

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Simple Total Field and Schlumberger
Soundings Near Sugar City, Idaho

by

Adel A. R. Zohdy, Robert J. Bisdorf
and Dallas B. Jackson

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In 1977, the U.S. Geological Survey made a resistivity survey in the vicinity of Rexburg, Sugar City, Teton, and New Dale, Idaho. The survey consisted of two hundred eighty two (282) bipole-dipole total field stations (Zohdy, 1978a and b) and sixty eight (68) symmetric Schlumberger soundings (Zohdy and others, 1974). The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the geothermal potential near Sugar City. Results of the survey indicate that the most favorable area near Sugar City (for a warm water resource that may be usable for space heating) is near the southeast corner of the city. This conclusion is based on the similarity of the geoelectric structure between this area and the area near New Dale (where warm waters are present).

Simple Total Field Map:

The bipole-dipole simple total field apparent resistivity map shown in figure 1 is based on the measurement of the total electric field at 282 stations about a current bipole (AB) 3.145 km in length. The current intensity used throughout the survey was 24 amperes. The lengths of the measuring dipoles (MN and MN') was 76.2 meters (250 feet) and, at each station three components were measured along MN, MN' and NN' to ascertain the accuracy of the measurements. The field procedure and the reduction of the field data, for the computation of apparent resistivities, followed what was described elsewhere by Zohdy (1978a).

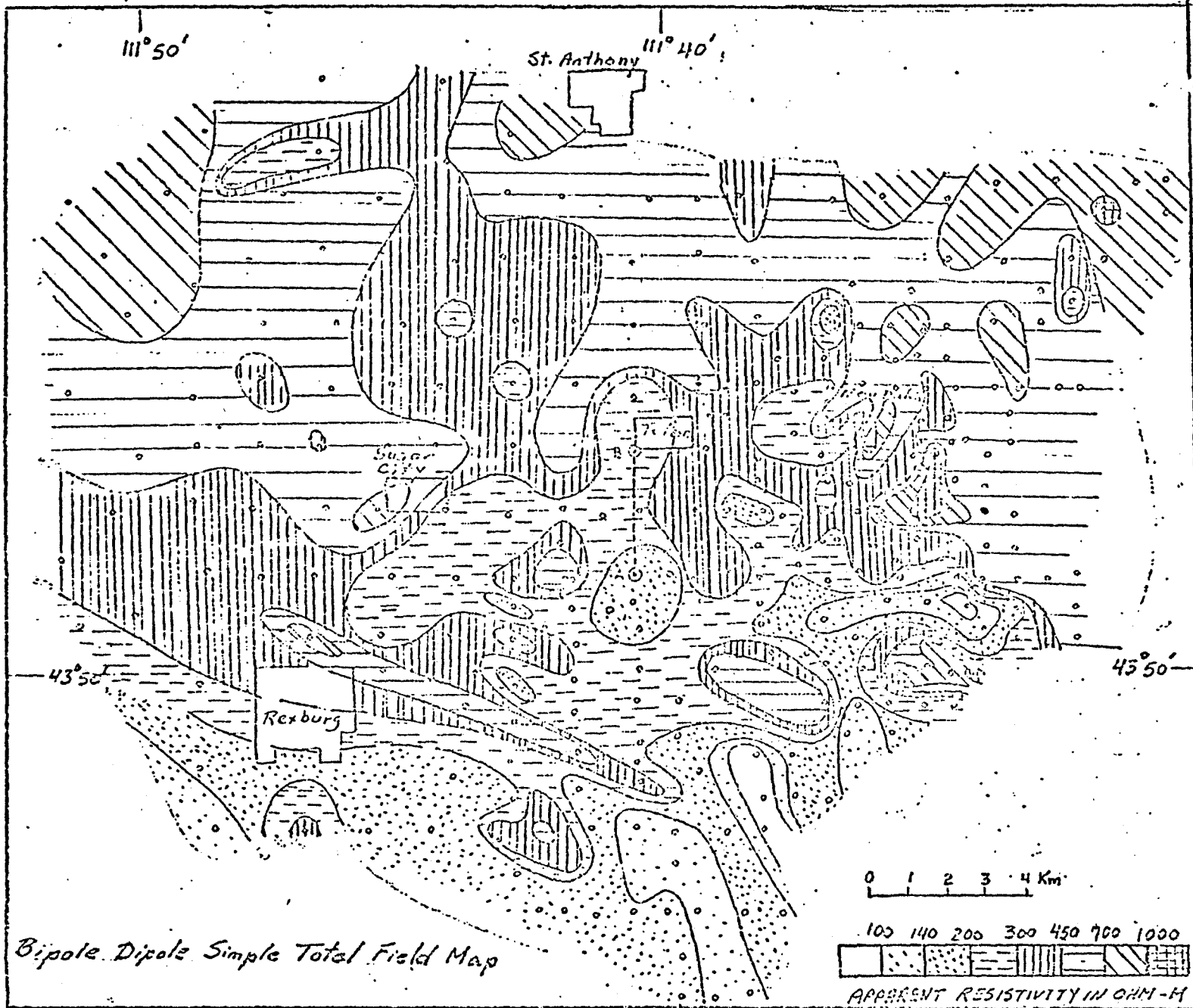


Figure 1.--Bipole-dipole simple total field apparent resistivity map near Rexburg, Sugar City, Teton, and New Dale, Idaho.. Contours in ohm-meters.

The lowest measured simple-total-field apparent resistivity was slightly less than 100 ohm-meters and the highest was a little over 1,000 ohm-meters.

The map shows the following features:

- (1) A crude outline of peanut-shaped contours in the immediate vicinity of the current bipole. This indicates that the section is only quasi horizontally layered in the vicinity of the current bipole (Zohdy, 1978b).
- (2) A circular low of less than 200 ohm-meters around the A electrode, which is absent around electrode B (near the town of Teton), and a general decrease in apparent resistivity contours to the south of the center of the current bipole. Both these features indicate the thickening of relatively conductive materials to the south of the bipole.
- (3) An apparent resistivity high at a distance of about 8 km east-southeast of electrode A, and another at a distance of about 7 km south-southwest of electrode A. The locations of these resistivity highs correlate well with locations of Bitters Butte; and Sommers and Webster Buttes, respectively.
- (4) A pear-shaped apparent resistivity high that lies at a distance of about 2 km southeast of the town of New Dale. This high probably is produced by a buried volcanic plug.
- (5) An elongated apparent resistivity high approximately ten (10) km in length and less than one kilometer in width trending west-northwest near the city of Rexburg. This narrow elongated high disregards all natural drainage patterns, near

surface geologic units and all cultural features (pipe lines, telephone lines, fences, and so on) in the area. It is therefore attributed to the presence of a deeply buried (more than one kilometer) ridge or dike system.

(6) The apparent resistivity contours show a steep gradient near New Dale, to the southeast of New Dale, and also near the southeast corner of Sugar City. This steep gradient indicates an abrupt lateral change in resistivity and may represent the detection of a quasi circular inner edge of a caldera. The second quasi circular outer edge is expressed by the apparent resistivity highs shown at the northeast and northwest boundaries of the map (see fig. 2).

(7) A study of the apparent resistivity contours suggests the detection of several lineaments (faults?) trending in the northeast and in the south-southeast directions. The location of these possible faults and the proposed edges of a caldera are outlined in figure 2 by single and double lines, respectively.

Schlumberger Soundings:

Figure 3 is an index map showing the location, azimuth, and number of the Schlumberger sounding stations and also the location of six cross sections. Figure 4 shows a contour map of interpreted true resistivity at a depth of 300 meters. The stippled areas designate resistivities of less than 100 ohm meters. Warm water (about 30°C) is produced from shallow wells (about 120 meters) in and to the northeast of the town of New Dale. Therefore, as evidenced by the location of the stippled areas

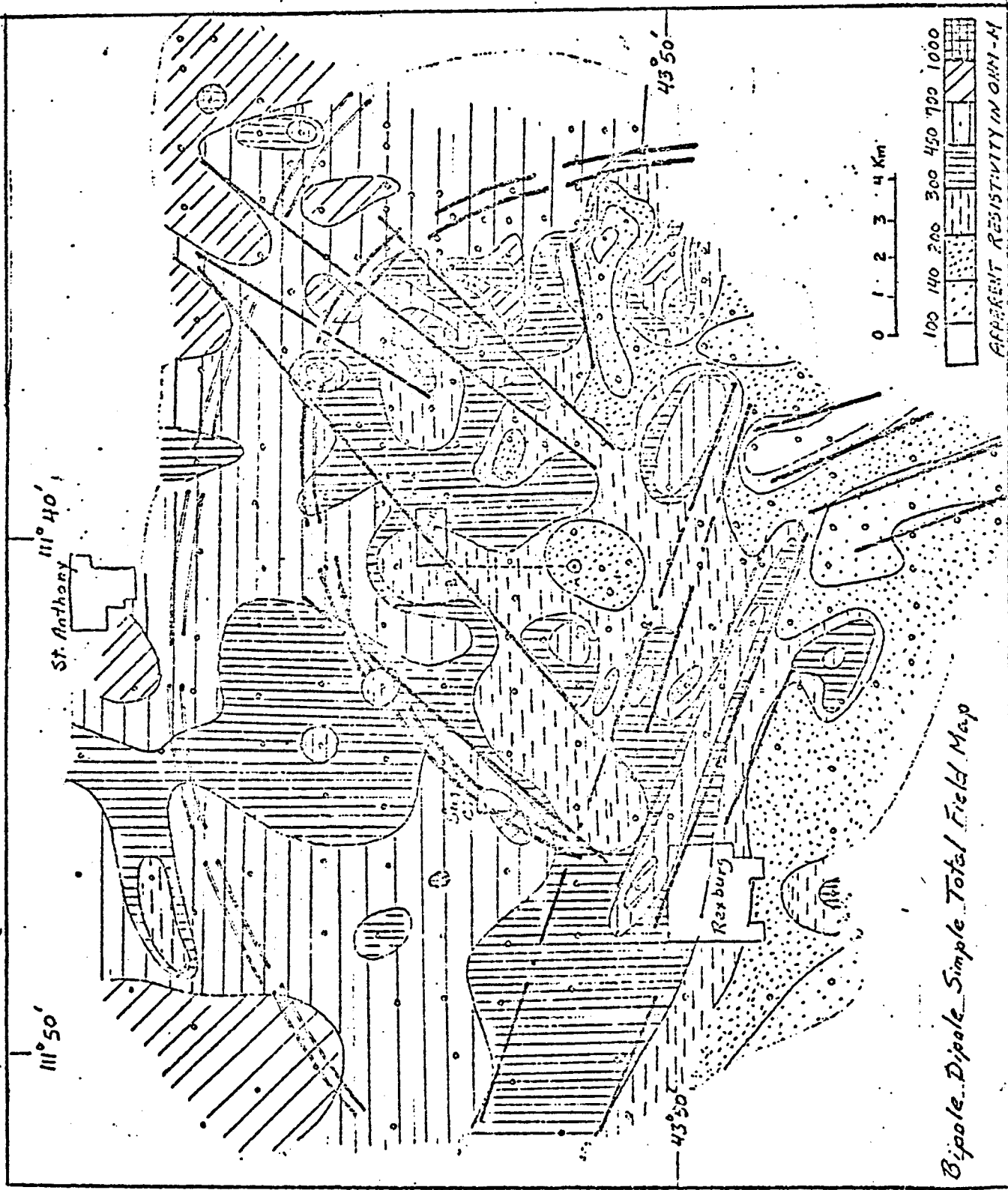


Figure 2.--Inferred structures. Single lines may represent faults, double lines may represent caldera edge.

