

INNOVATION • DEFENSE  
NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT



**We make the world safer.**

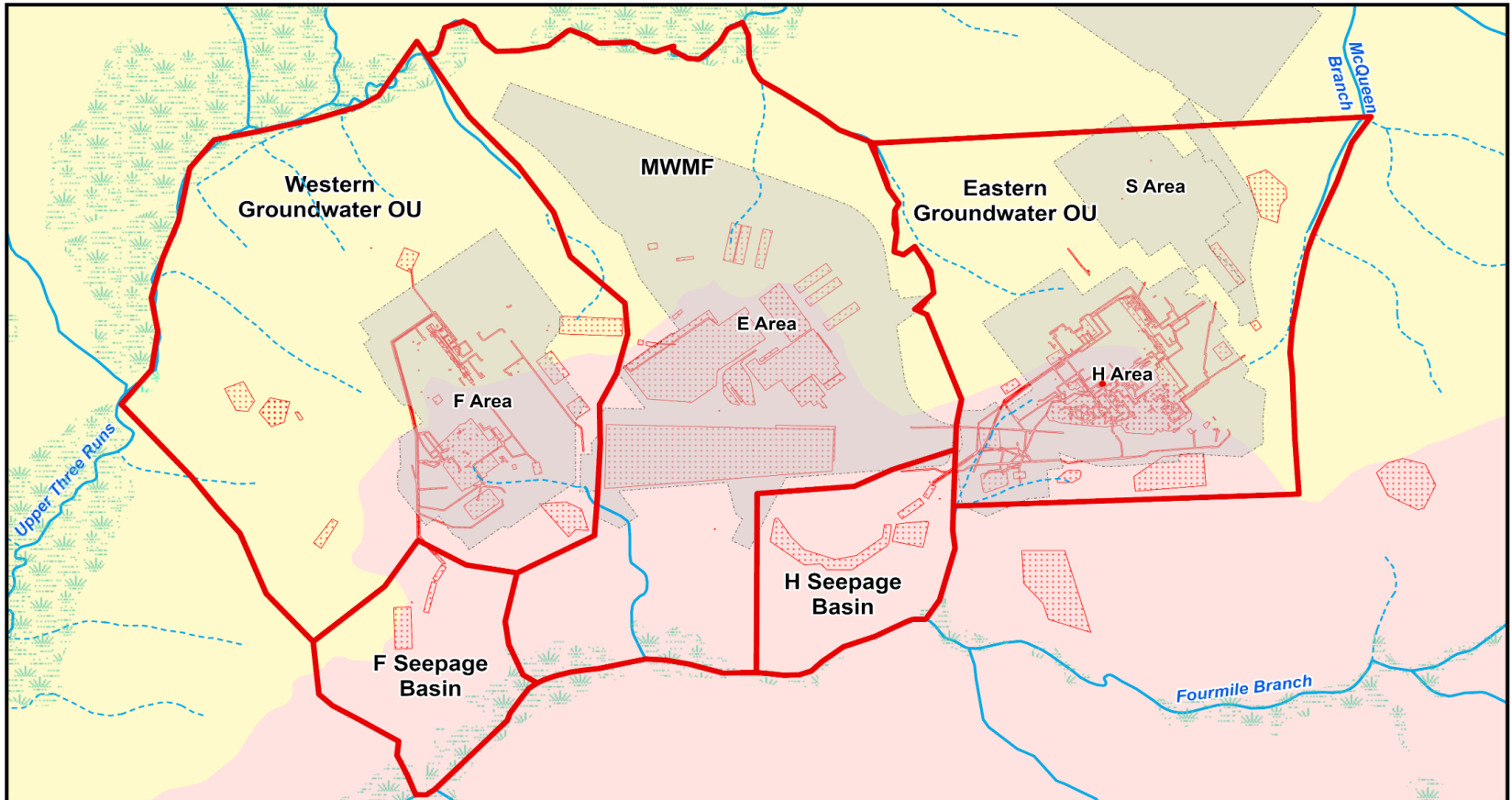
# **Annual Monitoring Review for the GSA Eastern and Western Groundwater Operable Units (U)**

**SRNS-MS-2024-00291**







**Kevin Boerstler**  
SRNS/ACP

*June 10, 2024*

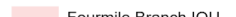

- **Introductions – Jones**
- **GSA Eastern Groundwater Update – Boerstler**
- **GSA Western Groundwater Update – Boerstler**
- **Nonvolatile Beta and Strontium-90 in the GSA Western Groundwater OU**  
**West Plume – Boerstler**
- **Wrap up**

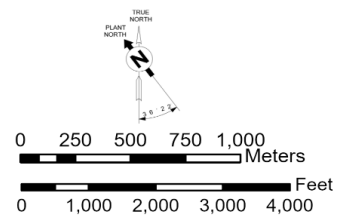


**Legend**

-  Perennial Stream
-  Intermittent Stream
-  Wetlands
-  Waste Units
-  Boundary, SRS Facility Area
-  GSA OU Boundaries

