

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 31, 1997
TO: OCS/ERU Springfield
FROM: Tom Powell - OCS/ERU Collinsville
SUBJECT: Marion Co. - Wamac/Mezo
IEMA 971159 - Crude Oil Spill - 6/30/97

On June 30, 1997, Ms. Marion Suhl, the Wamac Village Clerk, contacted the Collinsville Bureau of Water Pollution. She indicated that a crude oil spill had impacted Fulton Creek within the Village. The Bureau of Water inspector suggested that she contact IEMA to report the incident.

Ms. Suhl reported the incident to IEMA at 2:34 p.m. on June 30, at which time she stated that one (1) mile of Fulton Creek was impacted with oil.

At 4:36 on June 30th, John Prior, the alleged operator, reported the same incident to IEMA. Although he did indicate that the release did include water involvement, Mr. Prior never indicated the extent of the surface water involvement.

This inspector attempted to contact the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) Mines & Minerals in Centralia for details. Mr. Alan Whitler provided directions and said that one of his inspectors has been at the site.

On July 1, 1997, a site visit was conducted by Cheryl Kelley and this inspector. Village of Wamac drainage and, in particular, the spill area drainage enters Fulton Creek. While observing impacted portions of Fulton Creek, we met Lawrence Bengal, Alan Whitler and a legal counsel representative from IDNR--Mines & Minerals. (Mr. Bengal and the attorney were in the vicinity on unrelated business).

During our observations with IDNR--Mines & Minerals, the following was observed and/or discussed:

- No oil collection activities within Fulton Creek or Sewer Creek were occurring.
- No sorbent booms were deployed.
- Straw bales were originally in place at the actual spill site and within Fulton Creek at Irvington Road (Photos 8 & 9). However, at Irvington Road, the bales were washed away due to the current within the creek. Recoverable oil was observed upon the creek and within the eddies at this location.

PEOPLE'S
EXHIBIT

15

PCB02-177

- Oil stains upon the sidewalls of Fulton Creek, on Jefferson Street, west of the railroad yard indicated the water had receded approximately 1.5 - 2.5 feet since the spill occurred.
- Oil residue was observed by inspectors Kelley and Powell throughout Fulton Creek.
- Mr. Whitler stated that the area experienced a significant thunderstorm around 6:00 p.m. on June 30th.
- Whitler acknowledged the oil was visible within Sewer Creek, approximately 2.5 miles downstream.
- It was stated that John Prior, due to his history, is not allowed to obtain IDNR—Mines & Minerals permits. (During our visit it was unknown who held the IDNR permit).
- John Prior maintains this well and its associated tank battery for James Mezo.
- One well is dedicated to this tank battery.
- Whitler stated John Prior was observed on a "bobcat" working on the tank battery berms the evening of June 30. It was apparent the berms were not adequate for the size of the tanks. Prior's priority was to improve the tank berms rather than recover oil from the creek.
- Oil stains were observed throughout the Mezo/Oestreich tank battery both on and off site (Photos 1-7). Straw bales and peat moss were observed in the area as well as oil within the drainage ditch that enters Fulton Creek. Recoverable oil was observed within this ditch.
- Crude oil odors were noticeable via olfactory methods in the vicinity of the spill as well as at the downstream locations where photos were taken.

In summary, Prior reported that 50 bbl of crude oil was released from a 210 bbl tank. IDNR—Mines & Minerals claim that he is ineligible to hold Mines & Minerals permits. No recovery, within any of the waterways, took place. Initially, Prior attempted to improve containment, by improving the tank berms. It appears recovery of the oil, via sorbents or vacuum units impacting the waterways was not considered. Prior did attempt to improve dike containment so that oil—within containment— could be recovered.

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It is suspected that a tank or tanks within the Oestreich #1 tank battery are still leaking. Referring to similar photos taken on July 1st and July 22nd, a considerable amount of oil was pooled upon the ground during the later date, while it appeared as though the area had been vacuumed of oil on our July 1, 1997 visit.