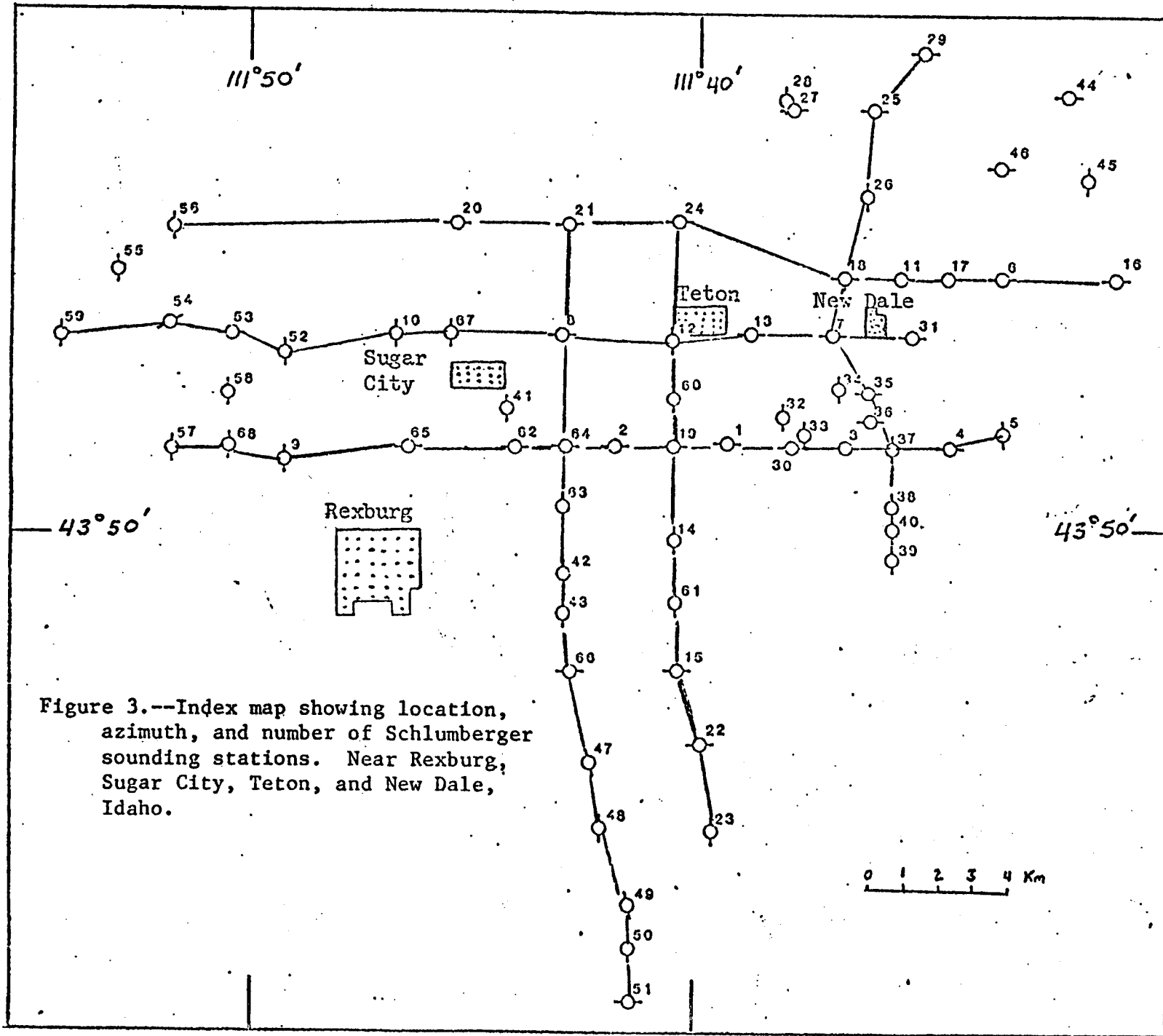


Figure 3.--Index map showing location, azimuth, and number of Schlumberger sounding stations. Near Rexburg, Sugar City, Teton, and New Dale, Idaho.

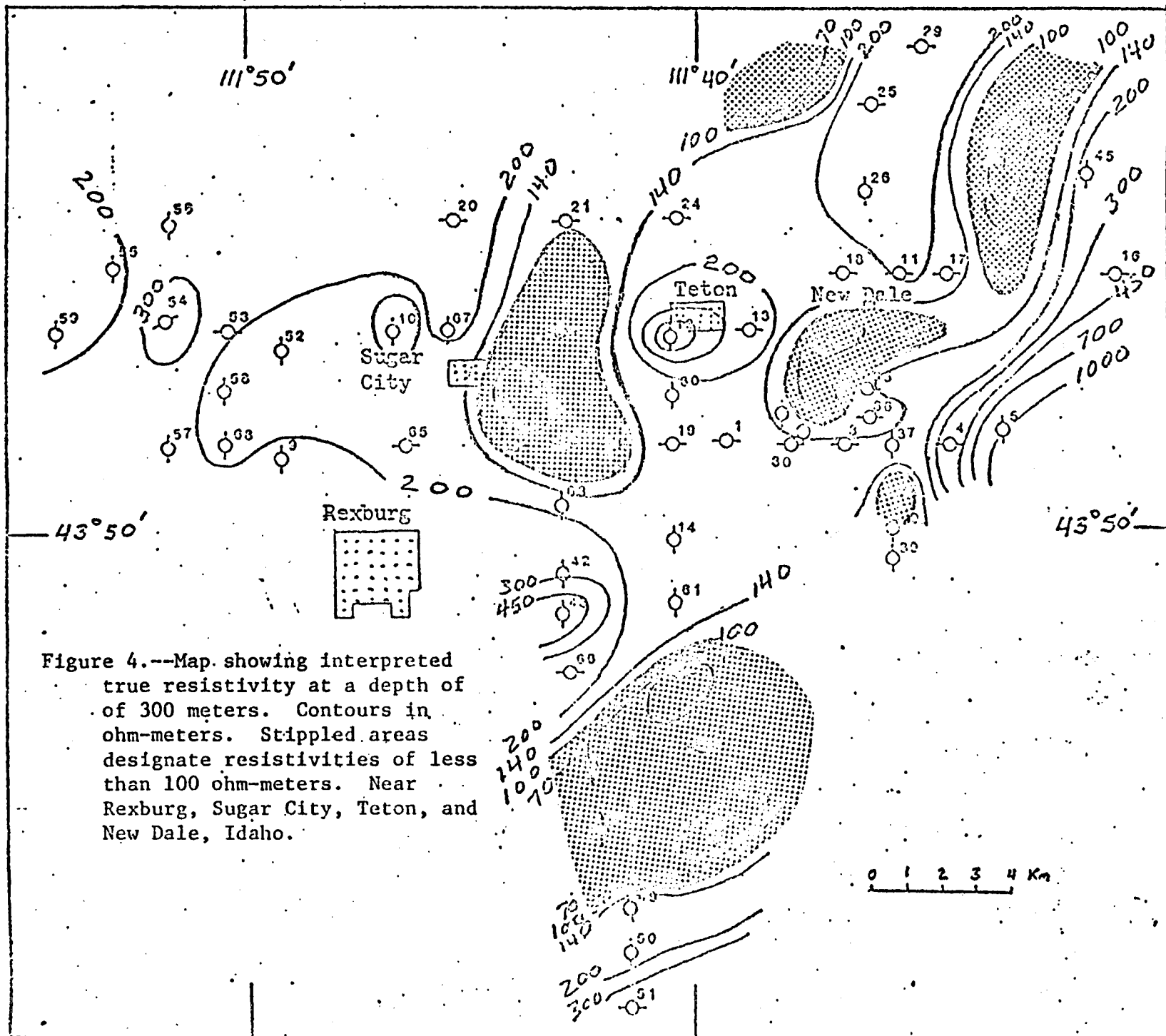


Figure 4.--Map showing interpreted true resistivity at a depth of 300 meters. Contours in ohm-meters. Stippled areas designate resistivities of less than 100 ohm-meters. Near Rexburg, Sugar City, Teton, and New Dale, Idaho.

on the map, the most promising area for the existence of warm water near Sugar City, is near its southeastern corner. This location is corroborated further by the possible existence of a fault or the inner rim of a caldera as indicated on the total field map shown in figure 2.

Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, show computer generated geoelectric sections along the six section lines shown in figure 3. These geoelectric sections depict contours of interpreted true resistivities in ohm meters. In each of figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, the top part represents a four-to-one vertically exaggerated representation of the upper 1,000 meters, whereas the bottom part represents a one-to-one (no vertical exaggeration) representation of the upper 1,848 meters in the section. The stippled areas in the top part of each figure designate rocks with resistivities of less than 100 ohm-meters.

In general, low rock resistivities are associated with an increase in porosity, clay content, pore water salinity and/or water temperature. In this area, low resistivities of 2 to 5 ohm meters were not observed, such as were measured in other geothermal areas. Here, the lowest interpreted resistivities, as shown on the geoelectric sections and on the sounding curves, are of the order of 30 to 45 ohm meters. In part, this is attributed to the fact that the warmest waters near New Dale are about 33°C whereas the average ambient temperature is about 10°C.

The sounding curves are given in the Appendix and are numbered from Sugar City #1 to Sugar City #68. Several of the sounding curves were distorted either by strong lateral variations in rock resistivities or more commonly by cultural features such as fences with metal posts, buried irrigation pipe lines, and grounded power lines. Several of the

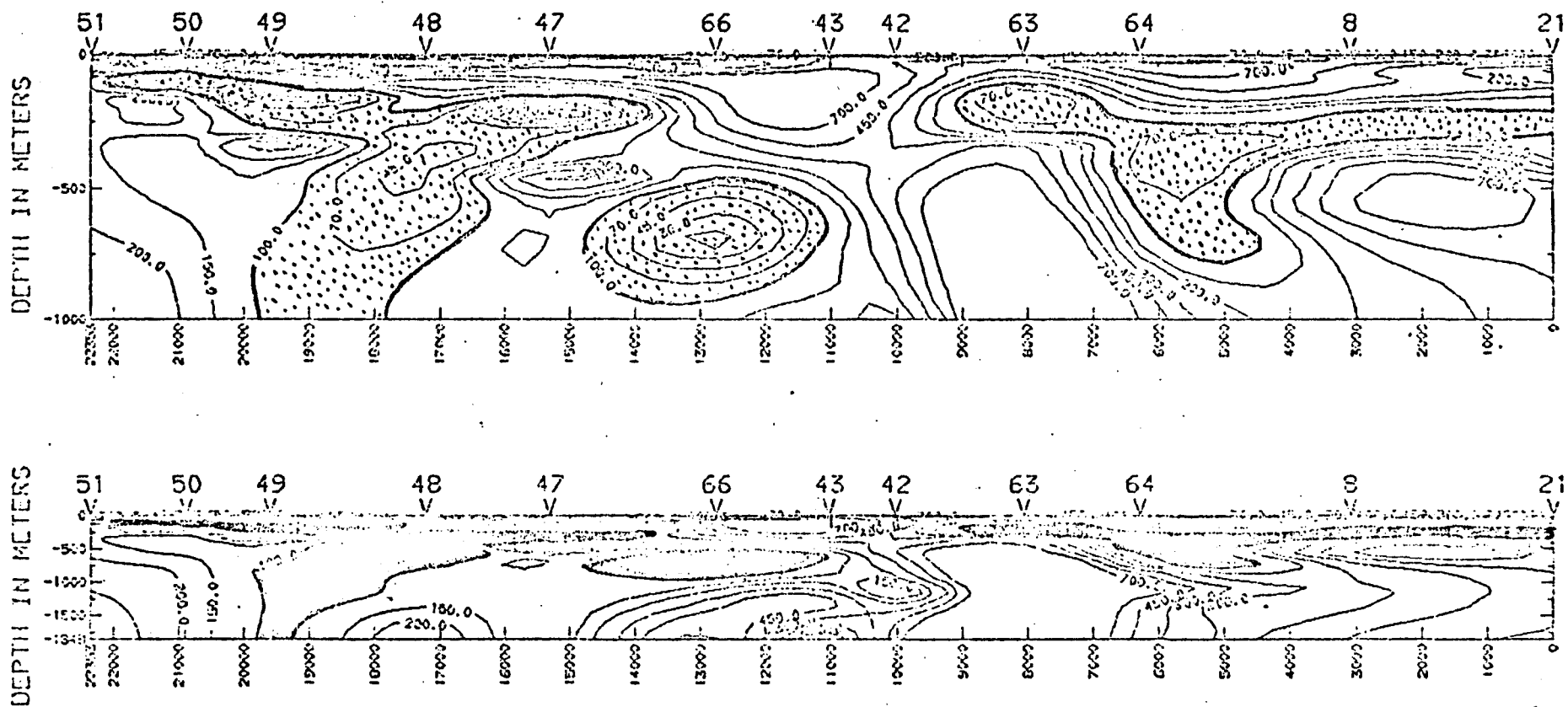


Figure 5.--Computer generated geoelectric section 51-21. Contours of interpreted true resistivity in ohm-meters. Top section, vertically exaggerated four times; bottom section without vertical exaggeration. Stippled (top section) and darkened (bottom section) designate less than 100 ohm meters.

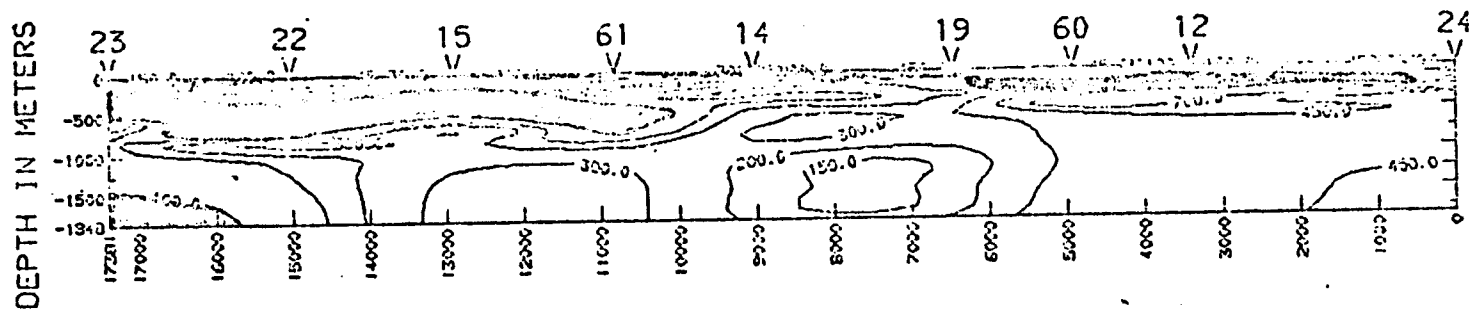
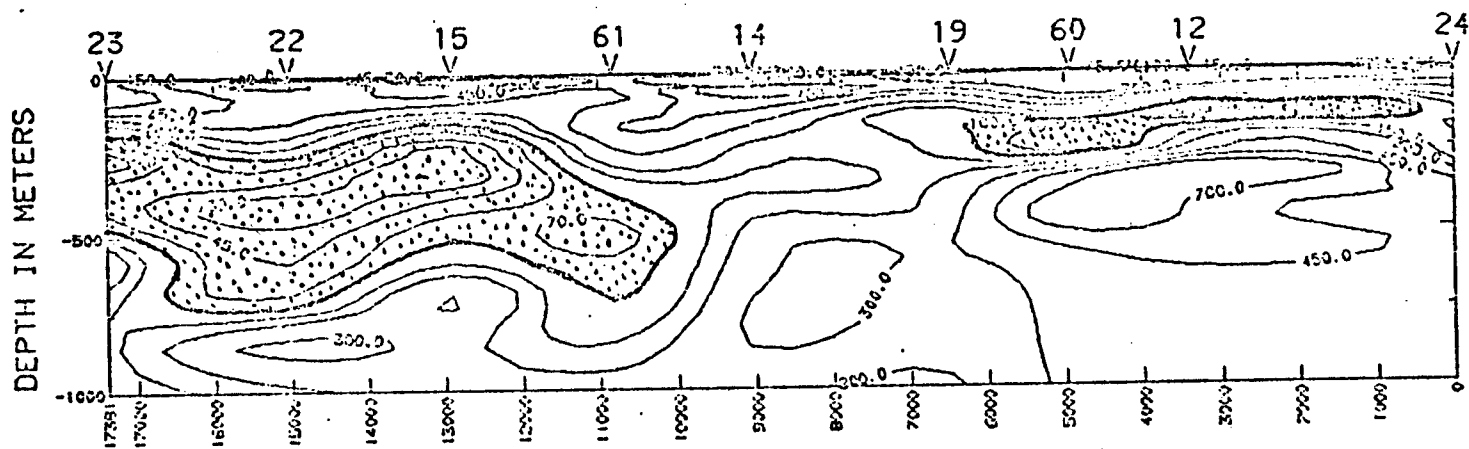


Figure 6.--Computer generated geoelectric section 23-24. Contours of interpreted true resistivity in ohm-meters. Top section, vertically exaggerated four times; bottom section without vertical exaggeration. Stippled (top section) and darkened (bottom section) designate less than 100 ohm meters.