**Watersheds**

-  Fourmile Branch IOU
-  Upper Three Runs IOU



Savannah River Site  
Aiken, South Carolina

United States Department of Energy

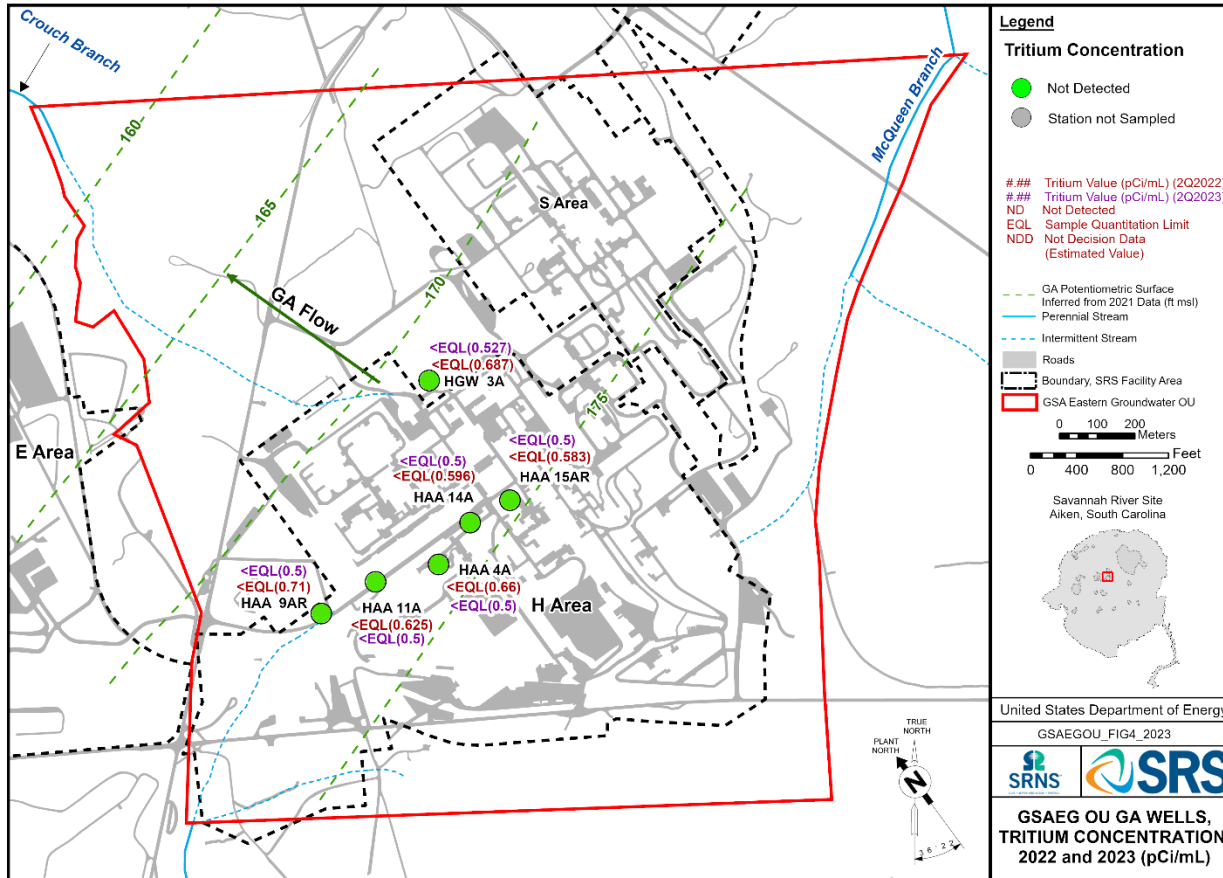
GSAEWGOU\_FIG1\_2022



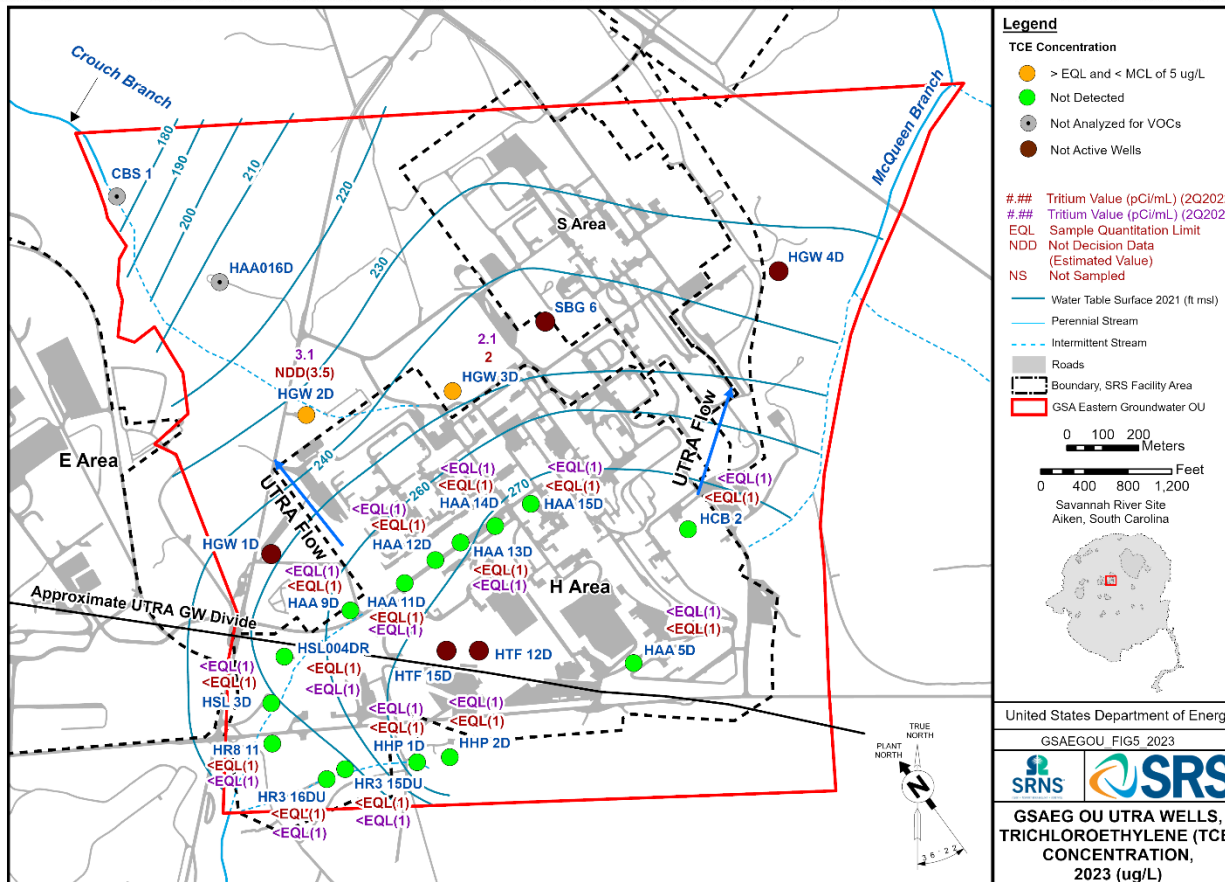
**Figure 1**  
General Separations Area  
Groundwater Units