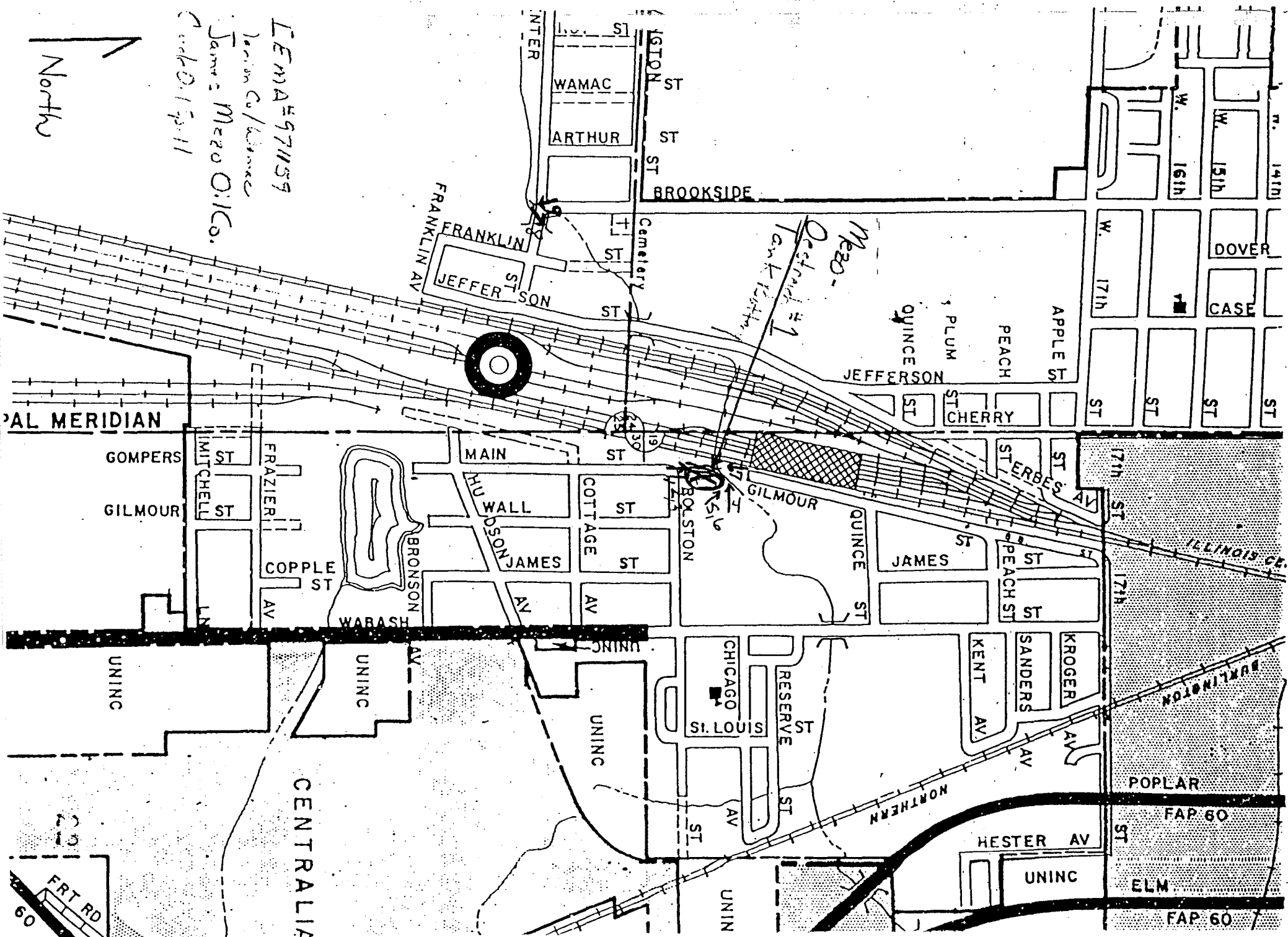
TEP:pbo/mezo

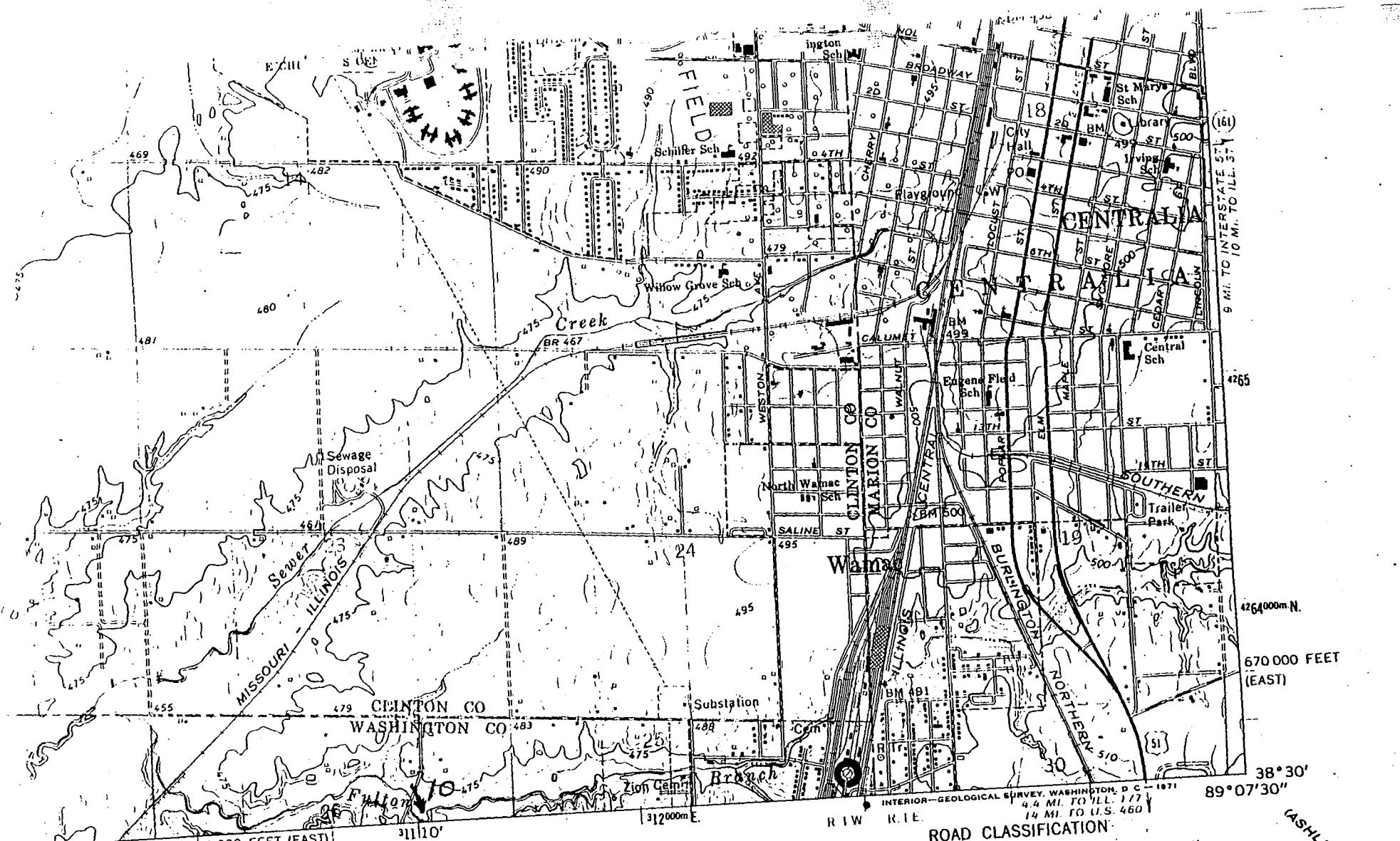
cc: OCS - Collinsville

cc: DLC - John Waligore

North

LEMA#971159
Lemon Co/Lebanon
James Mezo O.I.C.
Circle 0.1 1/2 in





ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U.S. Route State Route

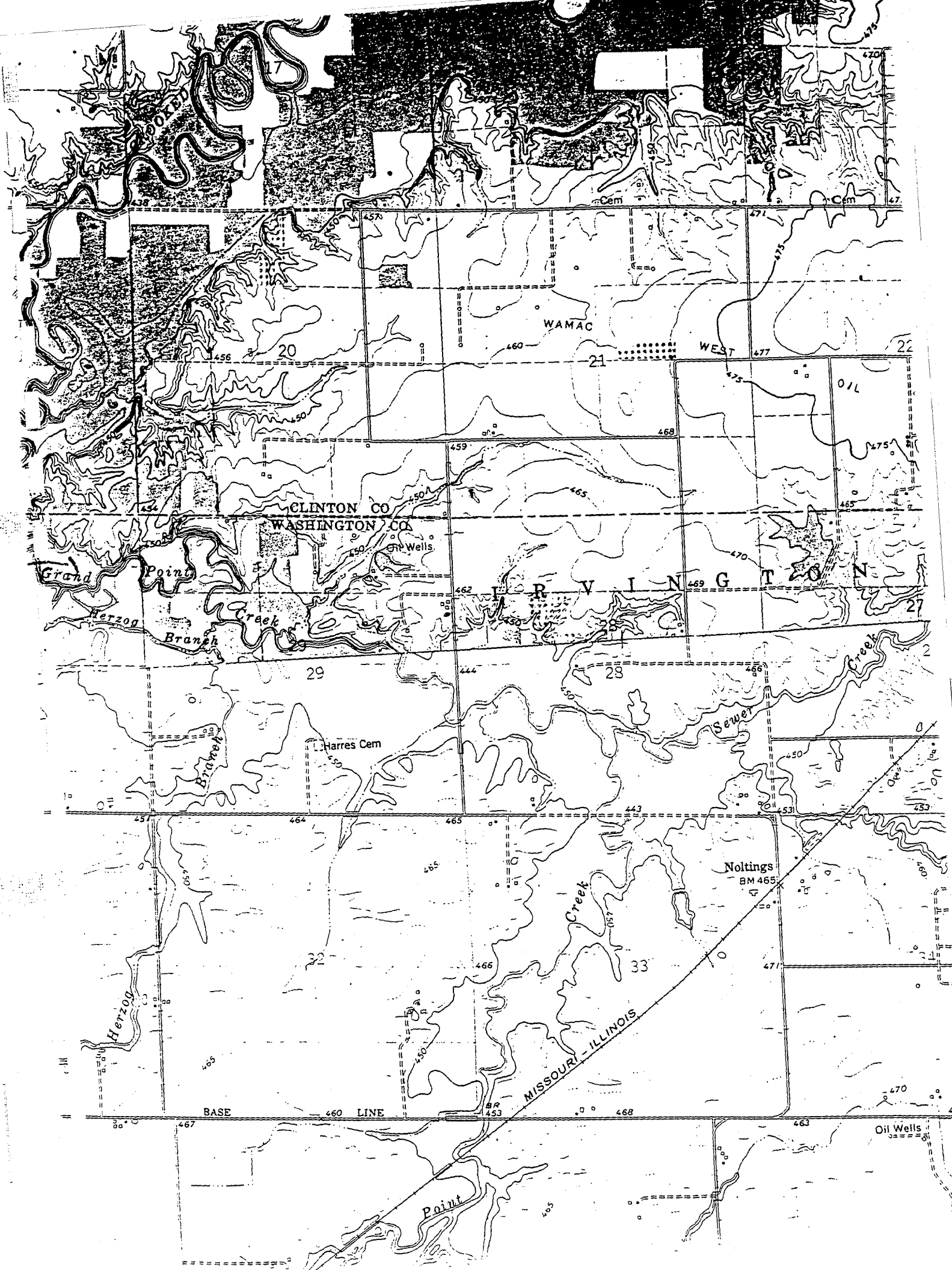
Fulton Creek drains to Sewer Creek
CENTRALIA WEST, ILL.

ITEMA# 971159

SW/4 CENTRALIA 15' QUADRANGLE
N3830—W8907.5/7.5



CASHLEY 1:62,500
5:60





INSPECTION PHOTOS

DATE: 7-1-1997	SITE #:	CO.: MARION/WAMAC
TIME: 12 NOON	SITE NAME: MEZO OIL COMPANY	

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

BY: CLK

Cheryl Kelley

COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:

IEMA # 971159

CRUDE OIL



ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 1

DATE: 7-1-1997

TIME: 12 NOON

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

BY: CLK

Cheryl Kelley

COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:

