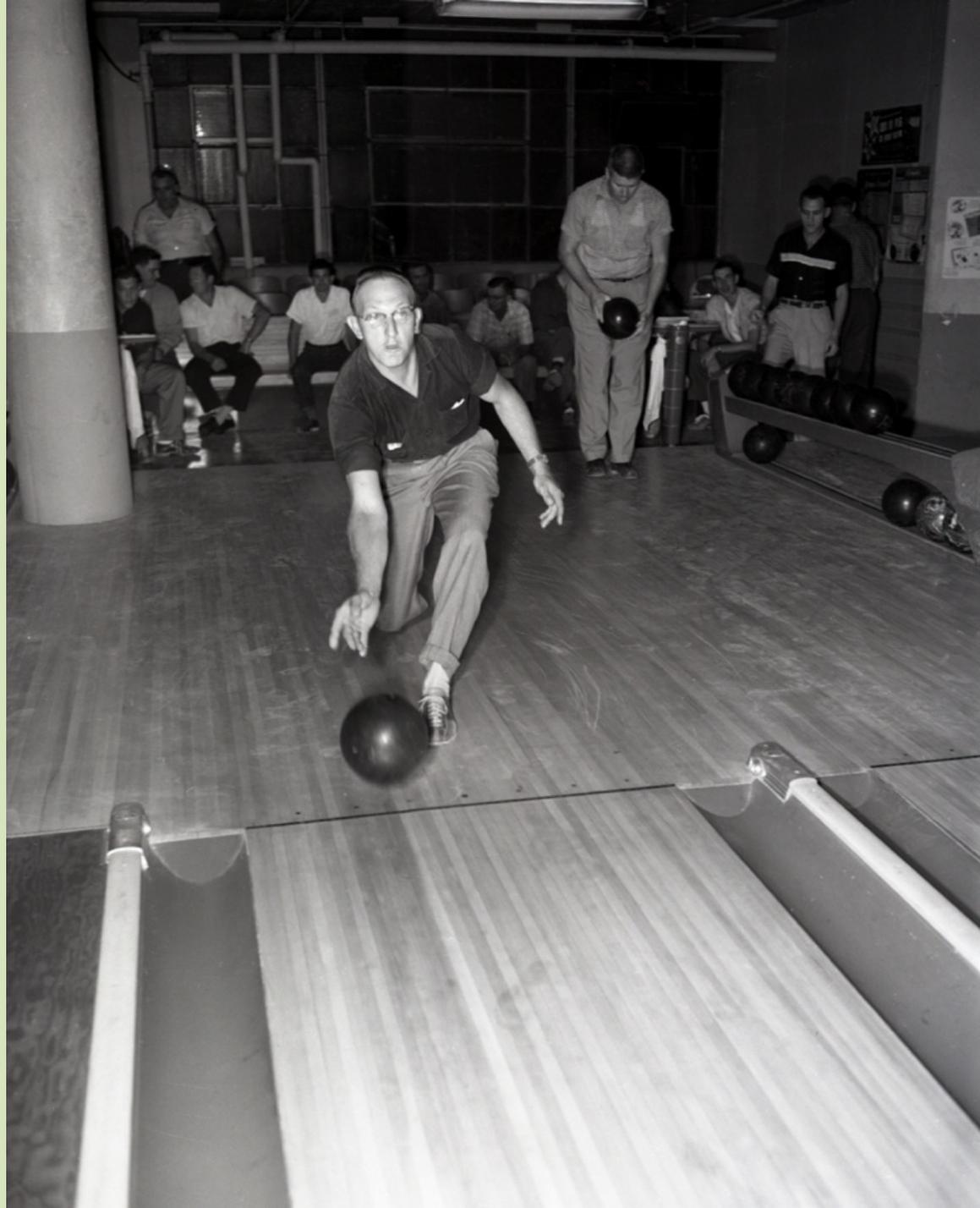
# Plant Social Life









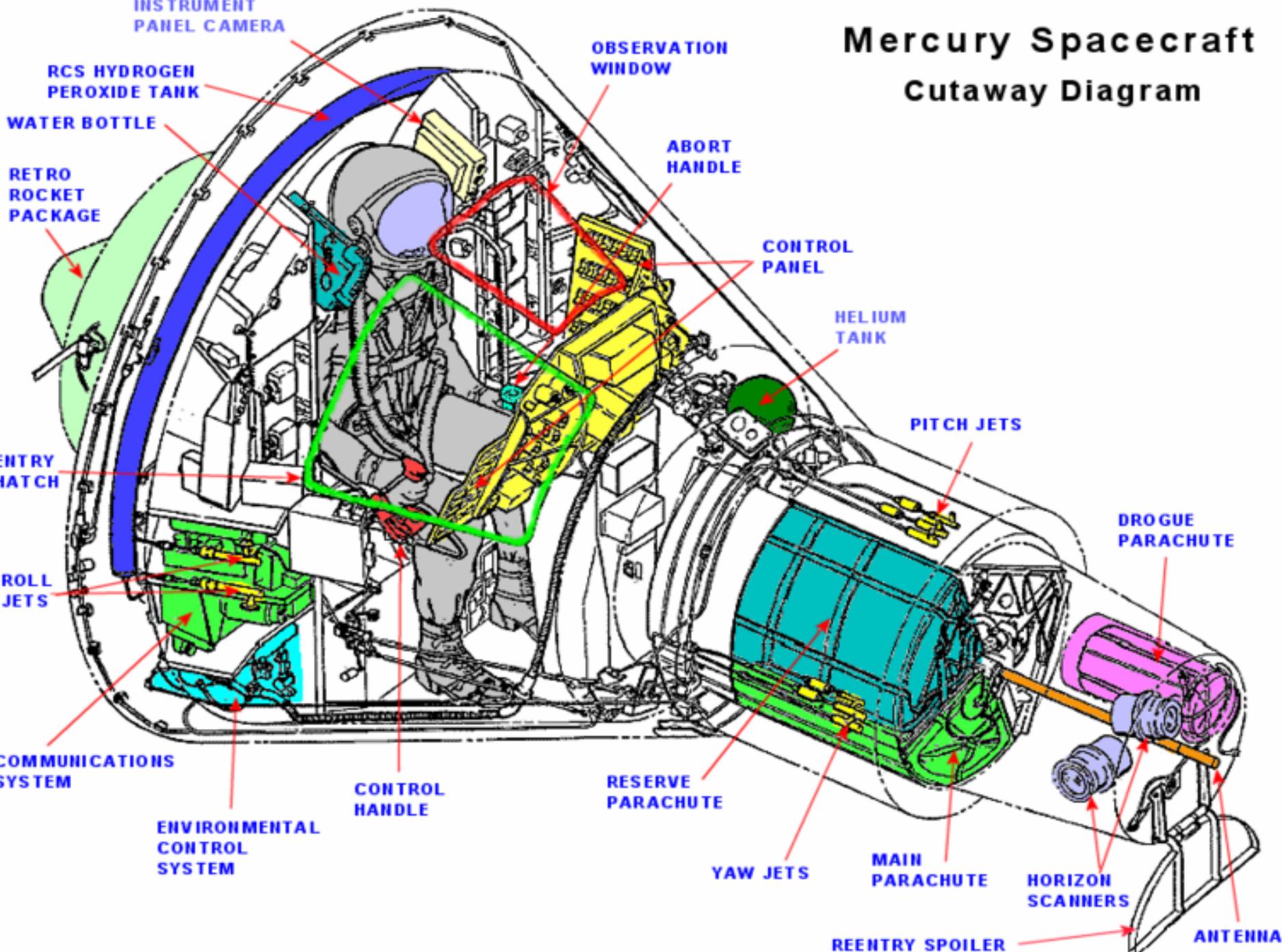


# PGDP Work for Others

- Metal Recovery