- **Current strategy is monitoring of groundwater in the two uppermost aquifers that underlie the OU.**
- **Upper Three Runs Aquifer**
  - Upper Aquifer Zone
  - Lower Aquifer Zone
- **Gordon Aquifer**
- **Sampled annually (except well HAA-4A)**
- **Primary contaminants are tritium and TCE**



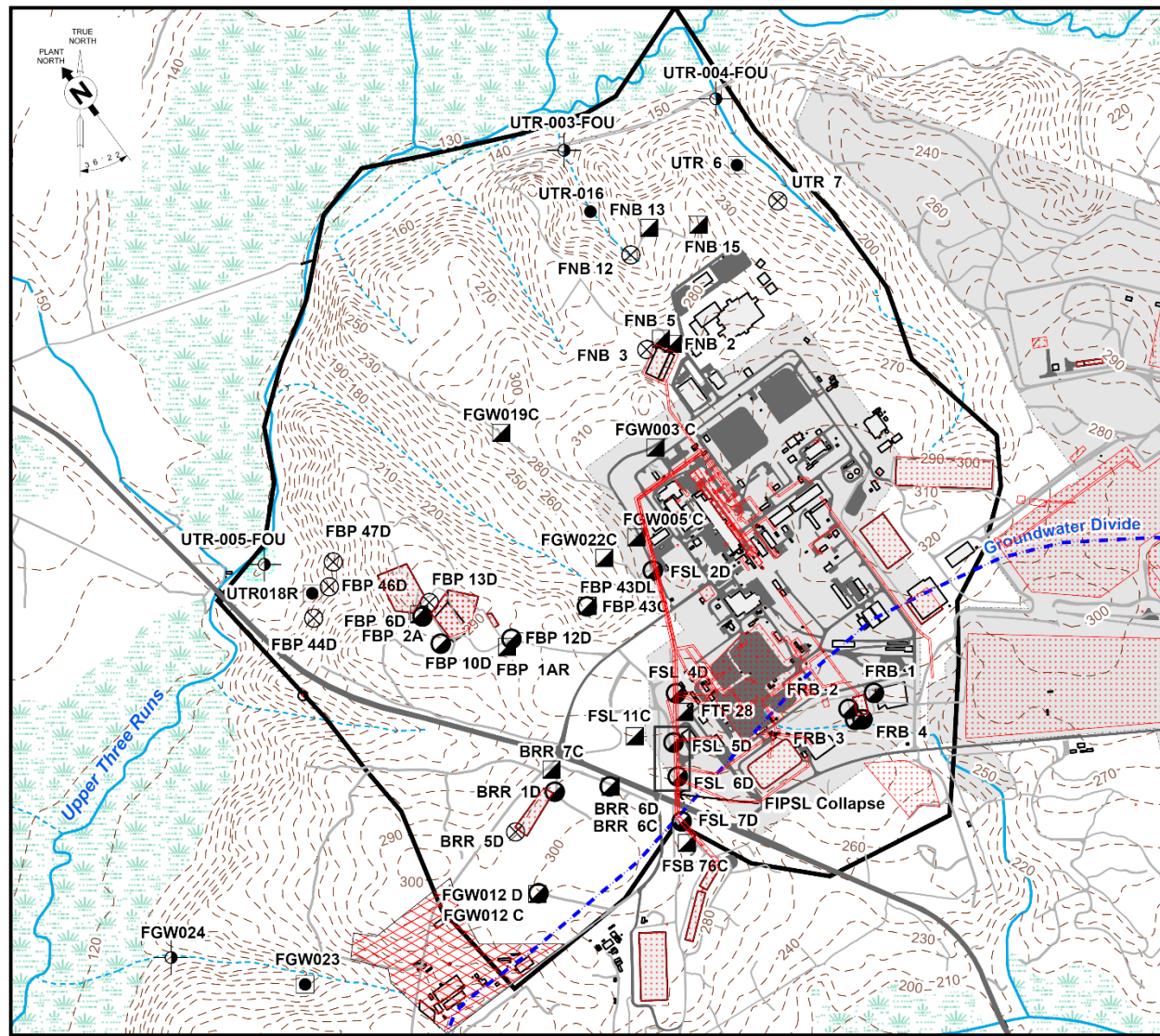


- Wells HAA 4A and HAA 15AR were sampled for the first time under GSA Eastern GW monitoring program in 2022.
- Tritium was non-detect at all wells.