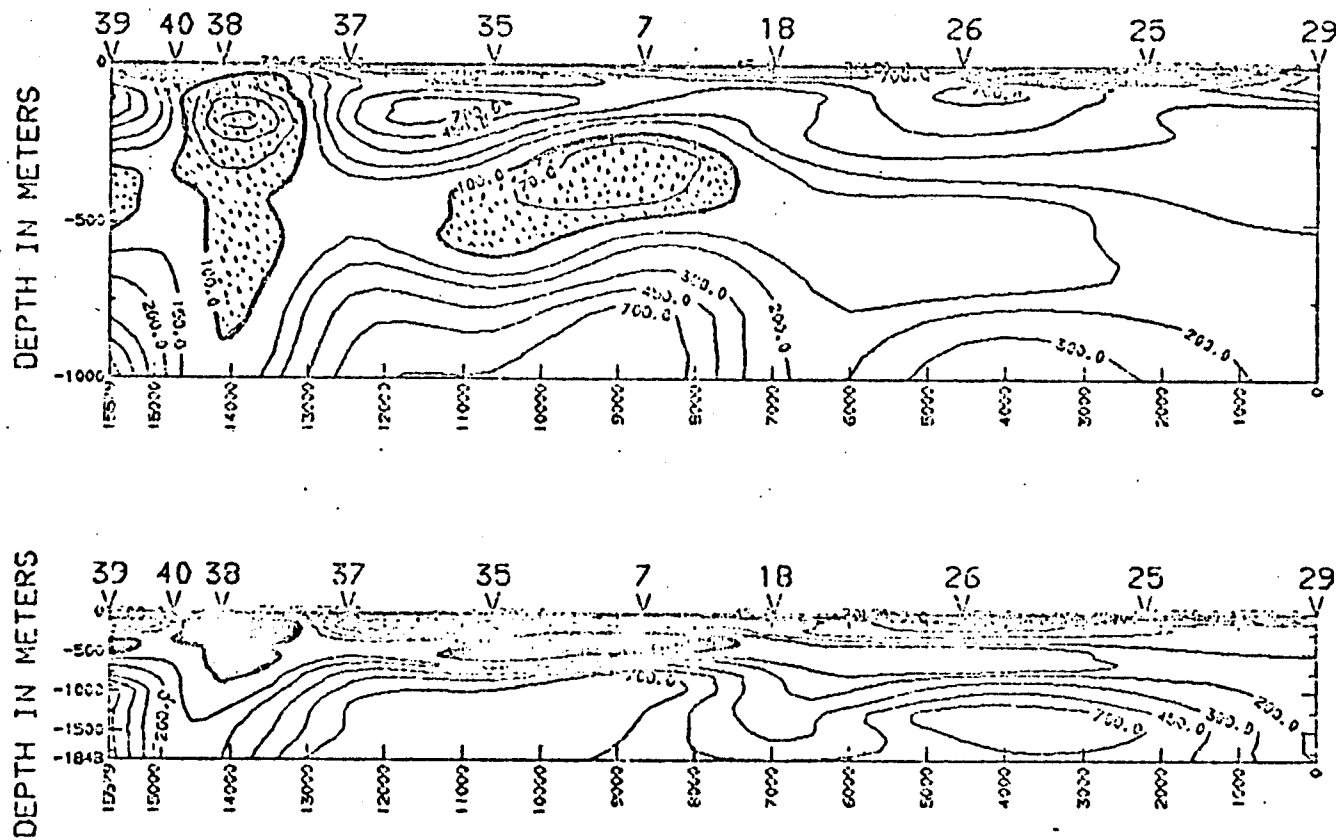


Figure 7.--Computer generated geoelectric section 39-29. Contours of interpreted true resistivity in ohm-meters. Top section, vertically exaggerated four times; bottom section without vertical exaggeration. Stippled (top section) and darkened (bottom section) designate less than 100 ohm meters.

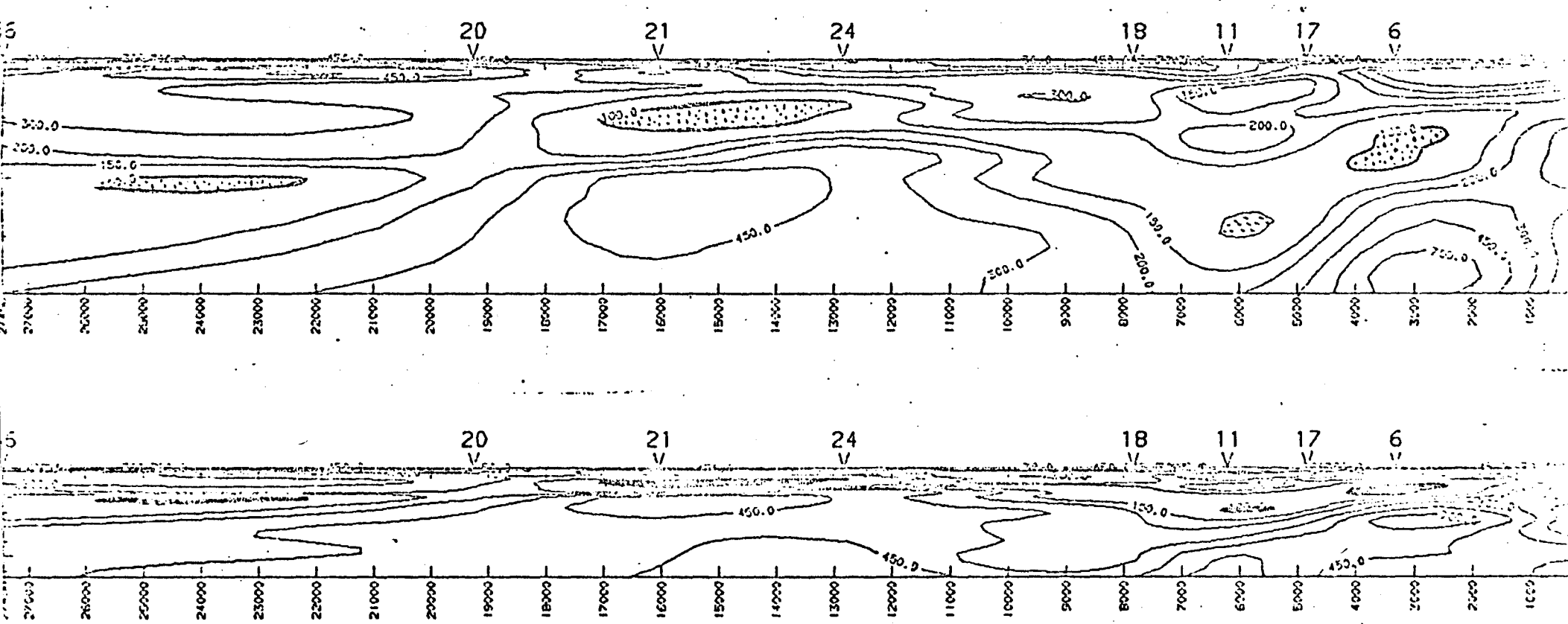


Figure 8.--Computer generated geoelectric section 56-16. Contours of interpreted true resistivity in ohm-meters. Top section, vertically exaggerated four times; bottom section without vertical exaggeration. Stippled (top section) and darkened (bottom section) designate less than 100 ohm meters.

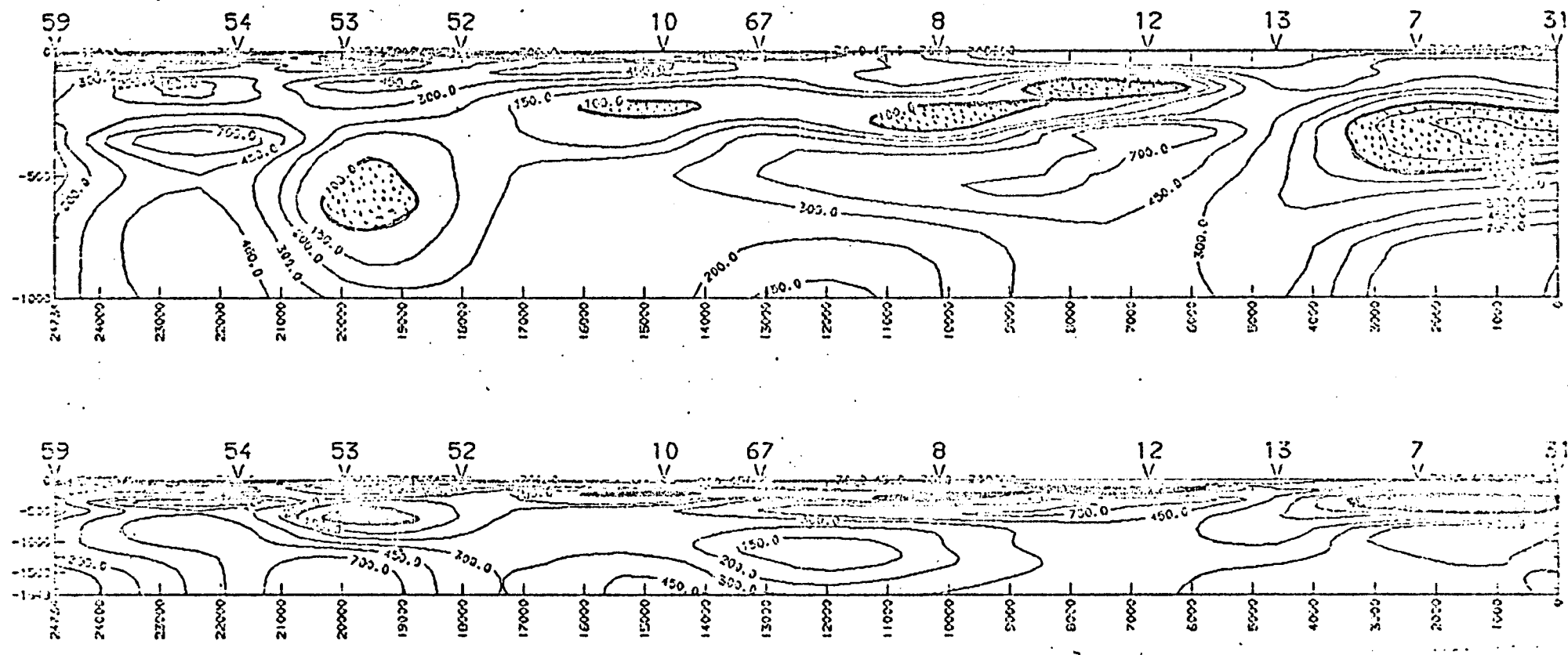


Figure 9.--Computer generated geoelectric section 59-31. Contours of interpreted true resistivity in ohm-meters. Top section, vertically exaggerated four times; bottom section without vertical exaggeration. Stippled (top section) and darkened (bottom section) designate less than 100 ohm meters.