IEMA # 971159



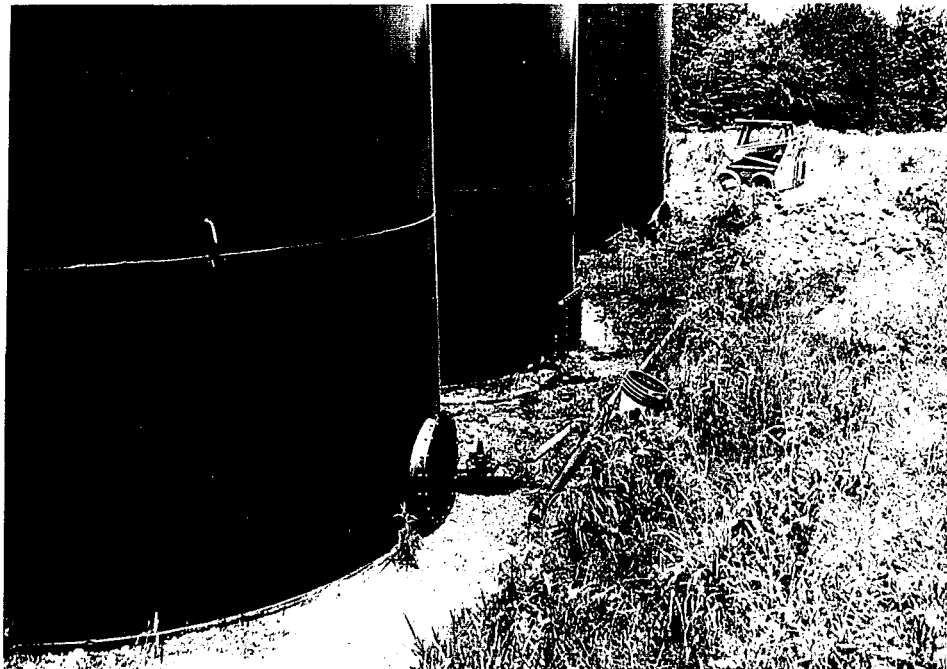
ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 2



INSPECTION PHOTOS

DATE: 7-1-1997	SITE #:	CO.: MARION/WAMAC
TIME: 12:04	SITE NAME: MEZO OIL COMPANY	
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY: CLK <i>Cheryl Kelley</i>		
COMMENTS: Pictures taken toward: IEMA # 971159 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
ROLL#: OCS 196	PHOTO#: 3	



DATE: 7-1-1997	
TIME: 12:08	
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY: CLK <i>Cheryl Kelley</i>	
COMMENTS: Pictures taken toward: IEMA # 971159 _____ DRAINAGE TO CREEK _____ _____ _____ _____	
ROLL#: OCS 196	PHOTO#: 4





INSPECTION PHOTOS

DATE: 7-1-1997	SITE #:	CO.: MARION/WAMAC
TIME: 12:10	SITE NAME: MEZO OIL COMPANY	

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN**BY: CLK**

Cheryl Kelley

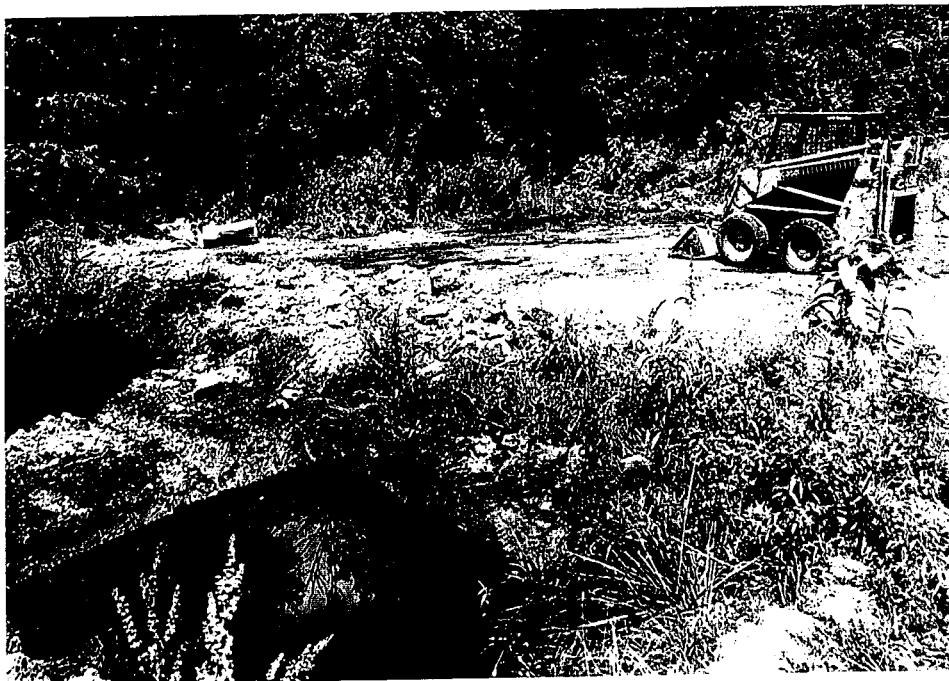
**COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:**