- TCE detected in only two wells (HGW 2D and HGW 3D) and was below the MCL (5 ug/L)
- 1,1-Dichloroethane above RSL (2.8 ug/L) at HAA 5D (11 J ug/L and 4.2 ug/L in 2022 and 2023, respectively).
- TCE not detected in Gordon Aquifer

- **Current strategy is monitoring to ensure surface water is protected**
- **Sampled annually**
  - Groundwater, seepage, and surface water
- **Three plume areas**
  - North, West, and South
- **Primary contaminants are radionuclides and VOCs**



**Legend**


**Monitoring Stations**

- UAZ
- LAZ
- Seepage Piezometer
- Surface Water
- ⊗ F-Area Inactive Wells
- - - Topographic Contours (10 ft intervals) (ft msl)
- Perennial Stream
- · - · - Intermittent Stream
- Wetlands
- Waste Units
- Boundary, SRS Facility Area
- GSA Western Groundwater OU
- Biomass Facility Area

0 300 600 Meters

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

Savannah River Site  
Aiken, South Carolina

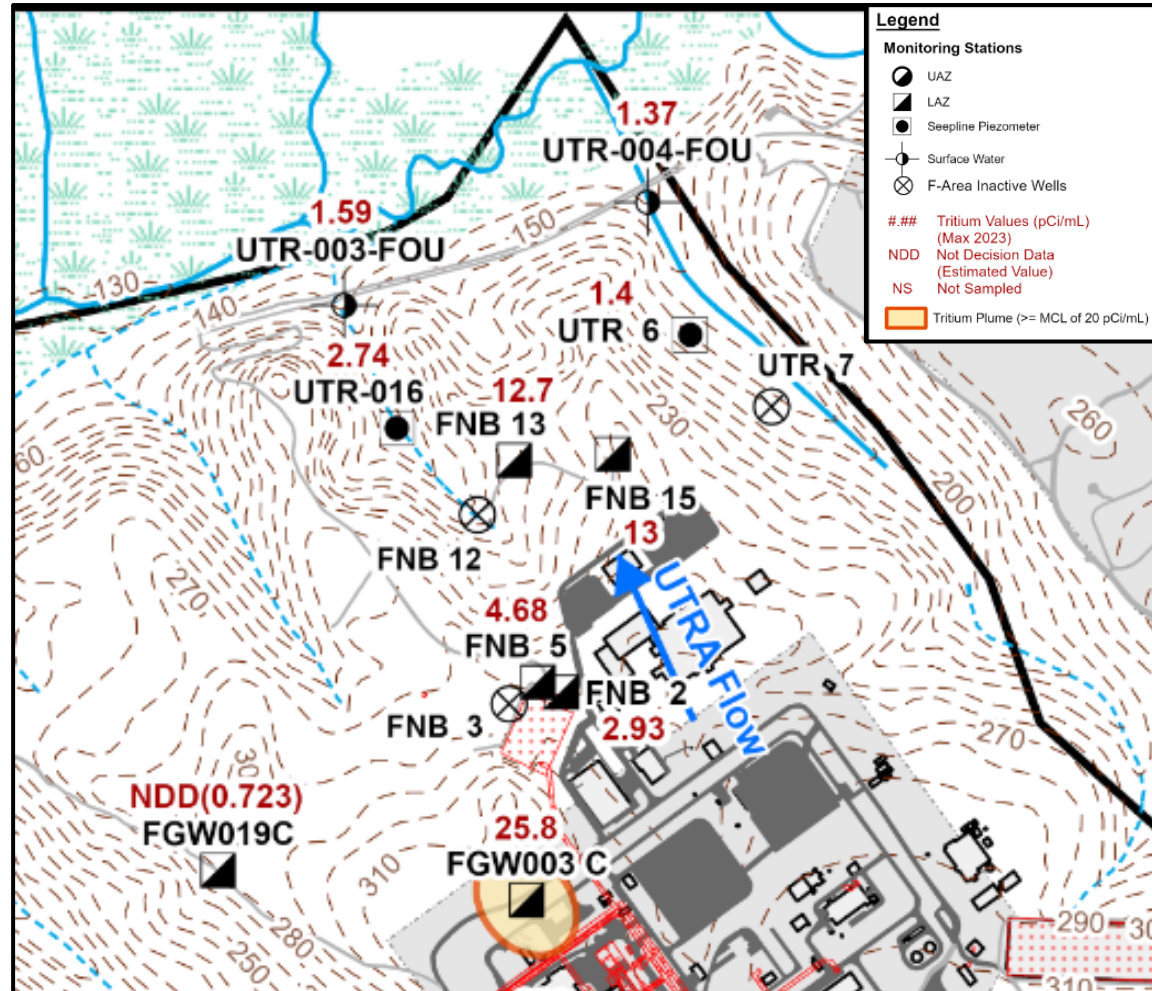


United States Department of Energy  
GSAEWGOU\_FIG2\_2022

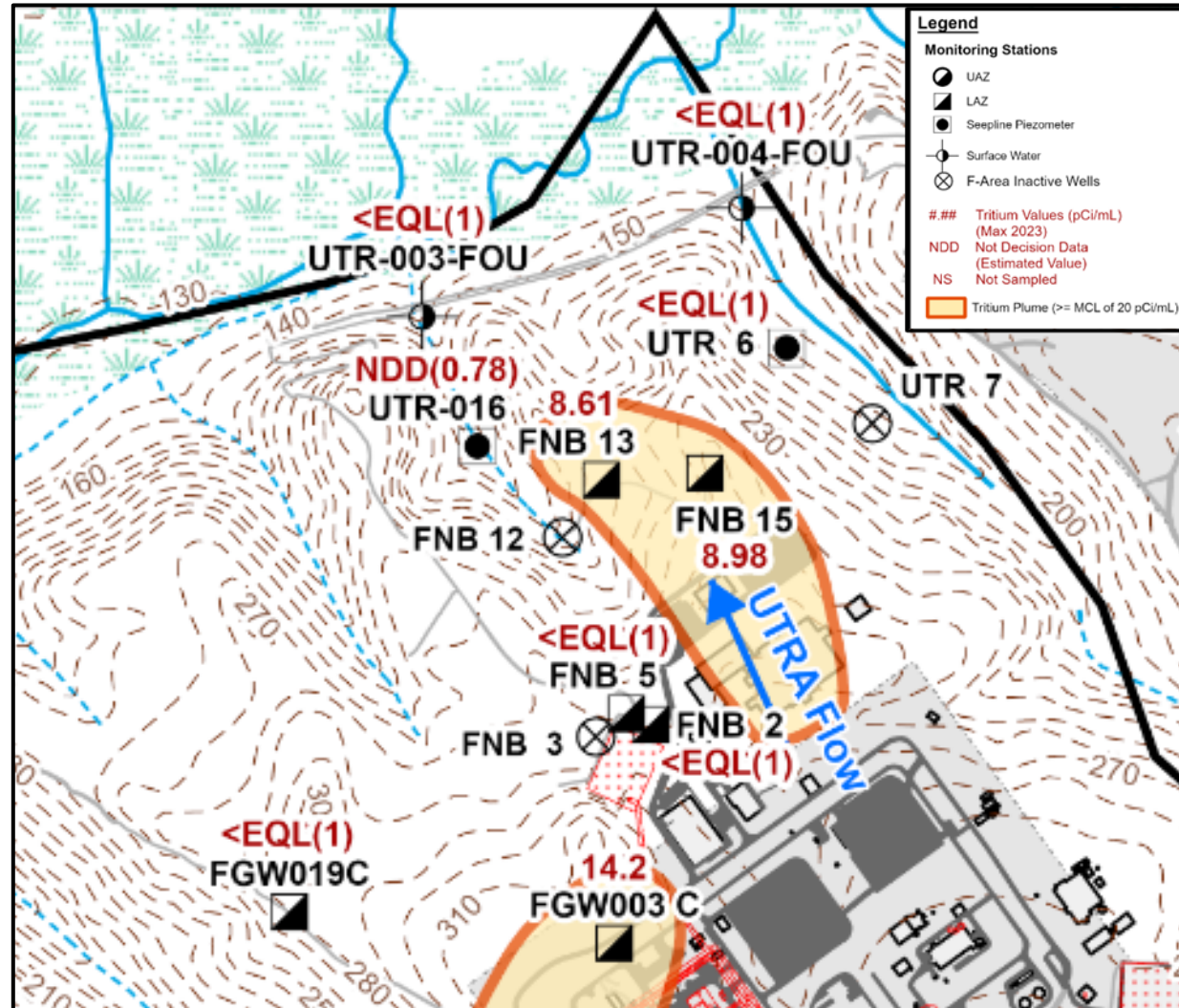


**Figure 2**  
GSAWG OU Sample Locations and Well Map

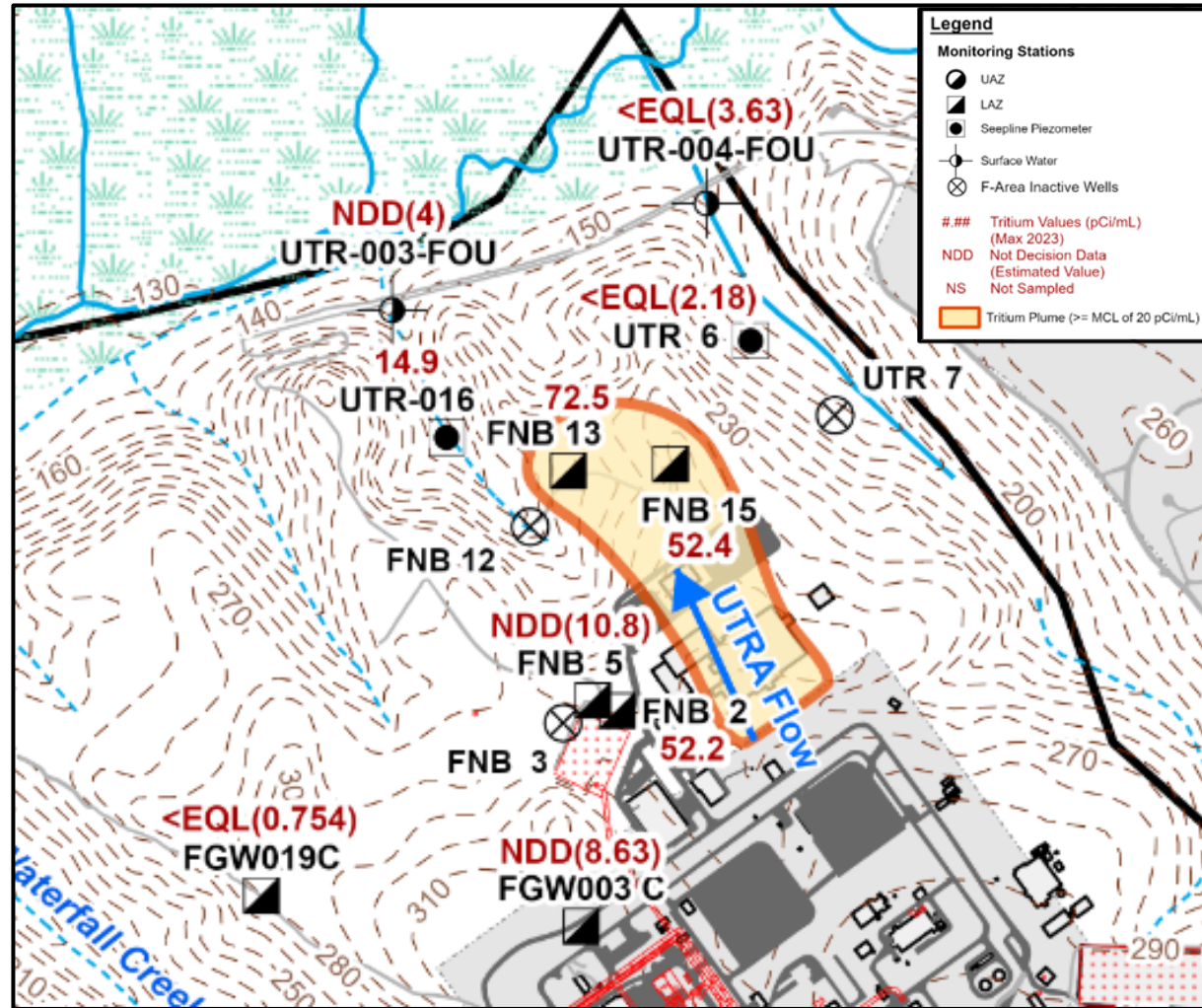
