

Earth Fissure Map of the Wintersburg Study Area: Maricopa County, Arizona

May 2015
Arizona Geological Survey

Digital Map Series - Earth Fissure Map 10 (DM-EF-10) version 2.0

Notice

The State of Arizona has made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of this map when it was produced, but errors may be present and the state of Arizona does not guarantee its accuracy. The map supplements, and is not a substitute for, a professional inspection of property for defects and conditions.

Introduction

This is one of a series of earth fissure maps prepared by the Arizona Geological Survey (AZGS) in accordance with Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 27-152.01(3). AZGS collected location information from previously conducted earth fissure studies, reviewed available remote-sensing aerial and satellite imagery, and conducted surface site investigations throughout the study area. A reasonable effort was made to identify all earth fissures in the study area. Nonetheless, some fissures may remain unmapped as a result of one or more of the following:

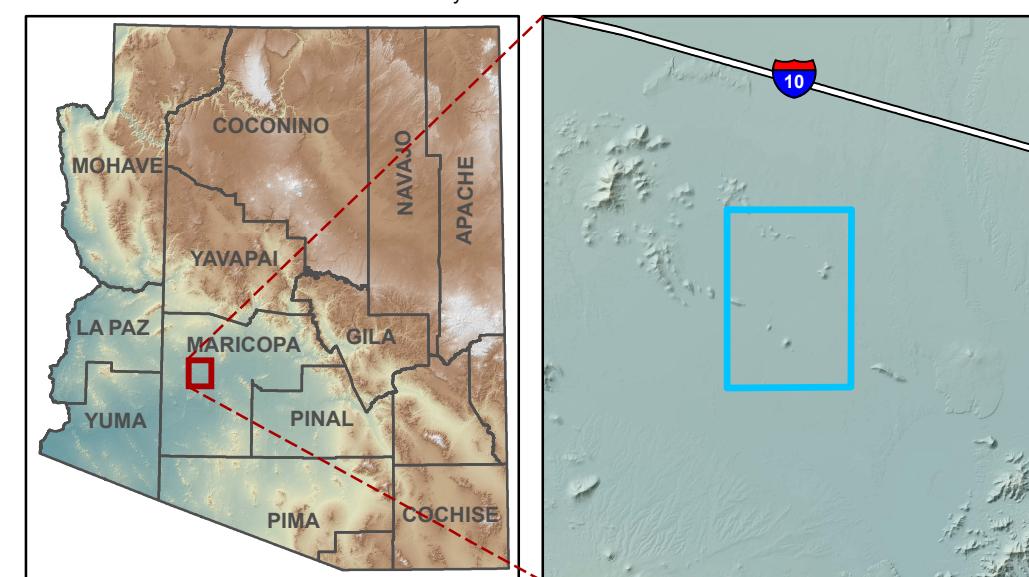
- 1) Existing fissures may have been masked by construction or agricultural activities.
- 2) Incipient fissures may lack clear surface expression.
- 3) The surface expression of fissures changes constantly as new earth fissures develop and old earth fissures fill in. A blank area on the map does not guarantee earth fissures are not present. However, blank areas within the study area boundary have been investigated, and no surface evidence of fissures was found as of the date of map publication. Determining the presence or absence of a fissure at any specific site may require additional mapping and/or geotechnical analysis.
- 4) Networks of shallow polygonal surface cracks within the study area were interpreted to be giant desiccation cracks and are not individually depicted on this map. However, zones of desiccation cracks are outlined.

References

Harris, R.C., 2001, A new earth fissure near Wintersburg, Maricopa County, Arizona: Arizona Geological Survey Open-File Report 01-10, 22 p.