IEMA # 971159

FIRE WALL WITH OIL SUMP

ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 5



DATE: 7-1-1997

TIME: 12:15

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN**BY: CLK**

Cheryl Kelley

**COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:**

IEMA # 971159

OIL RUNOFF TO DITCH

ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 6





INSPECTION PHOTOS

DATE: 7-1-1997	SITE #:	CO.: MARION/WAMAC
TIME: 12:20	SITE NAME: MEZO OIL COMPANY	

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

BY: CLK

COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:
IEMA # 971159

ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 7



DATE: 7-1-1997

TIME: 12:35

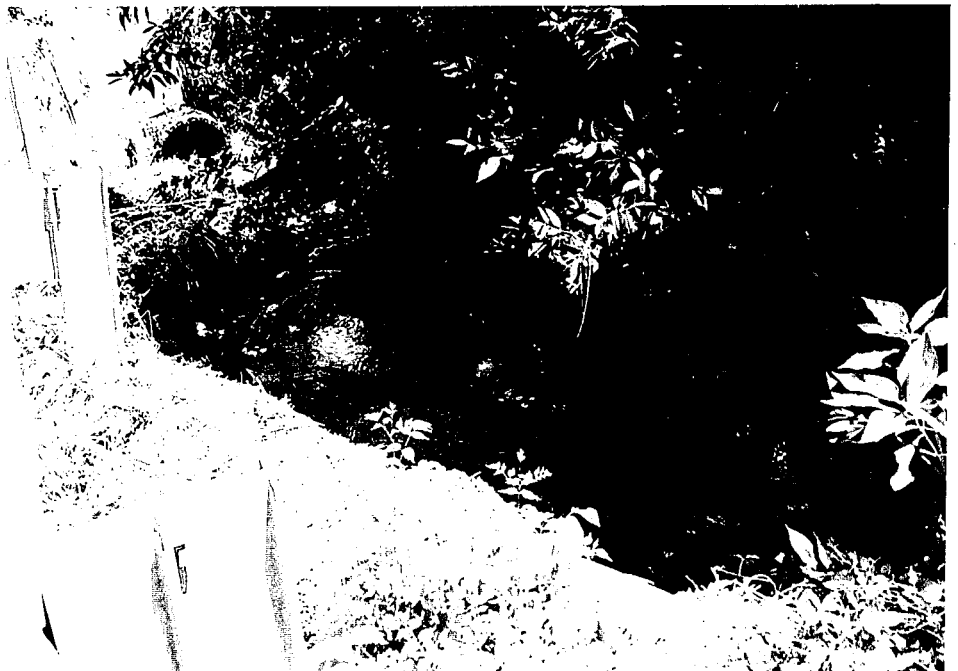
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

BY: TP

COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:
IEMA # 971159

ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 8





INSPECTION PHOTOS

DATE: 7-1-1997	SITE #:	CO.: MARION/WAMAC
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TIME: 12:35	SITE NAME: MEZO OIL COMPANY
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PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

BY: TP

COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:

HEMA # 971159

ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 9



DATE: 7-1-1997

TIME: 12:50

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

BY: CLK

COMMENTS: Pictures taken
toward:

HEMA # 971159

ROLL#: OCS 196

PHOTO#: 10