- Groundwater flow is north toward Upper Three Runs creek and tributaries
- Tritium concentrations are low, similar to last year and continue to decrease over time
- Maximum is below MCL at FNB 15 (13 pCi/mL)
- At seepines tritium is below the MCL (UTR 16 and UTR 6)
- Surface water is below the MCL



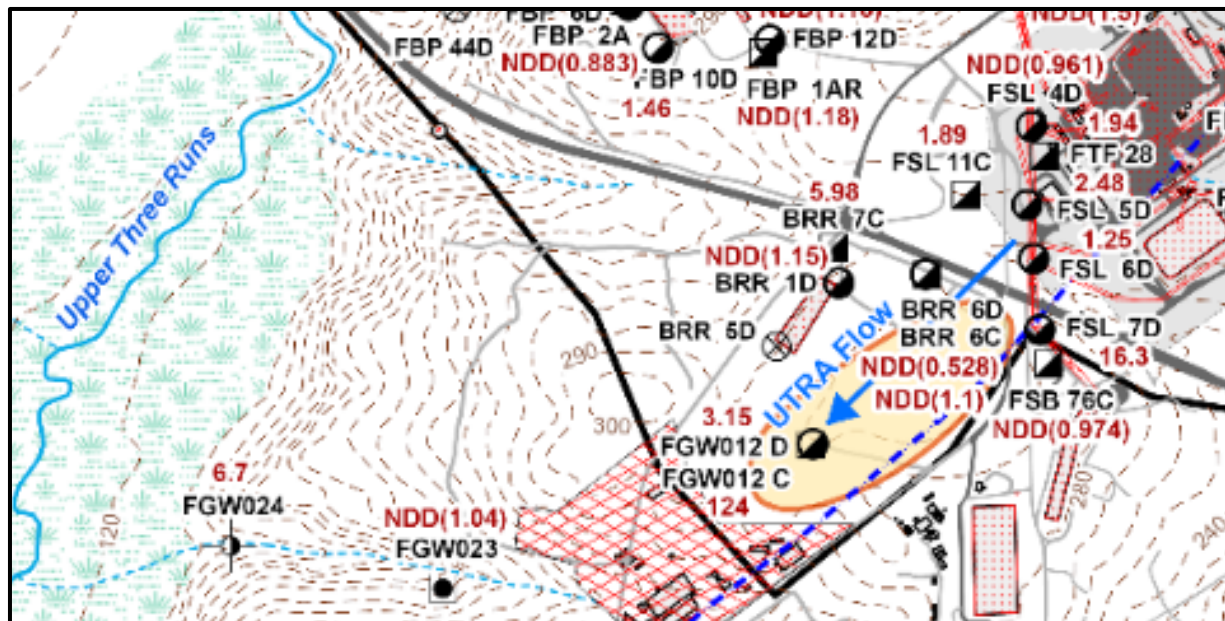
- TCE plume is stable, concentrations are similar to 2021 and 2022 results
- Maximum is 8.98 ug/L at FNB 15
- At seepines TCE was detected at one location (UTR 16)
- Surface water is not being impacted (non-detect)
- PCE and TCFM not detected above MCLs