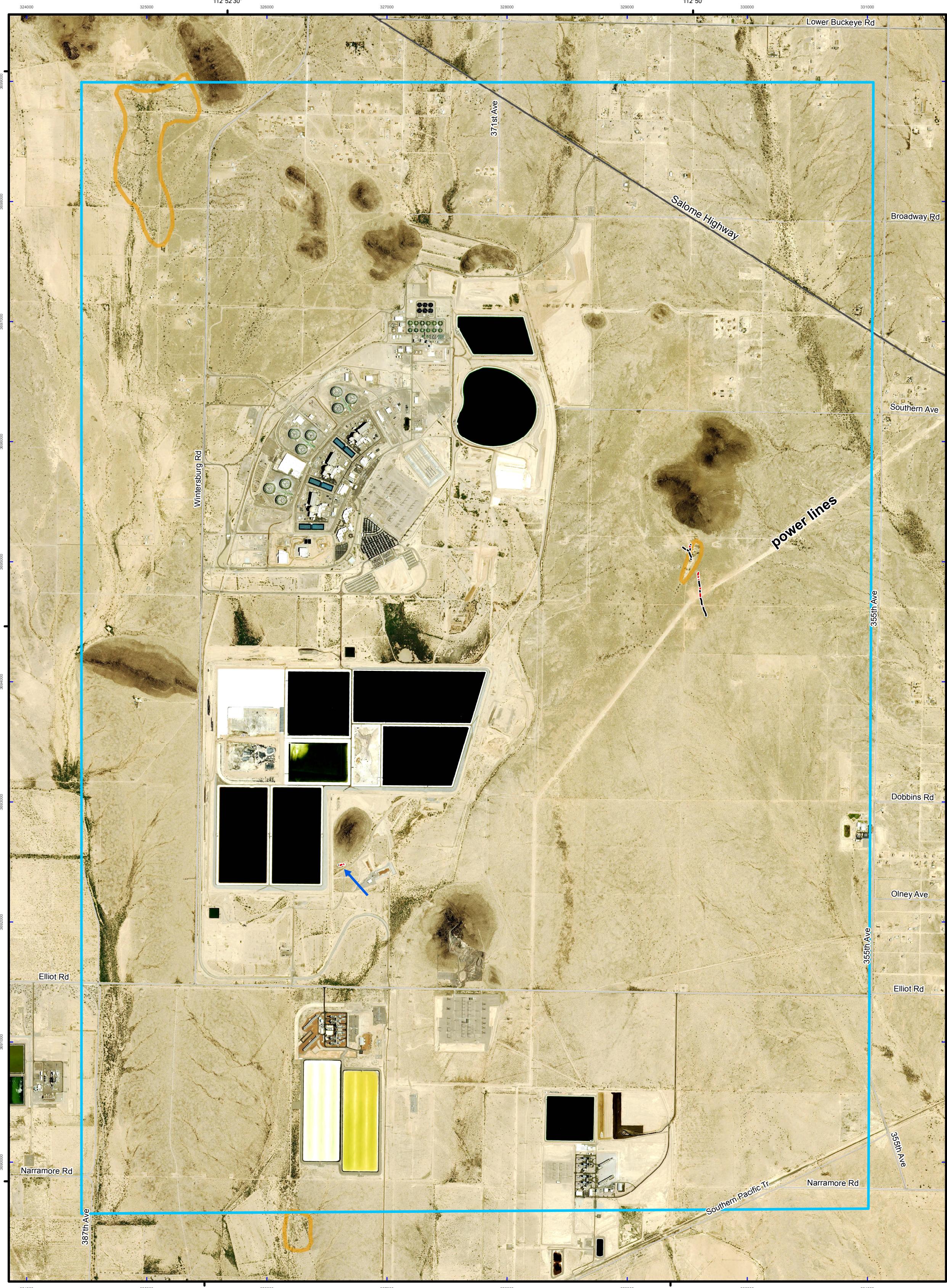
Harris, R.C., 2004, Giant Desiccation Cracks in Arizona: Arizona Geological Survey Open-File Report 04-01, 93p.

LOCATION MAP
Study Area shown in Blue



MAP EXPLANATION

- Solid black lines represent the location of continuous earth fissures manifested as open cracks or gullies.
- Solid red lines represent the location of discontinuous earth fissures manifested as elongated to circular depressions or as abbreviated or irregular linear depressions. These discontinuous surface features frequently represent an incipient surface expression of an earth fissure.
- Dashed green lines represent the approximate locations of unconfirmed earth fissures, defined as fissures which could not be confirmed by surface investigations by AZGS geologists, but which have been previously reported by Professional Geologists in published documents or maps.
- Zones of giant desiccation cracks (GDCs) are shown in orange. GDC zones consist of soil cracks forming broad polygonal networks up to several hundred feet across. These cracks are a result of long-term drying of surface soils. Many GDCs in this study area were present prior to the formation of earth fissures and are evident in aerial photographs from the 1930s. GDC depth in this area is typically several feet deep or less but may become deeply eroded if intersected by a much deeper earth fissure.
- The outline of the Study Area is shown in blue. The limits of the study area are based on interpretation of modern and recent ground subsidence data provided by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Historical and modern aerial photos taken within this area were searched for anomalous lineaments. These lineaments were then investigated in the field to determine if there was any evidence of earth fissures.

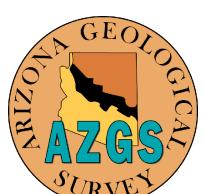
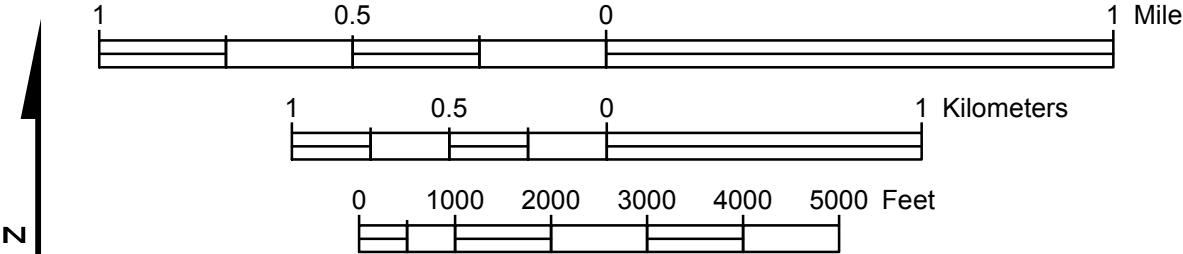


Air photo base compiled from 2013, 1 meter NAIP (National Agriculture Imagery Program) digital ortho imagery.

Transportation network dataset compiled by Arizona State Lands Dept. by combining the 2007 County Road Data of Maricopa, Pima, Pinale and Cochise Counties with the Census 2000 Tiger/Line Data of the remaining Counties.

Map projection and blue, 1000-meter grid ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 12, North American Datum of 1983 HARN

1:24,000 Scale



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