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where there also are animal pens which probably
are guard dog kennels.²

Rail Facilities

Each of the SOCs is served by extensive rail
facilities having from nine to 12 spur tracks or
sidings. One spur leads to a locomotive shed,
indicating that at least one switch locomotive is
probably always present. Rail car population has
varied from 18 to 63 cars, most of which are 78
feet long.⁴

One rail siding at each SOC passes through a
bridge crane, which is used as a rail-to-road
transfer point. A road also passes through the
bridge crane, and a platform runs between it and
the rail spur. The bridge cranes are located at the
SOCs themselves, except in the case of Berezovka
and Chebsara, whose rail facilities are 13 nautical
miles and 7.5 nautical miles away, respectively. At
Belev, Malin, Zhakovka, and Mikhaylovka, the
bridge cranes are in the operations areas. During
transloading operations at all of the on-site rail
facilities, curtains that can be closed at each end
of the bridge crane provide ground-level visual
security. A high, solid fence furnishes ground-
level visual security for the rail facilities serving
Berezovka and Chebsara.

transloading operations
at a number of the SOCs, and during such
operations a 78-foot rail car, with a platform
extended from one end, typically is in the bridge
crane enclosure. Objects being transloaded have
been too small for accurate measurement, but in
no instance have they exceeded 26 feet in any
dimension.^{1 2 5}

THE SOCs AS NUCLEAR WEAPON STOCKPILE SITES

Of all Soviet installations, the SOCs show the
most similarity to national nuclear weapon stor-

age sites. First of all, the over-all layout of the
SOCs more closely resembles the layout of the
national nuclear weapon stockpile sites than that
of any other type of Soviet installation.^{1 6-15}
(Figure 4.) The resemblance is so close, in fact,
that for a number of years after their discovery,

Berezovka, Golovchino, Bulyzhino
and Chebsara were classified as national stock-
pile sites.¹⁶ The remoteness of the SOCs, their
heavy security and their internal division into
separately secured support and operations areas
are features typical of national nuclear stockpile
sites. So is the combination of high-quality
civilian housing and military housing with
schools, hospitals and other facilities that make
the SOCs self-sufficient.

The SOCs also resemble the national stock-
pile sites in the layout and security of their
operations areas. Like the national sites, the
SOCs tend to make use of terrain features,
where possible, for hardening and physical con-
cealment of the storage bunkers, and they
augment this natural protection with heavy
earth covering and fencing for each bunker.*³

The consistency in the kinds of bunkers
found at the four different types or "genera-
tions" of SOCs and the evolution of the genera-
tions are not typical of the national stockpile
sites. They are typical, however, of operational
nuclear storage and handling facilities built at
airfields for the Soviet Long Range Air Force,
Tactical Air Force and Naval Air Force, at
medium and intermediate range missile launch
facilities,¹⁷⁻¹⁹ and, to a certain extent, at
tactical surface-to-surface missile support faci-
ties.²⁰ Most of the SOCs were completed

*At about half of the national sites, use of the terrain has been
carried even farther and vaults rather than bunkers have been
dug back into the hillsides. Like the bunkers, most but not all
vaults have entrance buildings.

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