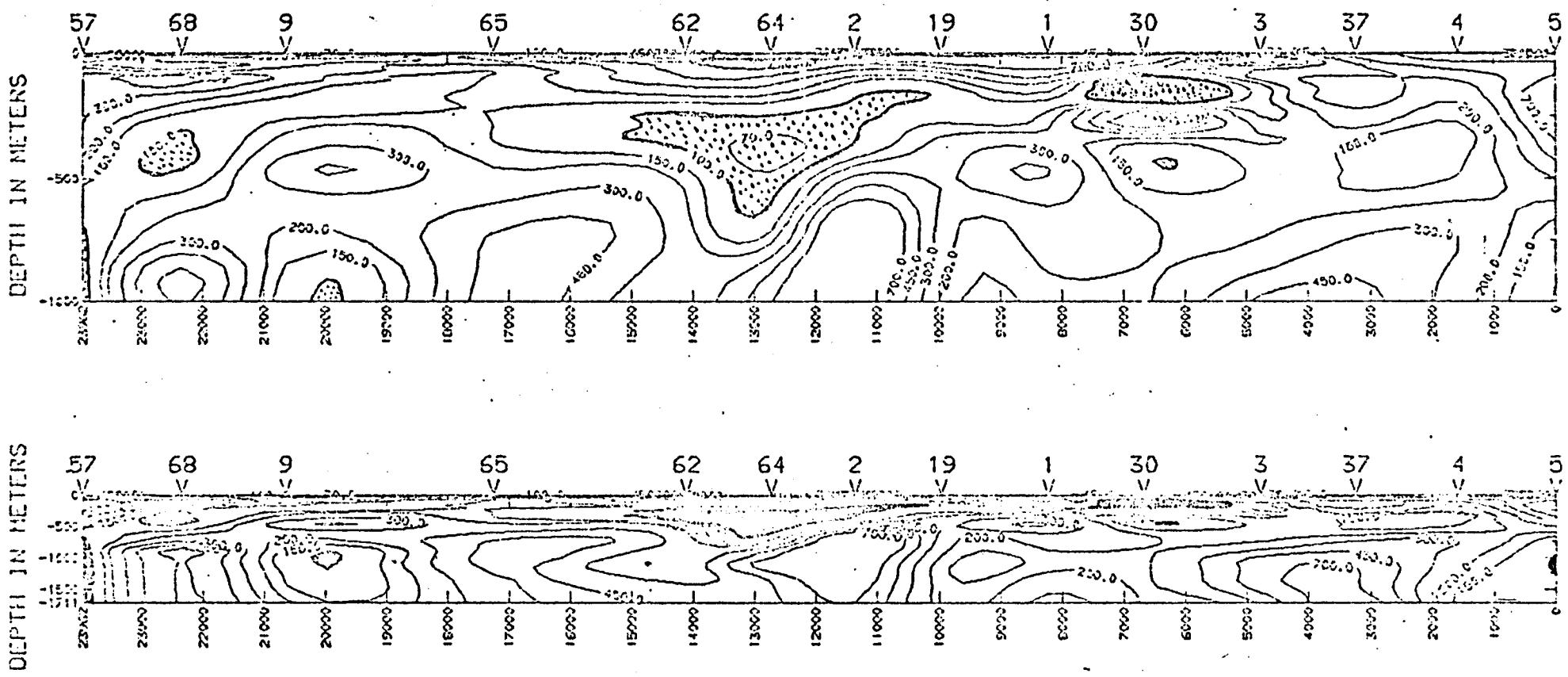


Figure 10.--Computer generated geoelectric section 57-5. Contours of interpreted true resistivity in ohm-meters. Top section, vertically exaggerated four times; bottom section without vertical exaggeration. Stippled (top section) and darkened (bottom section) designate less than 100 ohm meters.

sounding curves, such as Sugar City #5, 7, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 26, 30, 36, 42, 53, 59 and 61, were smoothed, and/or extended (that is extrapolated) and reinterpreted. For those soundings, interpretations for both original and smoothed data are given on separate sheets.

All the sounding curves were automatically processed and interpreted (Zohdy, 1975) as shown in the graphs given in the appendix.

Each graph shows the following:

- (1) Field data designated by a segmented, solid-line curve, with diamond symbols for observed data.
- (2) A shifted and digitized field curve designated by square symbols. The shifted field curve is obtained by shifting the various segments upward or downward generally with respect to the last segment on the segmented field curve (Zohdy and others, 1973). This shifted curve is then digitized at the rate of six points per logarithmic cycle (square symbols). These points were computed using a subroutine in a computer program for bicubic spline functions (Anderson, 1971).
- (3) The theoretical best fitting sounding curve is designated by plus (+) symbols. This theoretical curve is the output of the automatic interpretation for the digitized curve. The computer program used here is an updated version of the one published earlier by the senior author (Zohdy, 1973).
- (4) The detailed layering for which the theoretical curve is calculated.
- (5) The D.Z. (Dar Zarrouk) curve for the detailed layering. The ordinate values for the D.Z. curves are shifted upward or

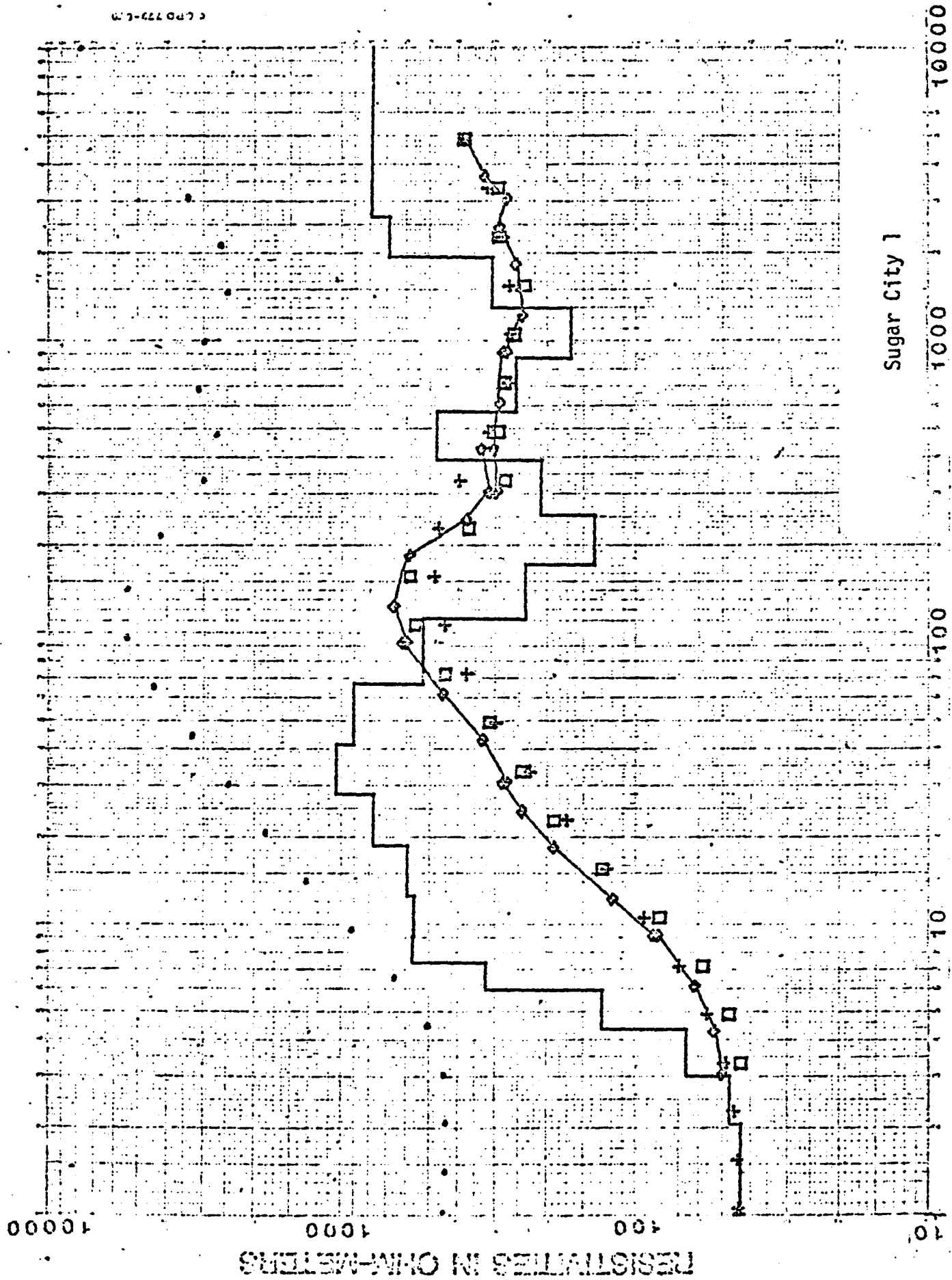
downward by one logarithmic cycle to avoid cluttering the graphs. The D.Z. curves can be used to obtain equivalent and simpler solutions containing fewer number of layers and in which certain constraints can be imposed on the layer thicknesses and resistivities (Zohdy, 1974).

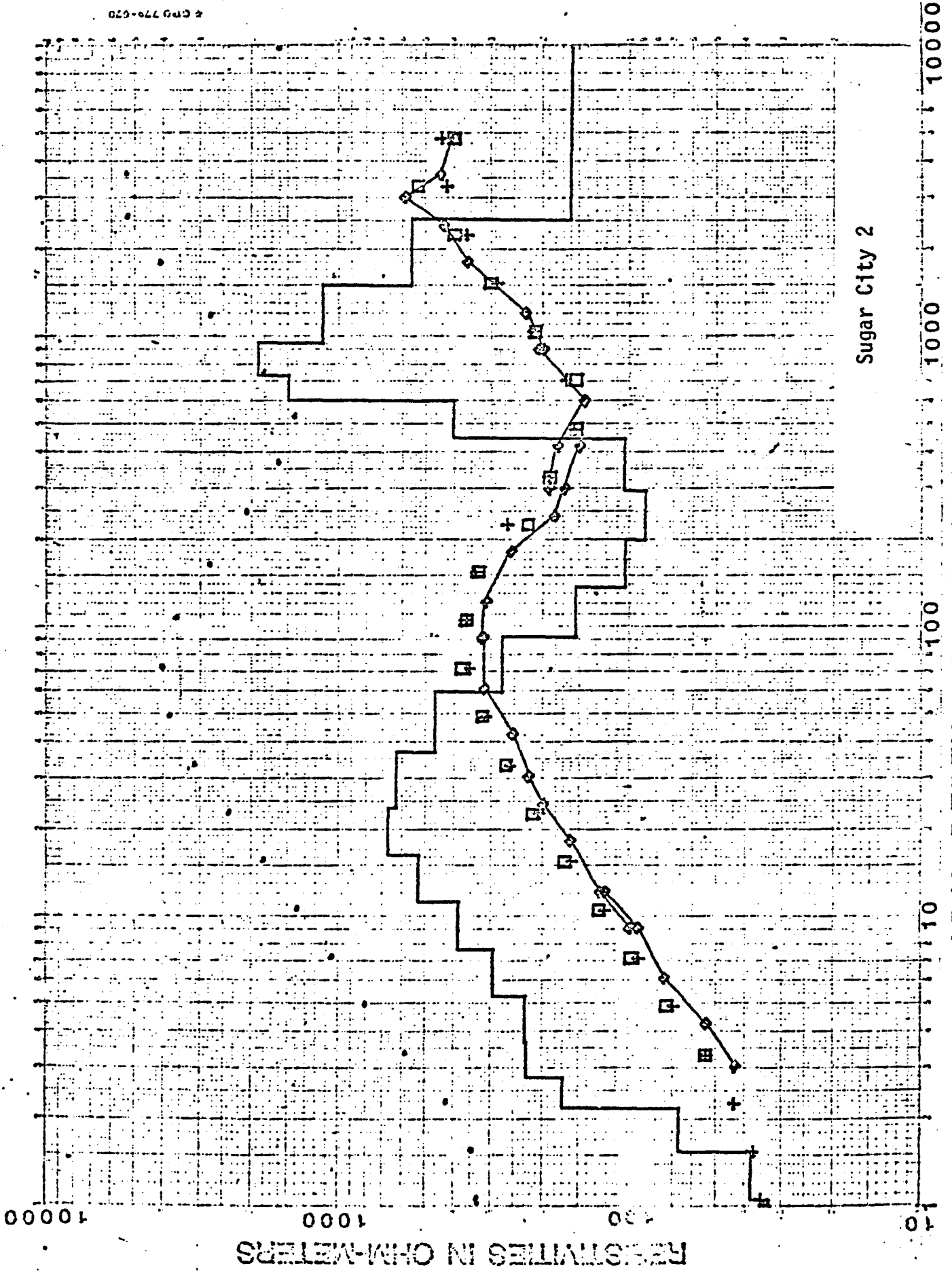
All these graphs were generated on a Hewlett Packard 7203A graphic plotter. The plotter driving subroutines were developed by the second author, R. J. Bisdorf.