- Metallurgy
- Parts Fabrication



# Mercury Spacecraft Cutaway Diagram





2

4

8

10











# Environmental Impacts

# Environmental Impacts

# Cleanup

P33

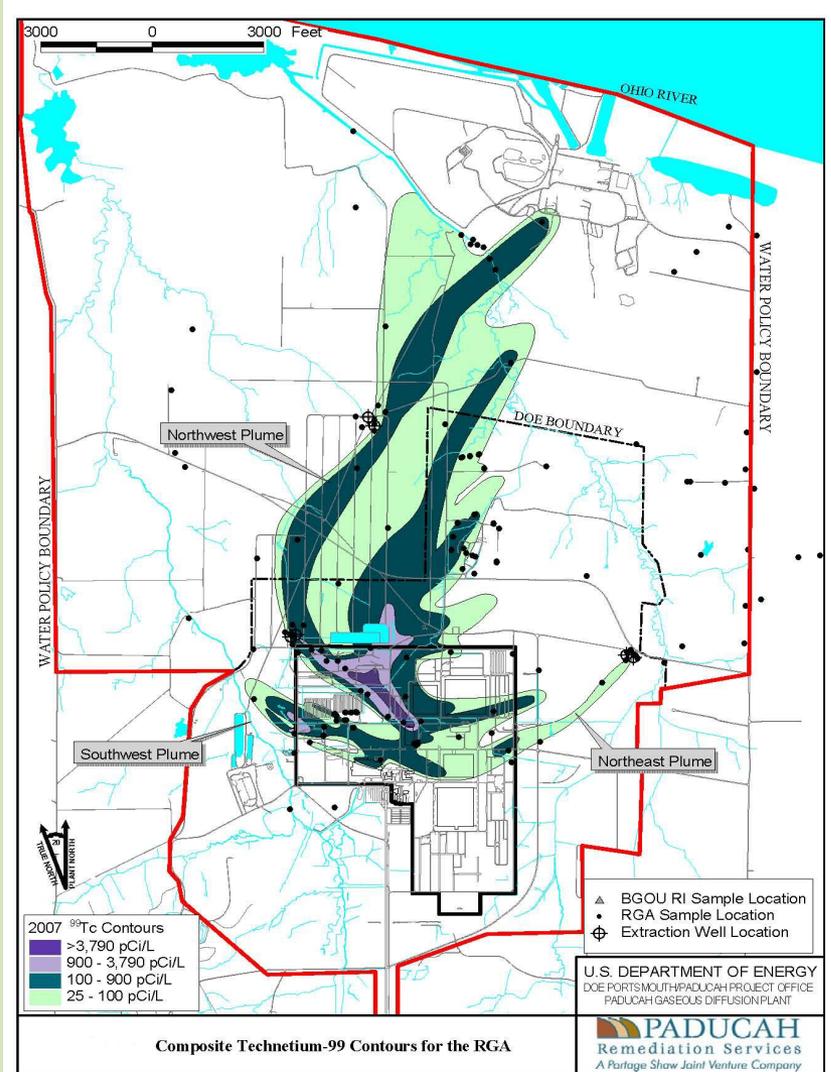
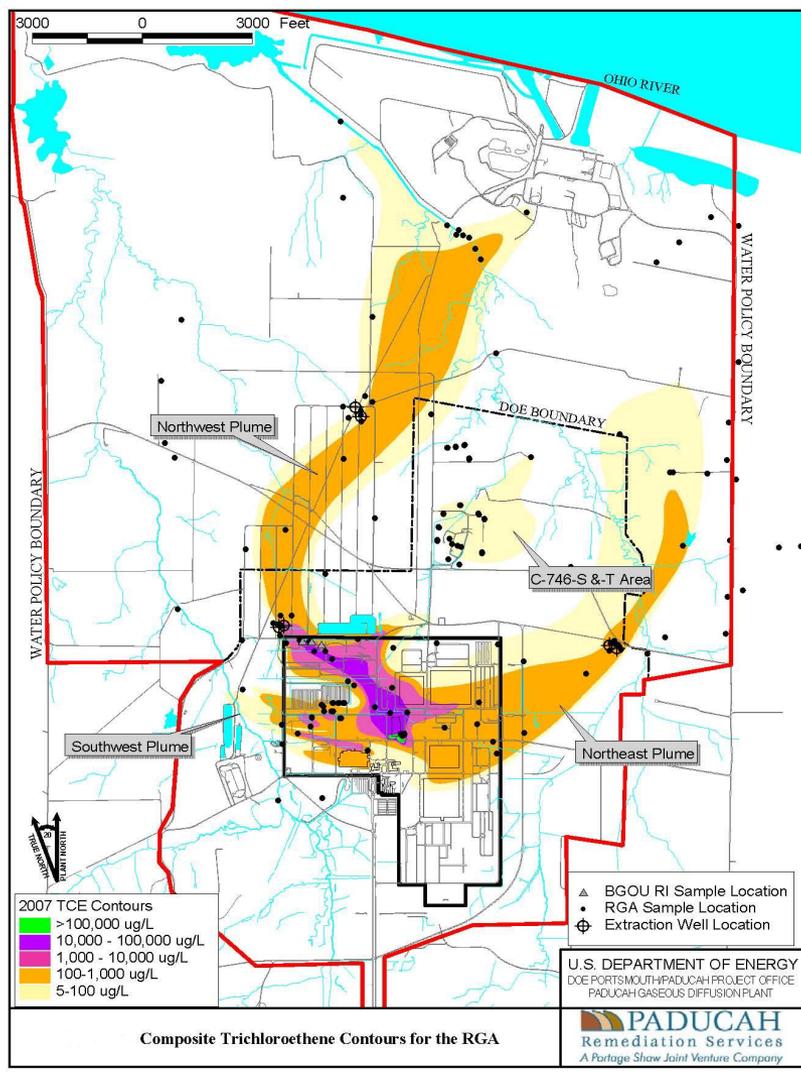


