

THE SAFE ELIMINATION OF BURIED EXPLOSIVES NEAR GILLETTE, WYOMING

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ABSTRACT

A cache of buried explosives was discovered by ICI Explosives, USA Inc. at one of their sites near Gillette, Wyoming. An intensive investigation conducted by ICI management indicated that nitroglycerin sensitized dynamite might be present. Information also indicated that up to 20,000 pounds of explosives may have been buried.

Procedures are described that included the use of large, conical shaped charges in the blast plan. The technique was designed to remotely fire the shaped charges. The very high velocity and extreme temperature of the shaped charge jets would penetrate the overburden and detonate nitroglycerin sensitized explosive products if they were present.