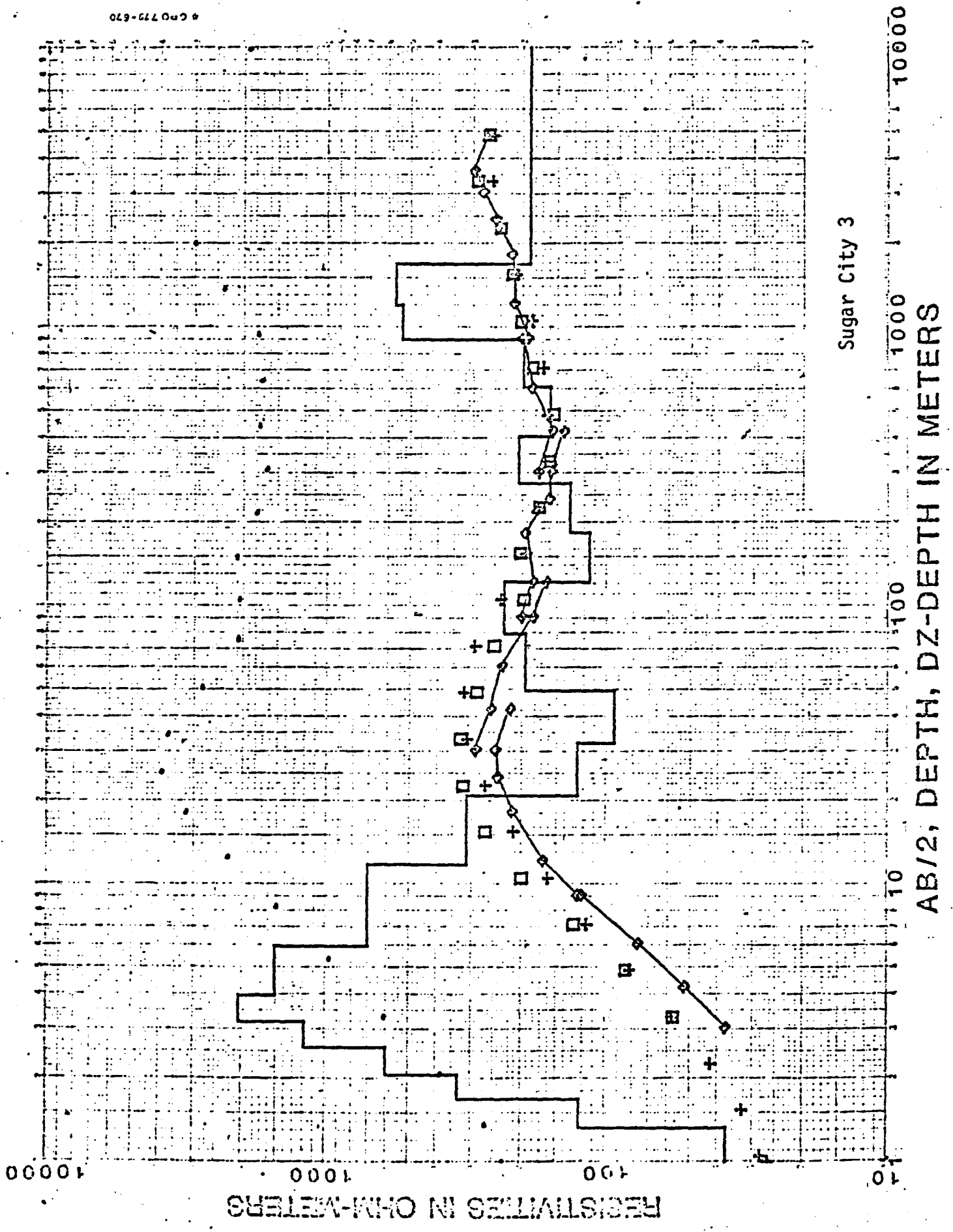
References

- Anderson, W. L., 1971, Application of bicubic spline functions to two dimensional gridded data: NTIS (Natl. Tech. Inf. Service), PB-203579, Springfield, Va.
- Zohdy, A. A. R., 1973, A computer program for the automatic interpretation of Schlumberger sounding curves over horizontally stratified media: NTIS (Natl. Tech. Inf. Service) PB-232703/AS, 25 p., Springfield, Va.
- _____ 1974, The use of Dar Zarrouk curves in the interpretation of VES data: U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 1313-D, 41 p.
- _____ 1975, Automatic interpretation of Schlumberger sounding curves using modified Dar Zarrouk functions: U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 1313-E, 39 p.
- _____ 1978a, Field procedure and data reduction methods (with Hewlett-Packard 97-67 programs) for total field resistivity surveys: U.S. Geol. Survey Open-File Report 78-424, 35 p.
- _____ 1978b, (in press) Total field resistivity mapping and sounding over horizontally layered media: Geophysics, v. 43, no. 3, p.?.
- Zohdy, A. A. R., Anderson, L. A., and Muffler, L. J. P., 1973, Resistivity, self potential, and induced polarization surveys of a vapor dominated system: Geophysics, v. 38, p. 1130-1144.
- Zohdy, A. A. R., Eaton, G. P., and Mabey, D. R., 1974, Application of surface geophysics to groundwater investigations: Techniques of water resources investigations of the United States Geological Survey, Book 2, chapter D1, 116 p.

Appendix



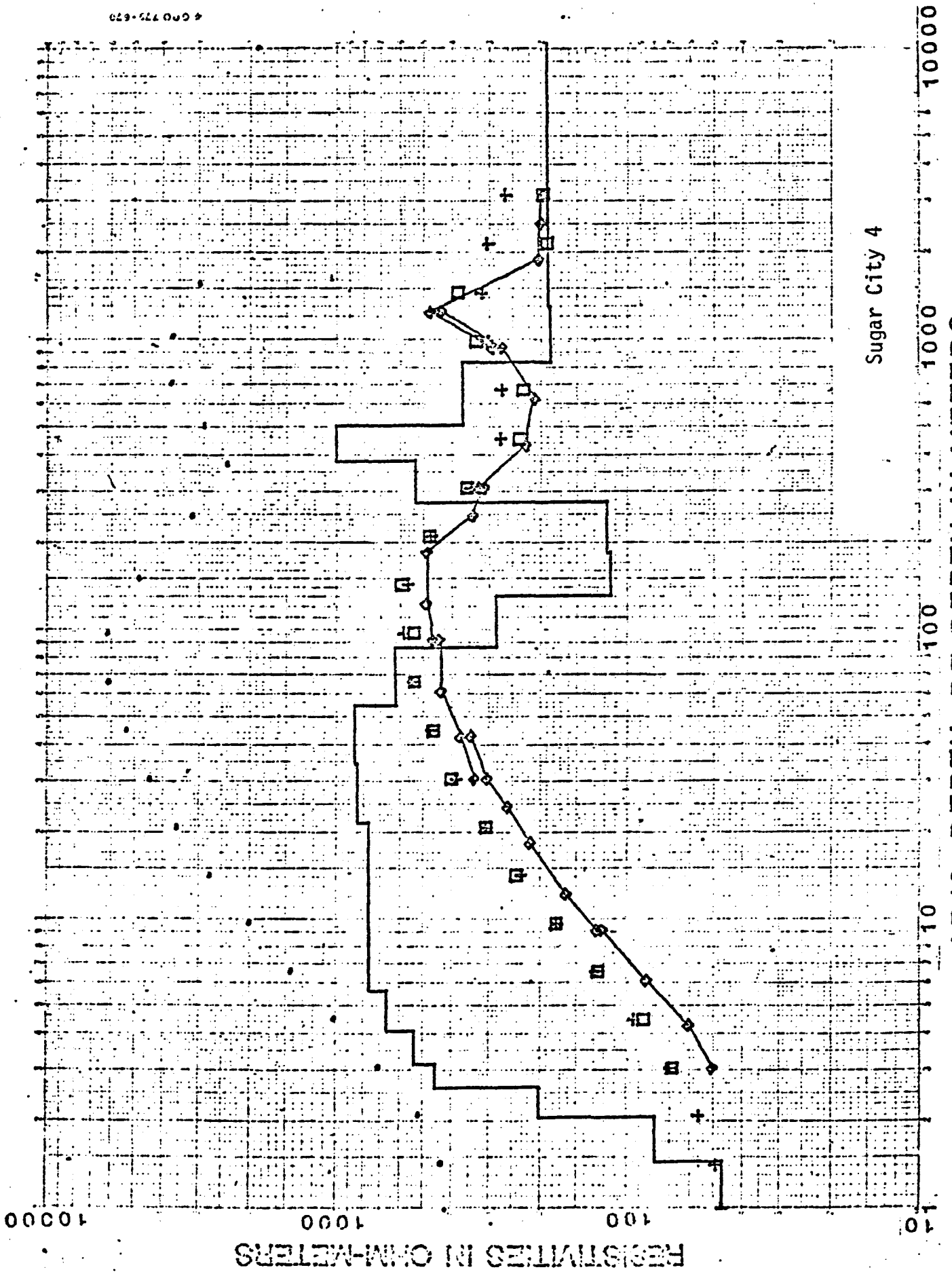




RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

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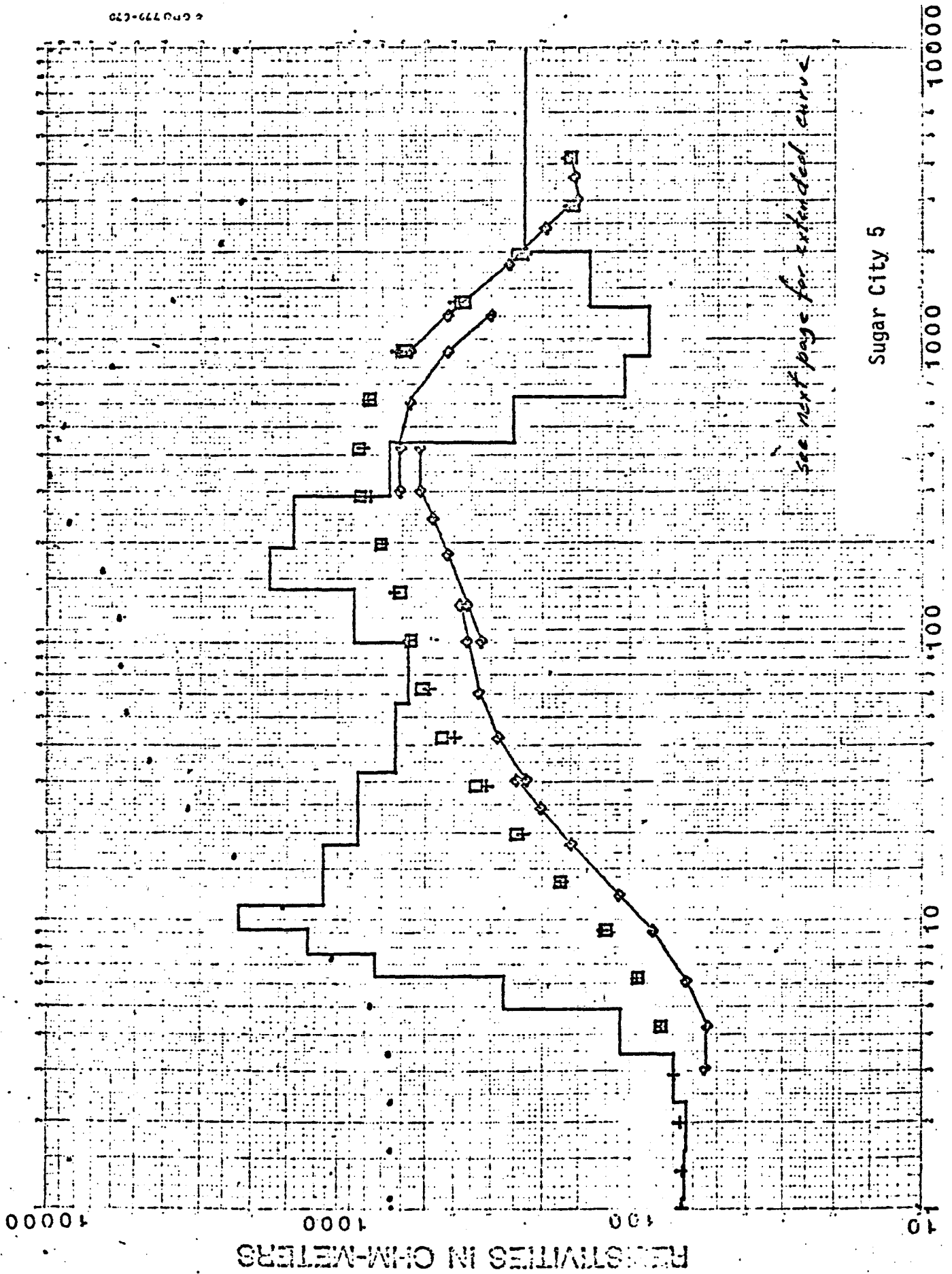
Sugar City 3

