

Figure 2-2. SSFL and Area IV location map (Sapere and Boeing 2005).

The phasing out of nuclear operations began during the mid-1960s. By 1988 all nuclear reactor operations in Area IV had ceased. Site cleanup and remediation has been ongoing since then. Nuclear support operations ended in 1996 with the exception of the Radioactive Materials Handling Facility (RMHF), a designated radiological facility that remains operational to provide chemical and radiological waste treatment and packaging for offsite disposal.

Most nuclear research programs and operations ceased in 1988 and all non-nuclear research ended in 1998, although some support operations including the Fuel Storage Facility and the Radiation Instrument Calibration Laboratory did not cease until 1996. Beginning in the 1990s, activities in Area IV have focused on D&D and remediation.

Before the remaining research activities ended in 1998, three primary types of operations were conducted at Area IV: 1) development and testing of nuclear reactors, 2) nuclear support operations, and 3) non-nuclear energy research and development. Figure 2-3 is a chronological representation of the individual programs (including their duration and corporate history) that supported the three primary types of nuclear research operations conducted in Area IV since its inception in 1953. Table 2-1 lists the specific nuclear operations conducted in Area IV, the site(s) or building(s) where the operation took place, and the time period of operations. Figure 2-4 shows the location of the sites where nuclear research activities were carried out at the SSFL and indicates the decontamination status of these sites as of 1991.

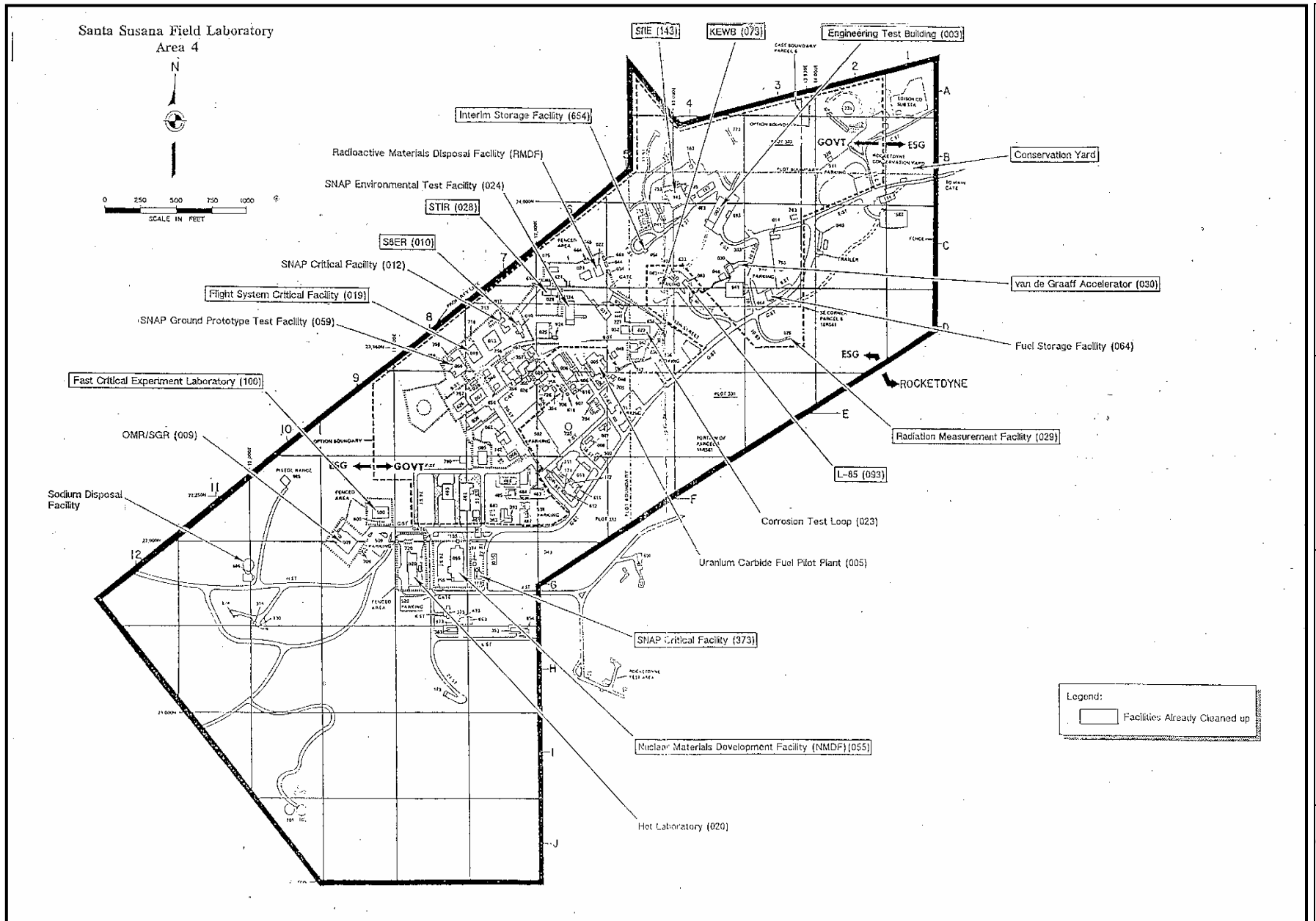


Figure 2-4. Nuclear activities sites at Area IV (Oldenkamp and Mills 1991).