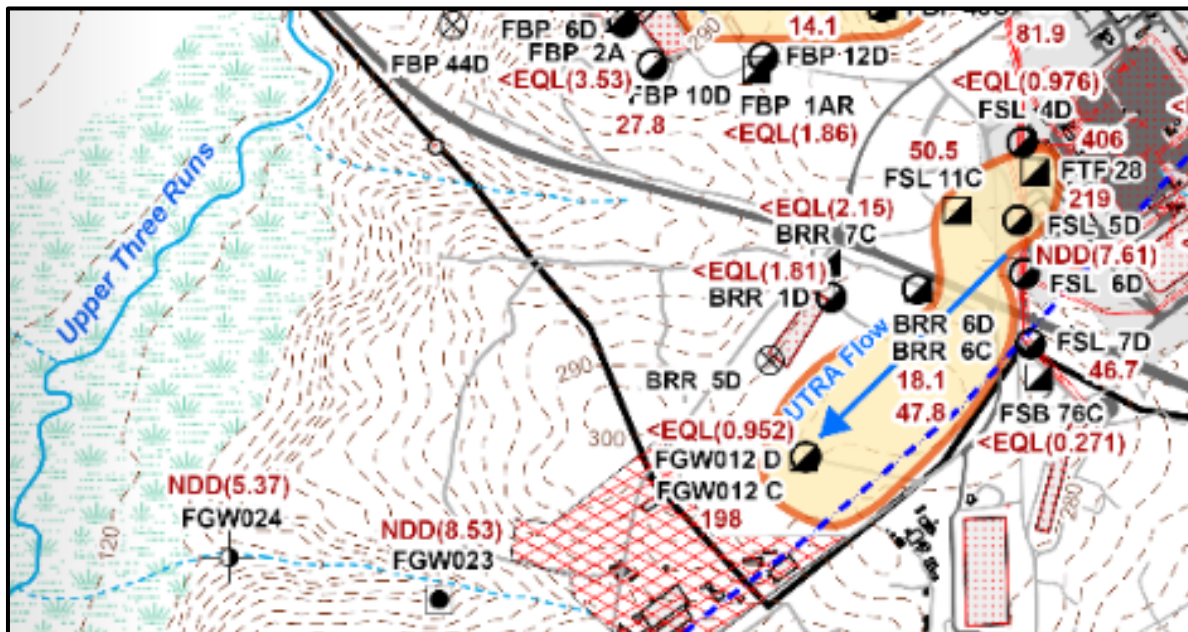
- Similar to 2021 and 2022, NVB > 50 pCi/L at 2 wells (FNB 13 and FNB 15)
- NVB > 50 a FNB 2 (52.2 pCi/L) in 2023
- Sr-90 > MCL at FNB 2 (12.3 pCi/L) and FNB 13 (22.1 pCi/L)
- I-129 > MCL at FNB 2, FNB 13 and FNB 15.
- Max I-129 26.7 pCi/L FNB 2
- Seepage GW and Surface water locations remain below MCLs.



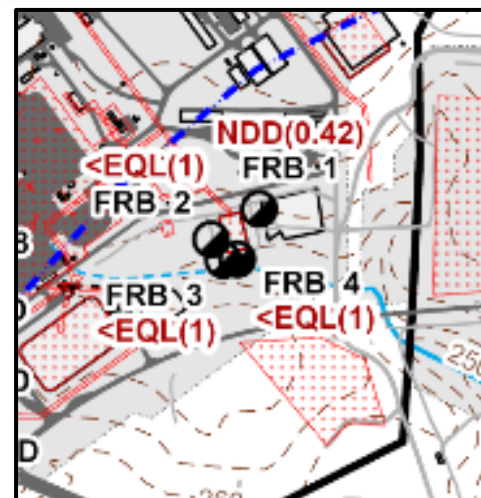
- Tritium present near the IPSL and at well FGW012C
- Highest concentrations at FGW012C (124 pCi/mL)
- Concentrations similar to last year (118 pCi/mL at FGW012C in 2022)
- No impact to seepage or surface water



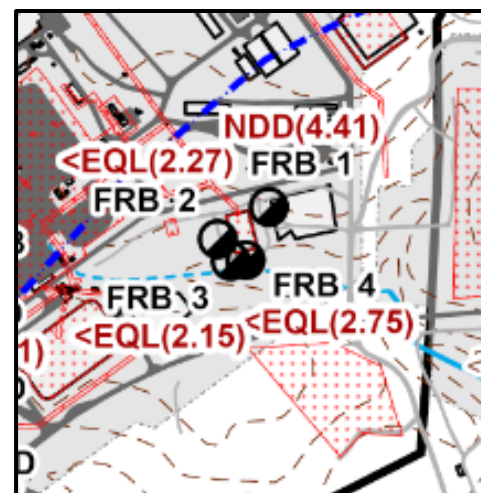
- **Nonvolatile beta isotopes**
  - I-129, Sr-90, TC-99
- **Highest concentrations adjacent to IPSL**
  - Max beta 406 pCi/L (FTF 28)
  - TC-99 1,110 pCi/L
- **Concentrations have decreased since 2020 (917 pCi/L)**
- **Plume attenuates and terminates prior to seepline**
- **No impact to seepline or surface water**



- **Closed under ROD**
  - groundwater results reported in this OU; rads and TCE
- **In 2023, all results were below MCLs (consistent with historical trends for these wells)**