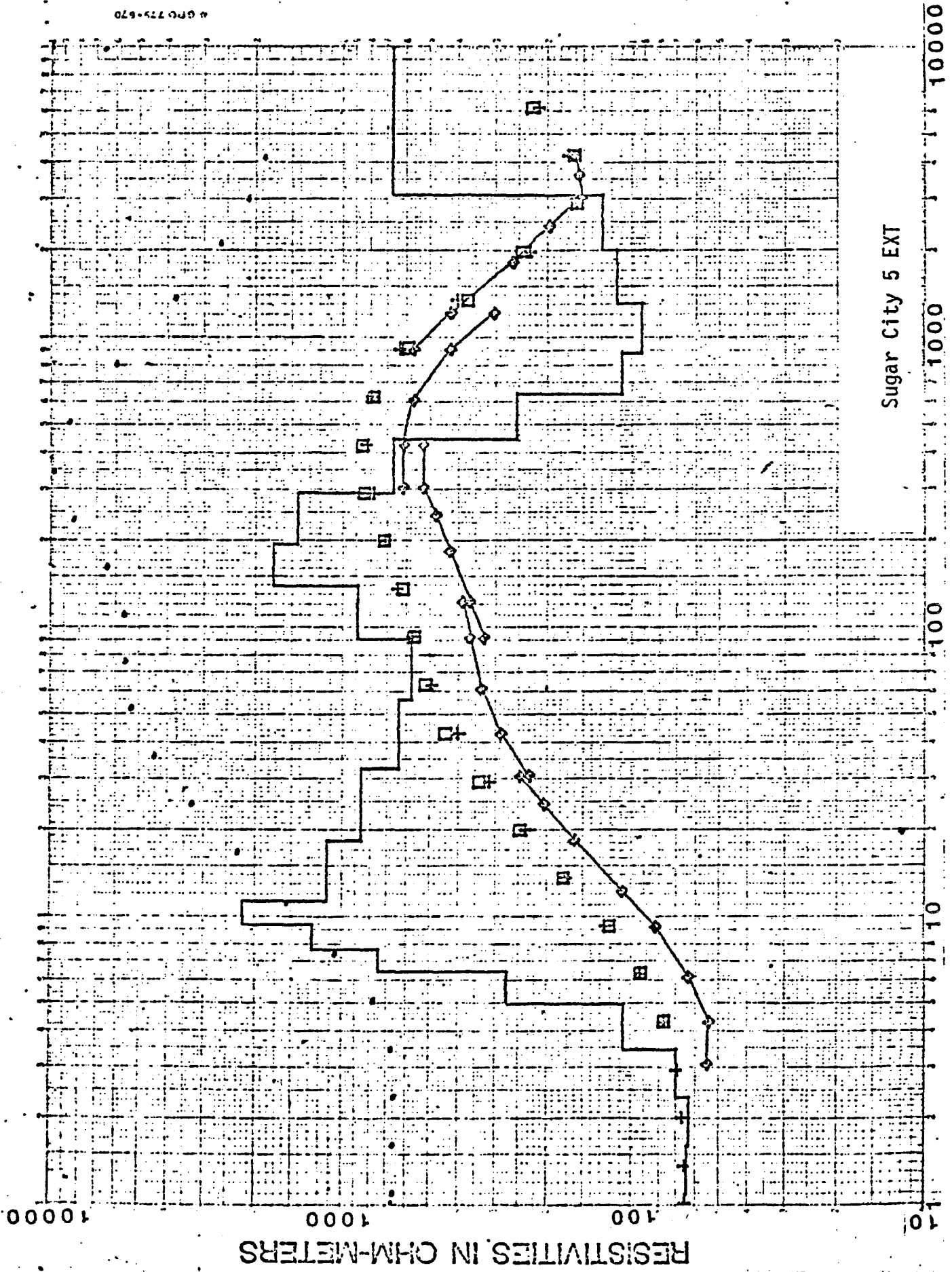


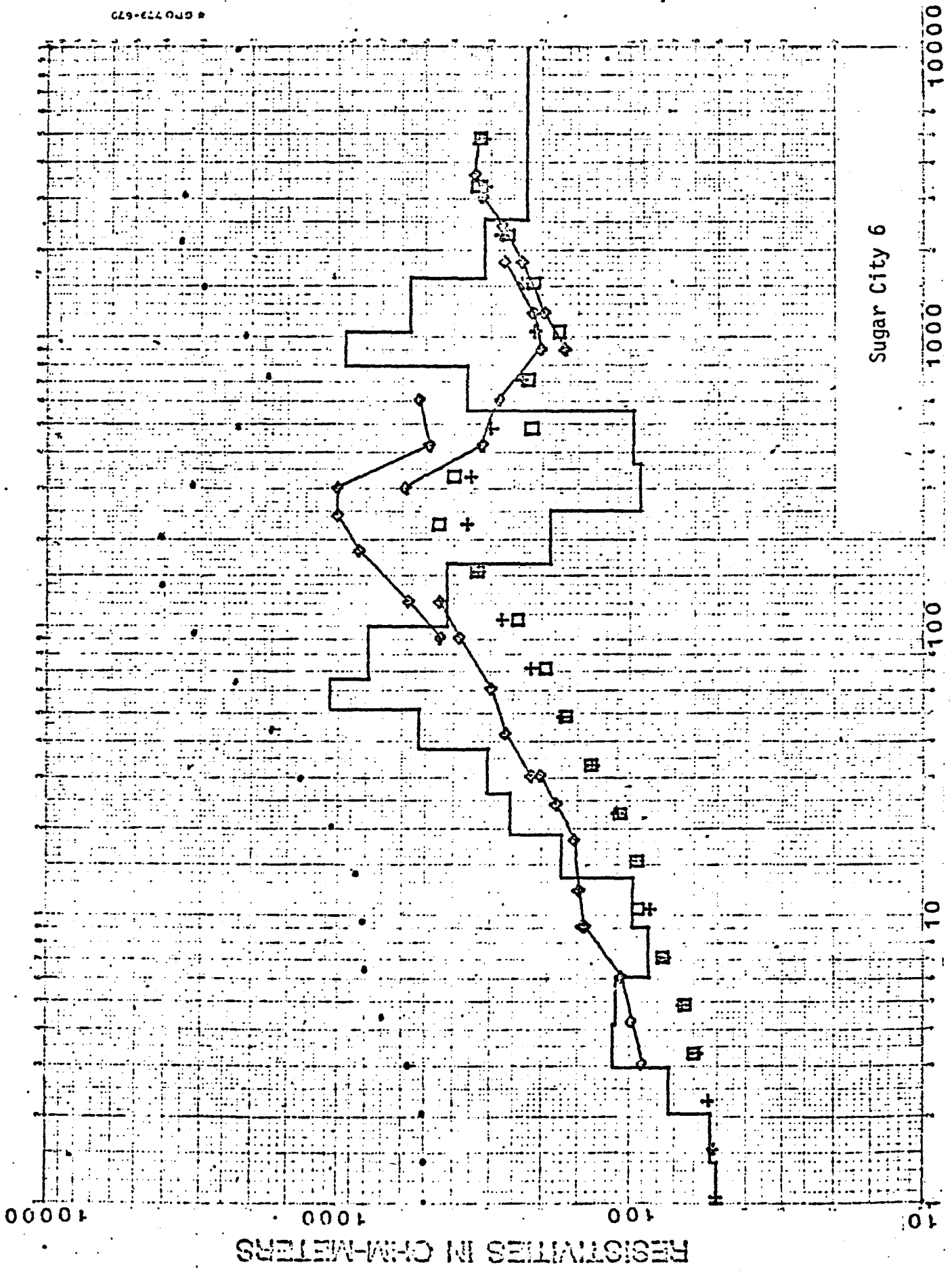
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

Sugar City 4

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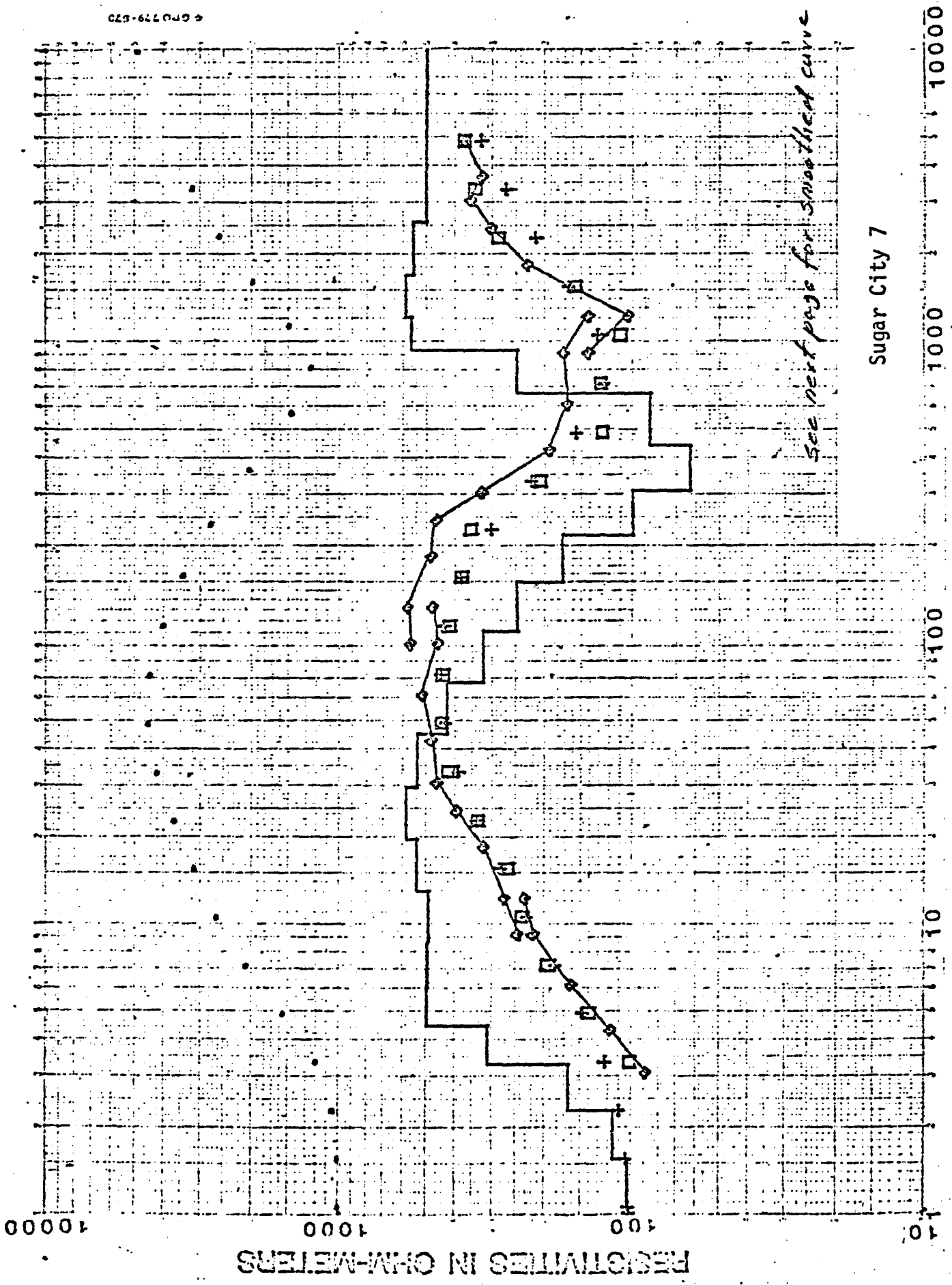






AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

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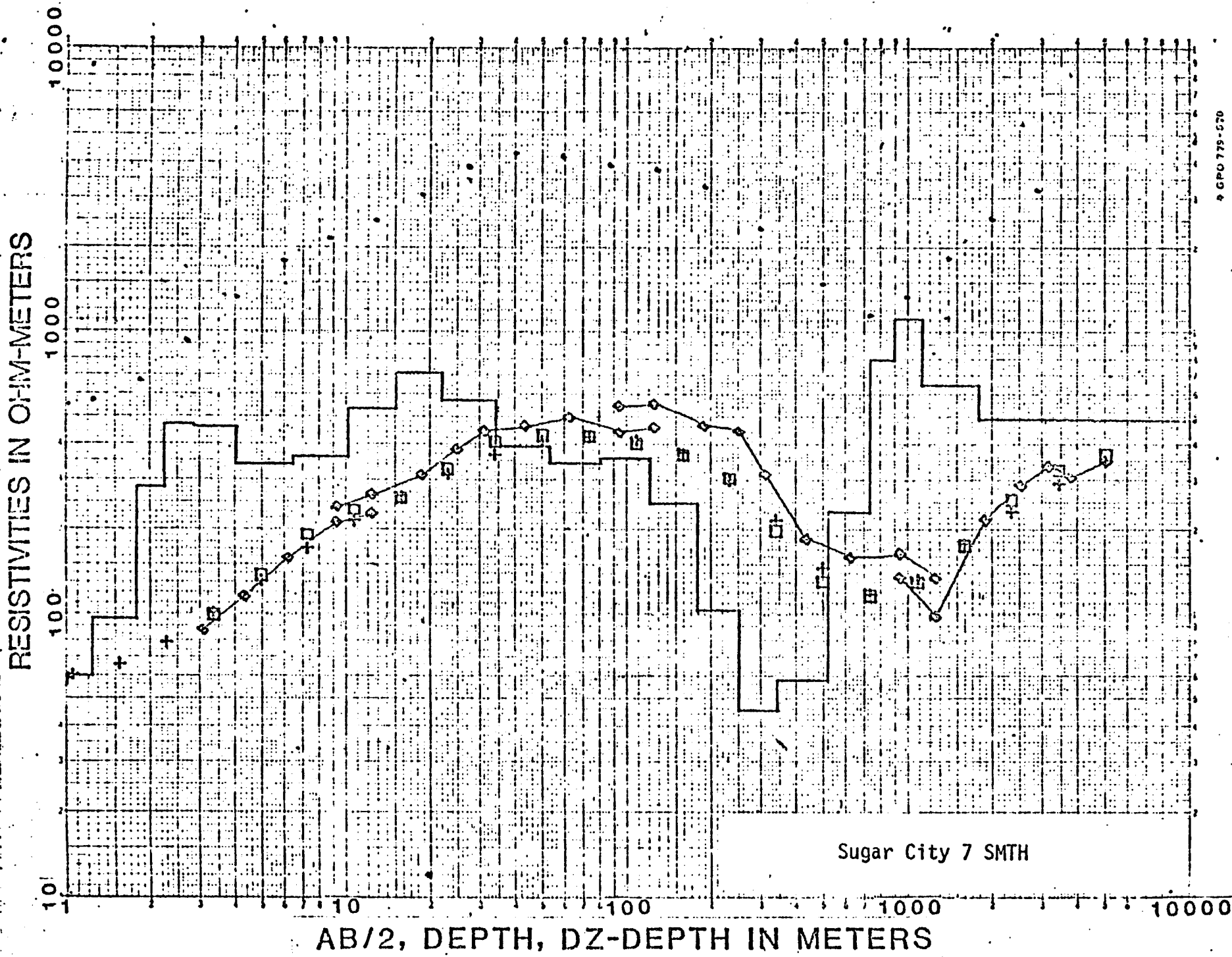


RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

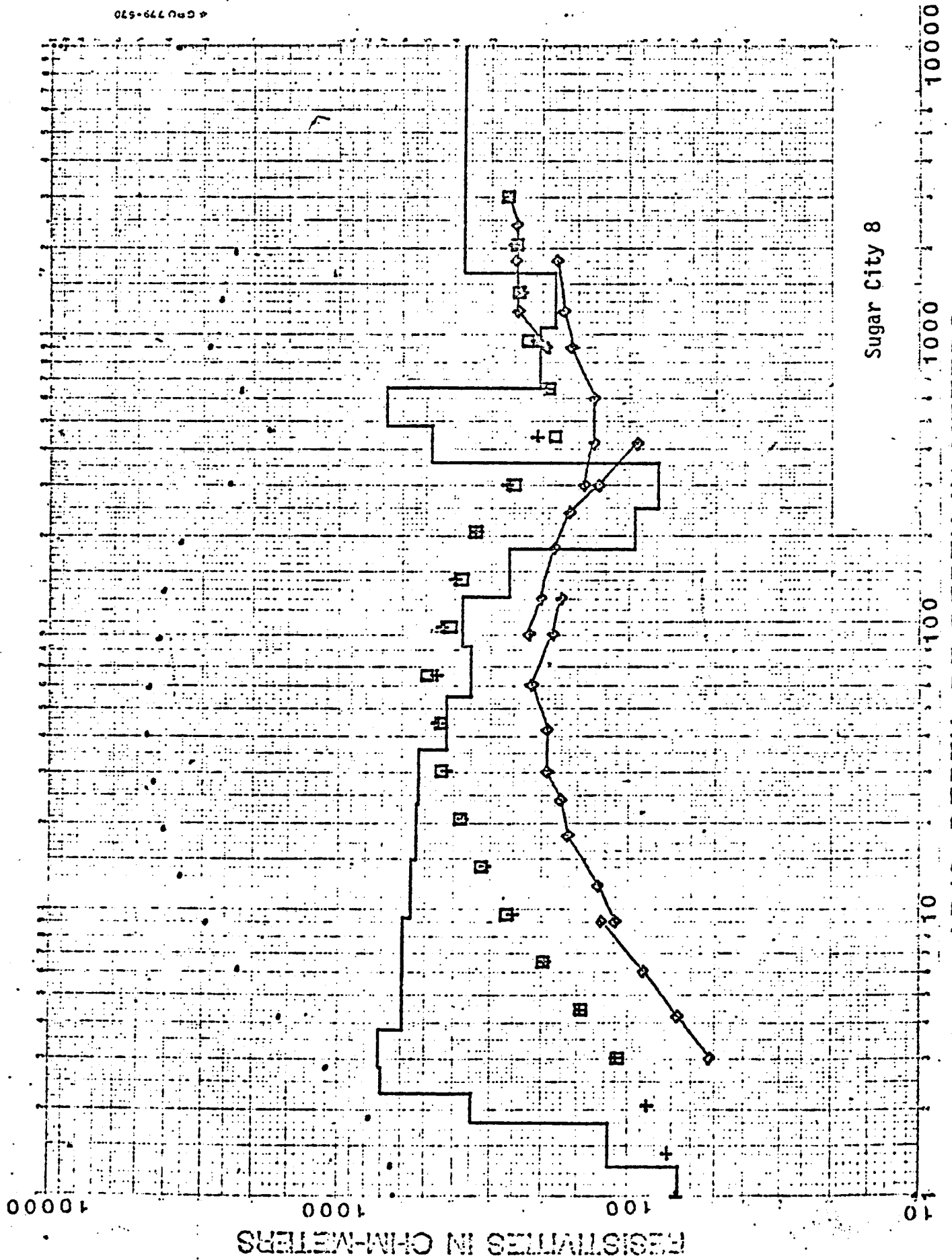
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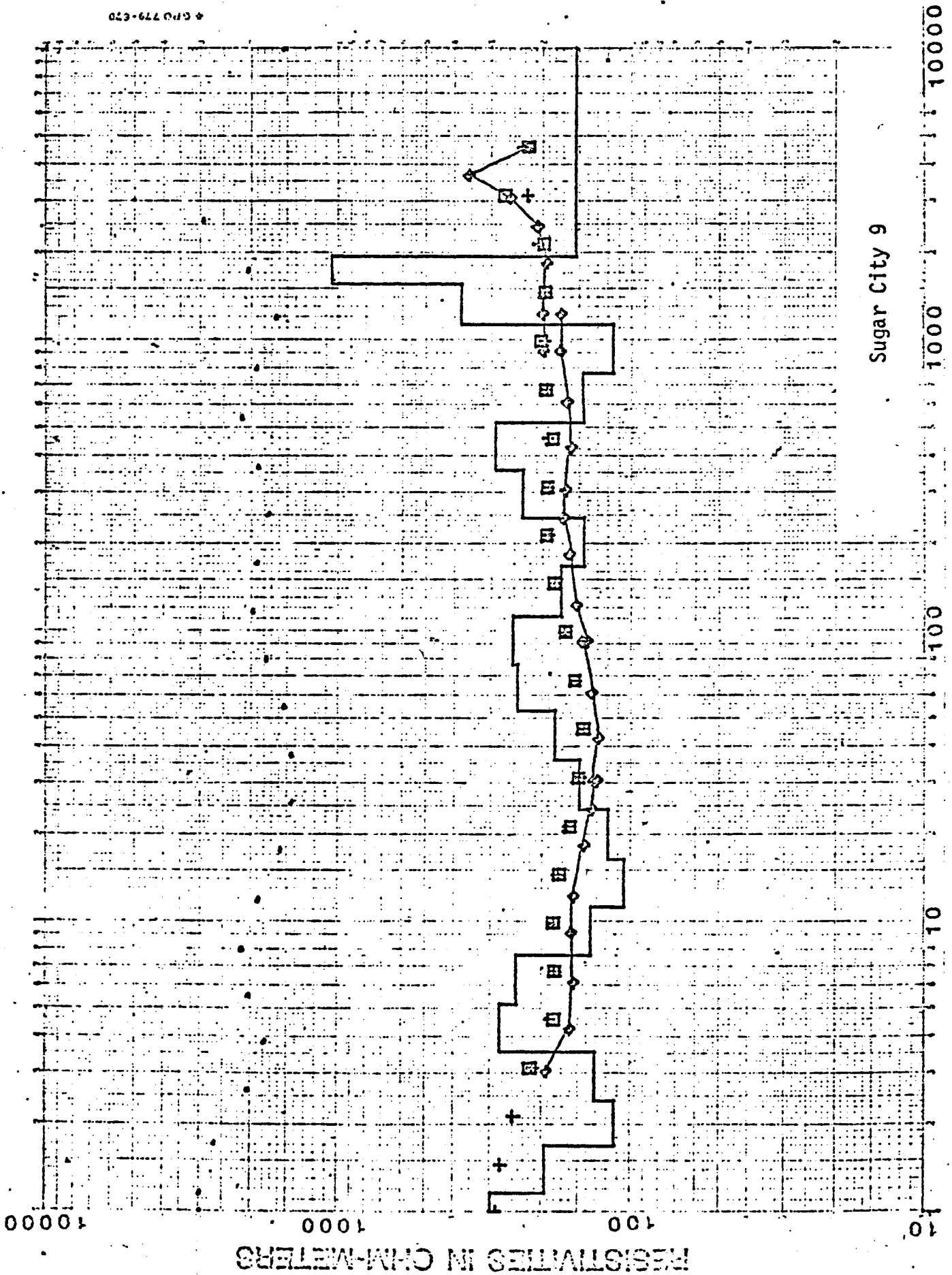
see next page for smoothed curve