1980s to 2007

P34



# Environmental Impact



# Hazardous Waste Landfills



# Landfills



# Cleanup Efforts



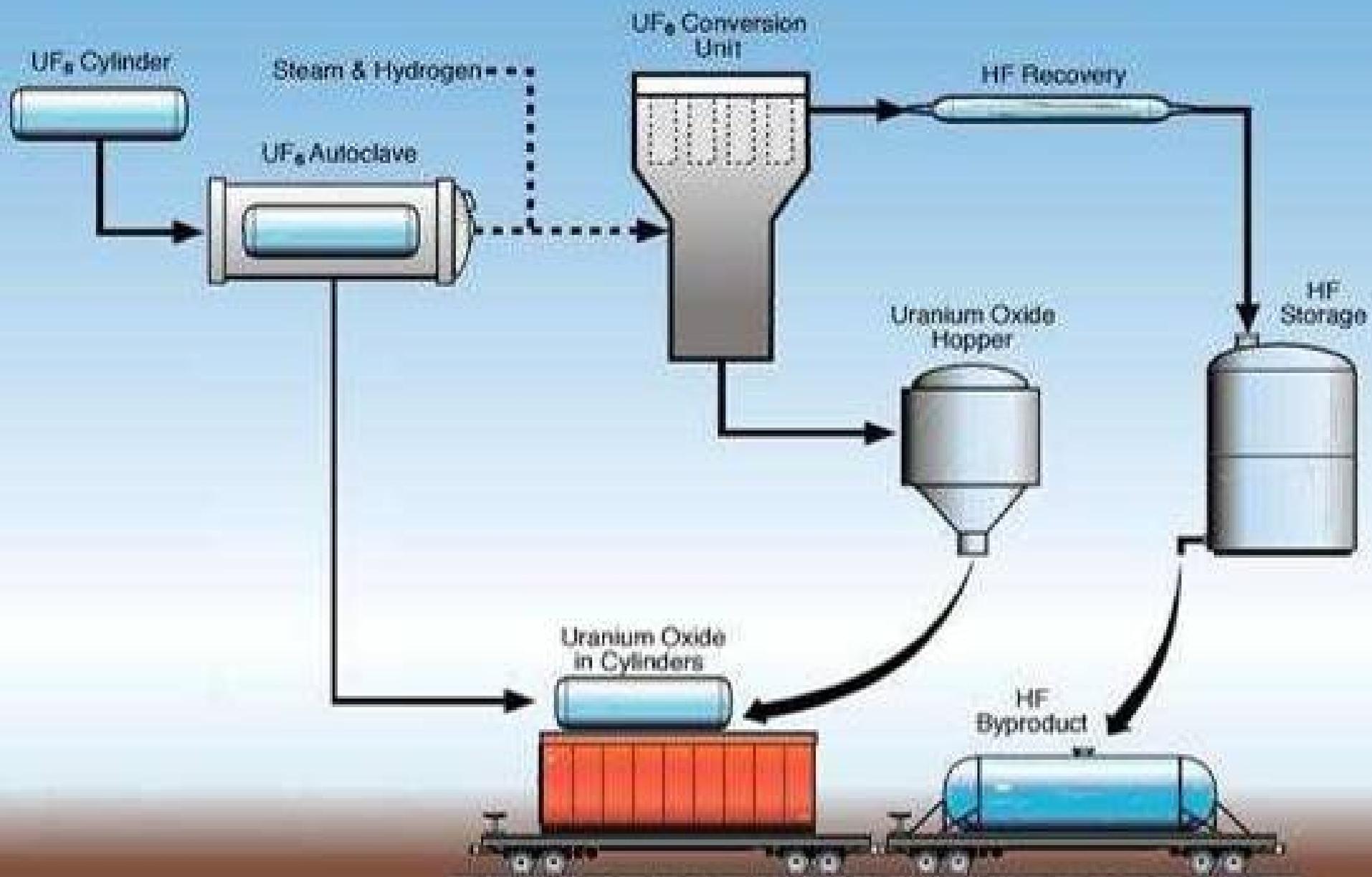
# Human Health Impacts





Legacy

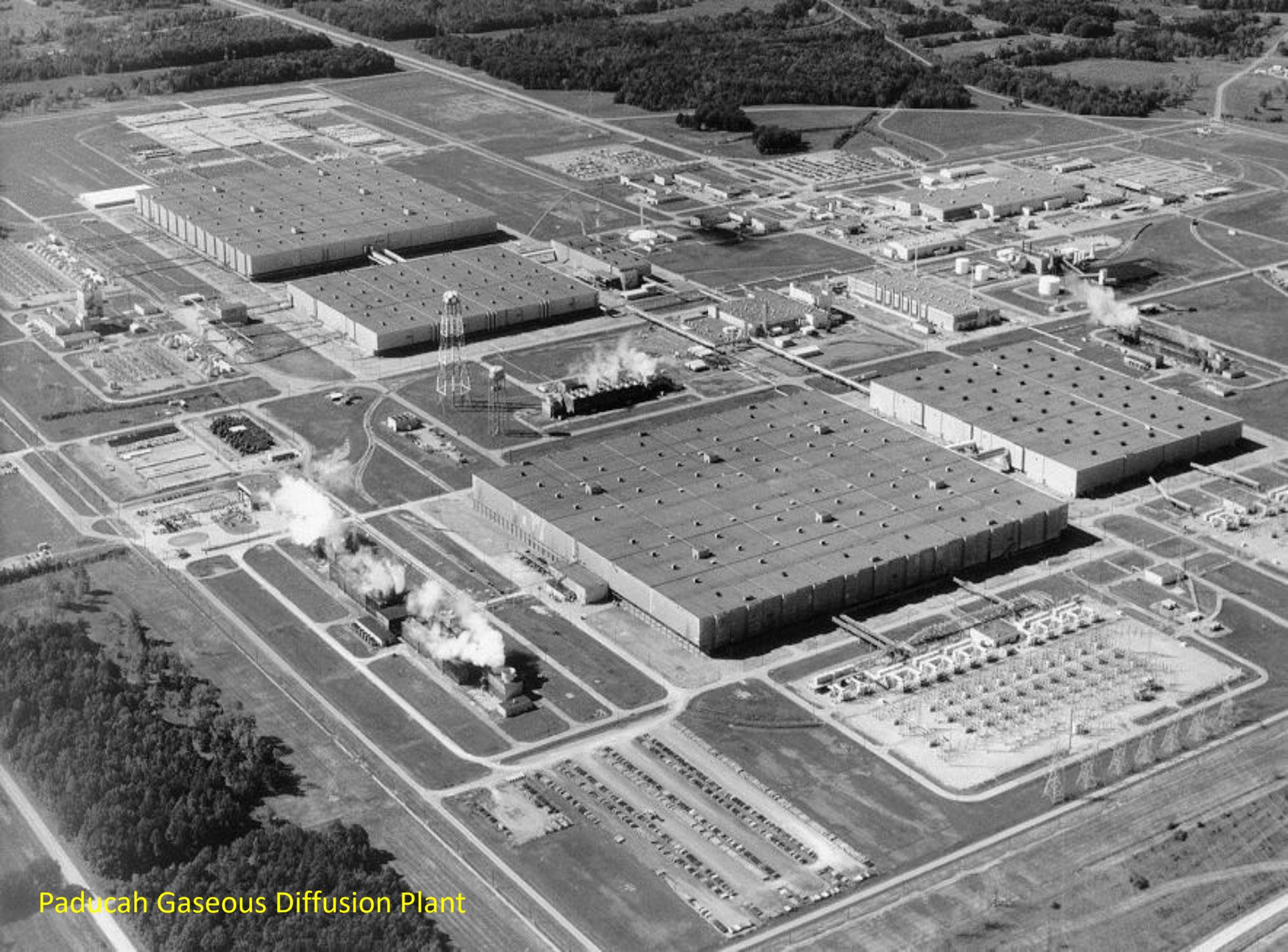
# UF<sub>6</sub> Conversion Process







# Environmental Impacts



Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

NO TRESPASSING  
BY ORDER OF  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY







# The Future

Megatons – to Megawatts