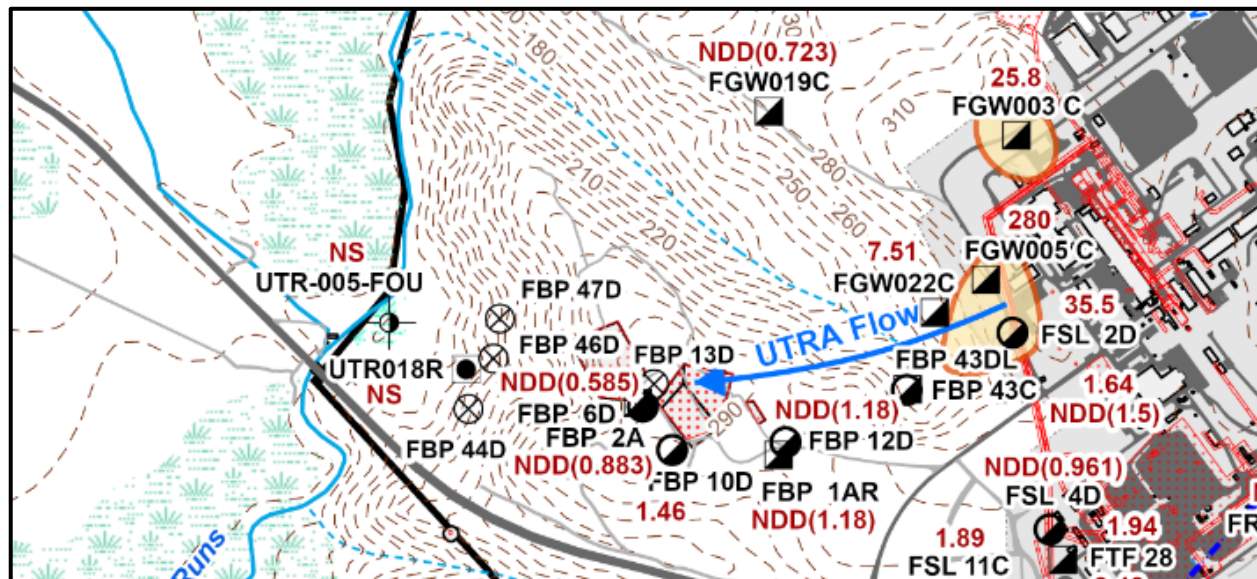


TCE

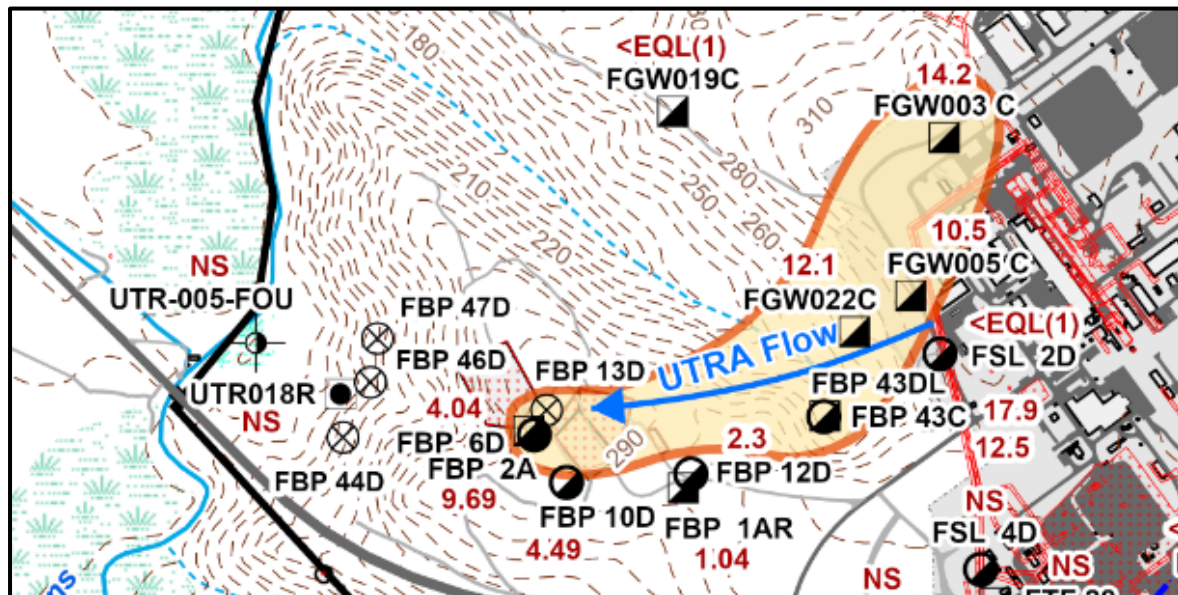


Nonvolatile Beta

- Groundwater flow is west toward Upper Three Runs Creek
- Exceeds MCL adjacent to facilities and IPSL (Inactive process sewer line) at FGW003C and FBP 43DL.
- Surface water location UTR-005-FOU and seepage piezometer UTR018R were dry.
- Tritium is historically well below the MCL in shallow GW at UTR018R.



- VOCs: PCE, TCE, TCFM
- TCE most prevalent
- Highest concentrations near facilities (FGW003C, FGW005C, FGW022C and FBP 43)
- VOC plume is stable to decreasing, concentrations similar to 2021, attenuates with distance
- UTR Surface water and seepline piezometer not impacted (historically VOCs not detected)



- Radionuclides: alpha and beta isotopes
- Alpha: U-233/234, U-238
- Beta: Sr-90, Tc-99
- Highest concentrations adjacent to facilities and IPSL
  - Max alpha 1,530 pCi/L (FGW005C)
  - Max beta 665,000 pCi/L (FGW005C)
- NVB Concentrations increased significantly since 2021 at FGW005C but only increased slightly at FGW022C
- Plume attenuates rapidly and terminates prior to seepage
- No impact to seepage