Sugar City 7 SMTH



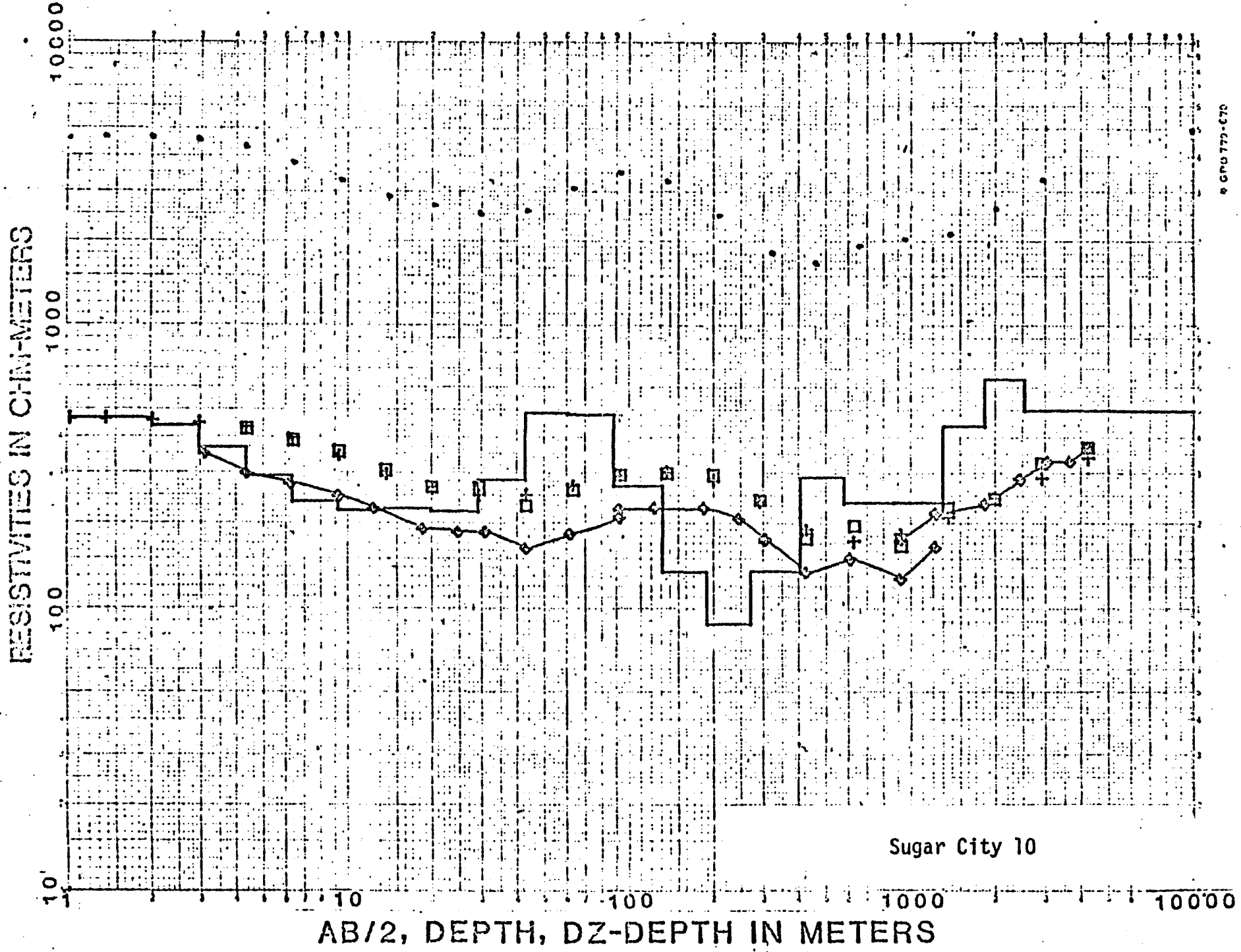
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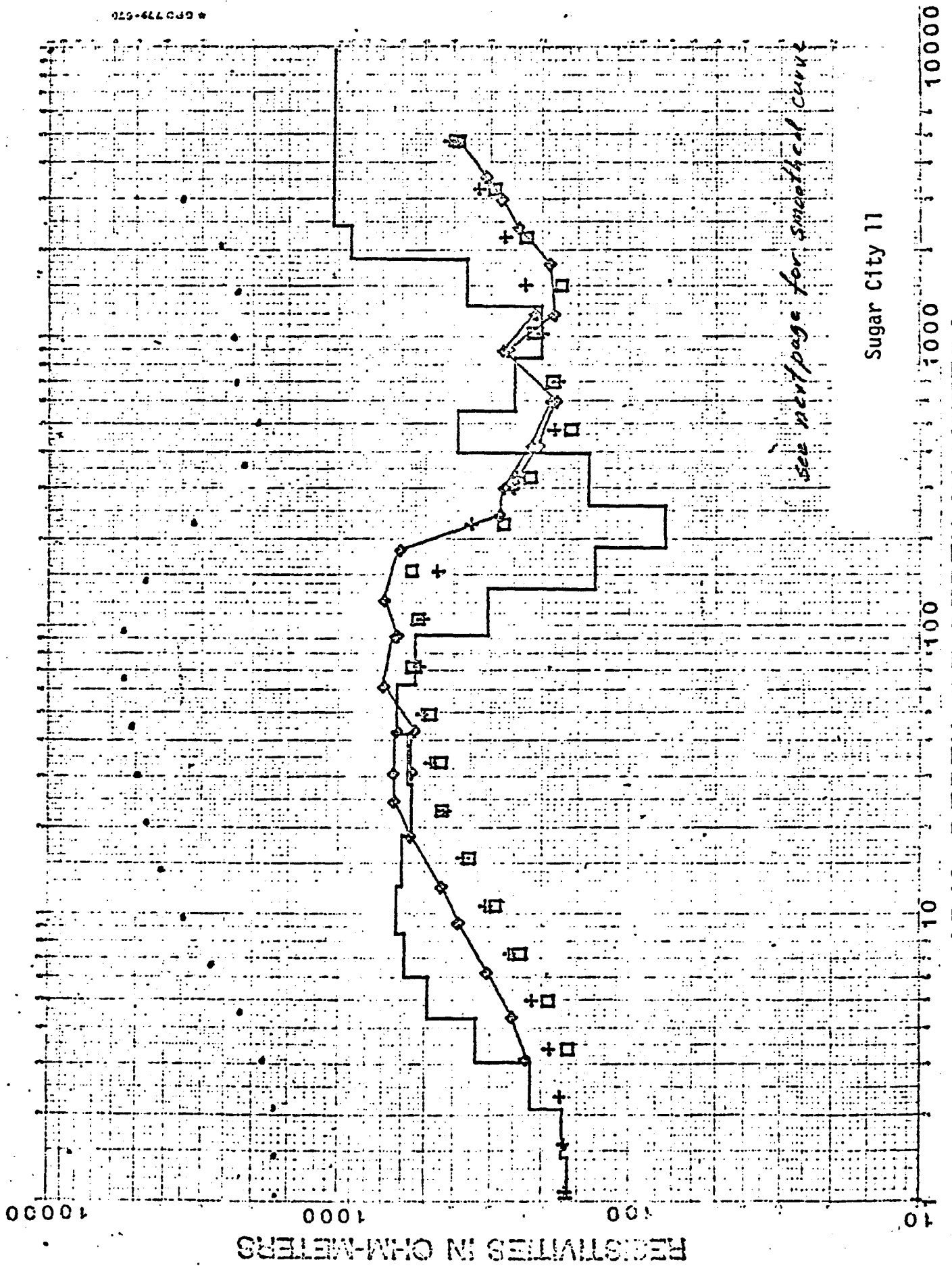
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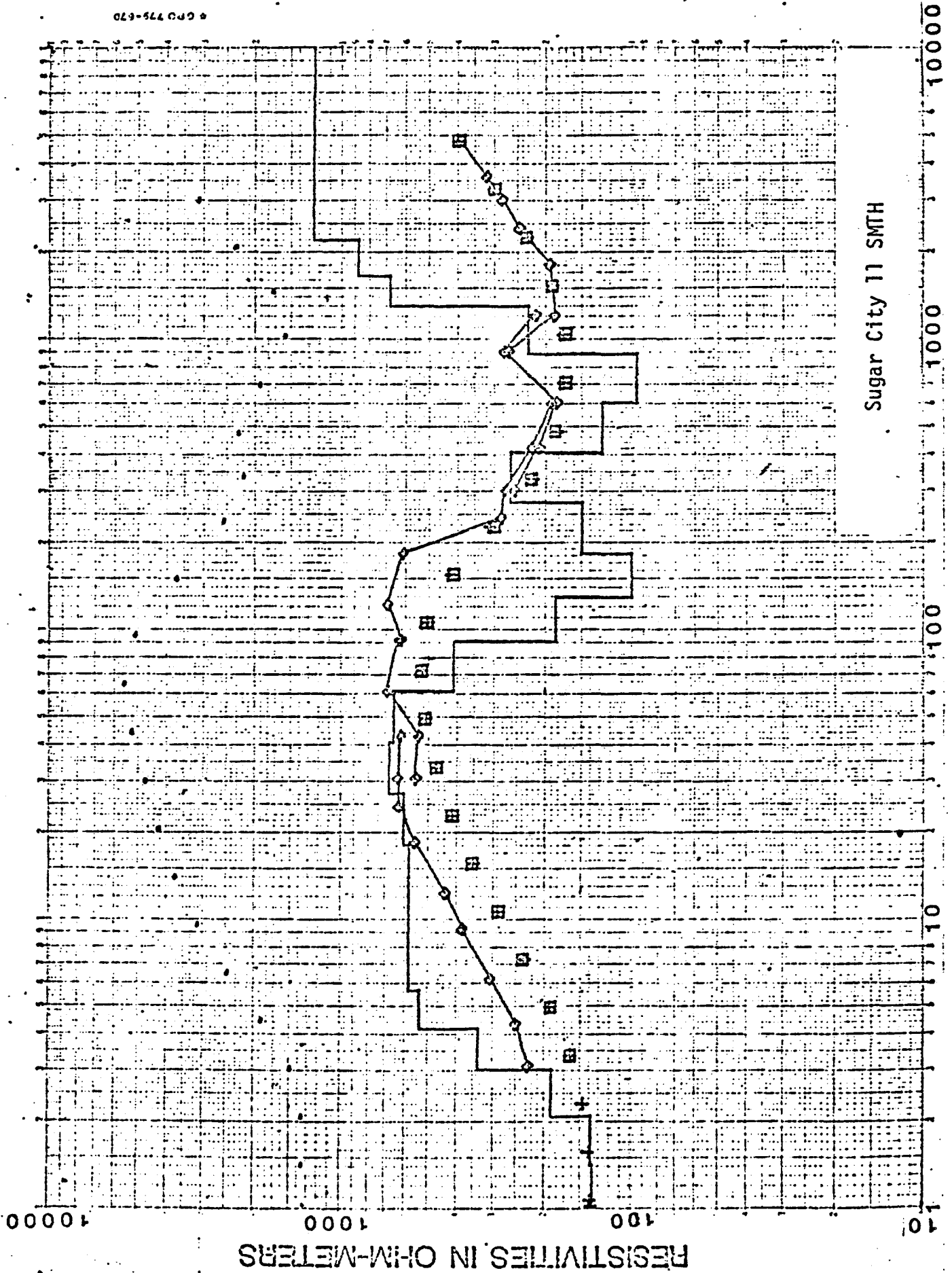
Sugar City 10

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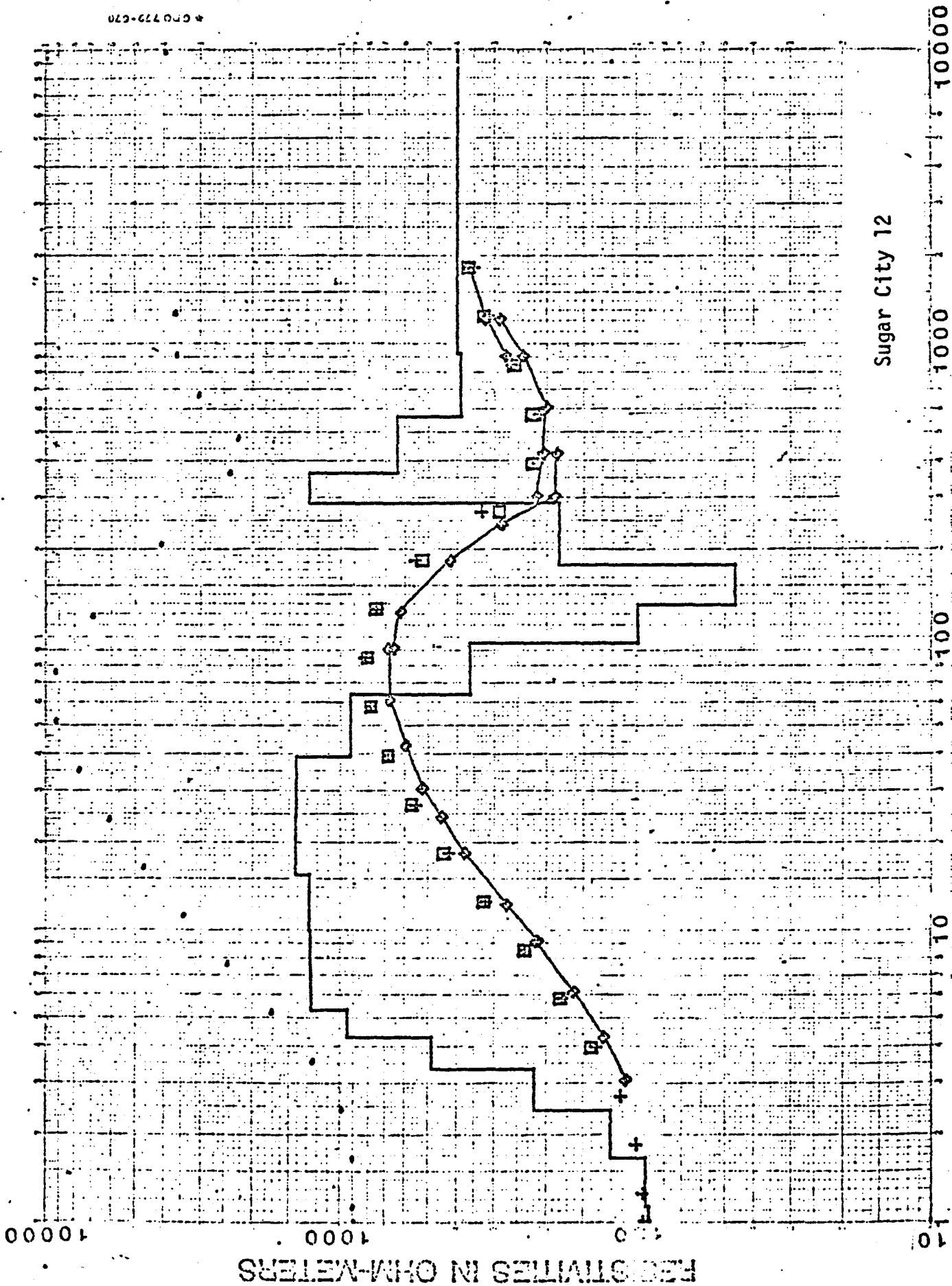
Sugar City 11

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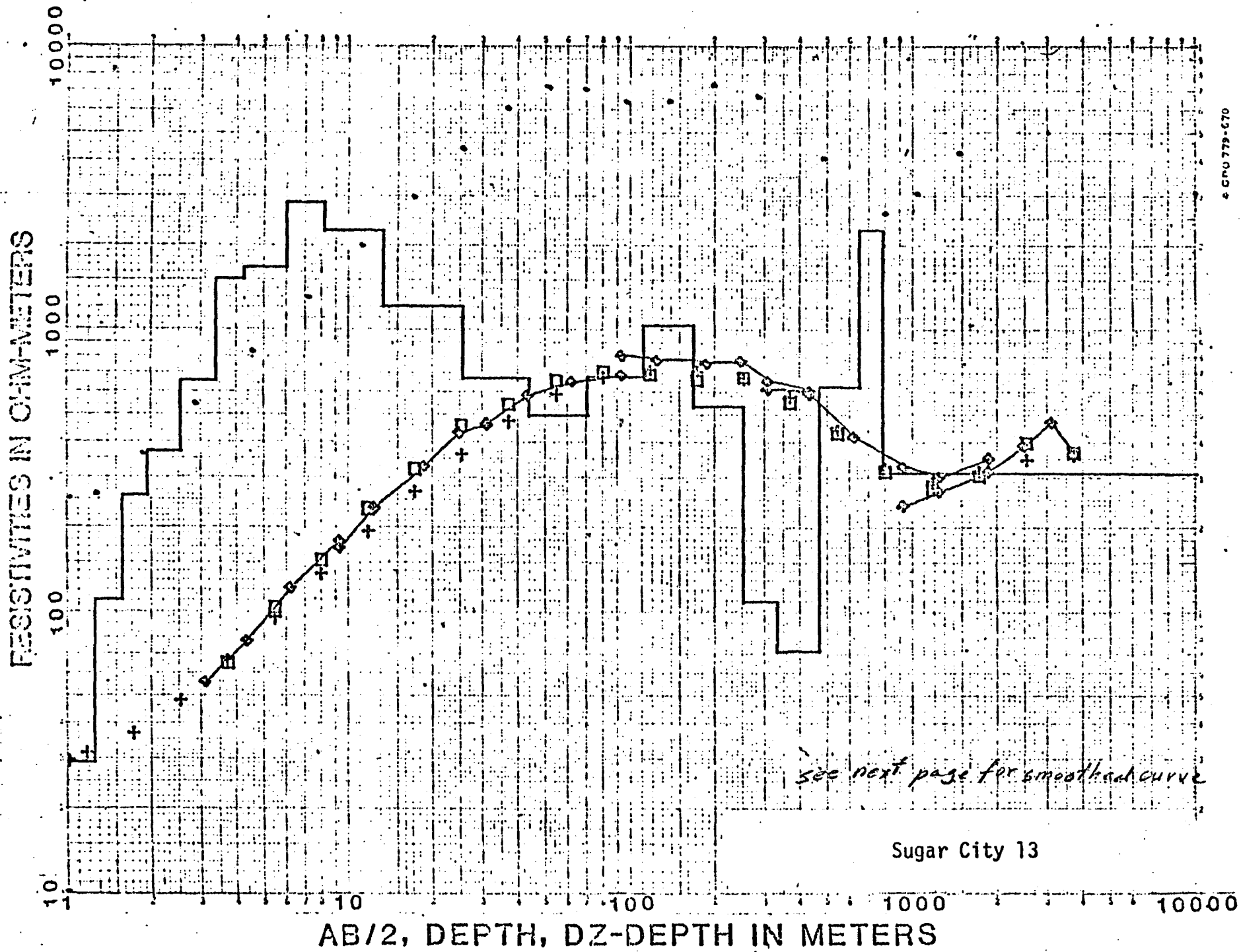
Sugar City 11 SMTH

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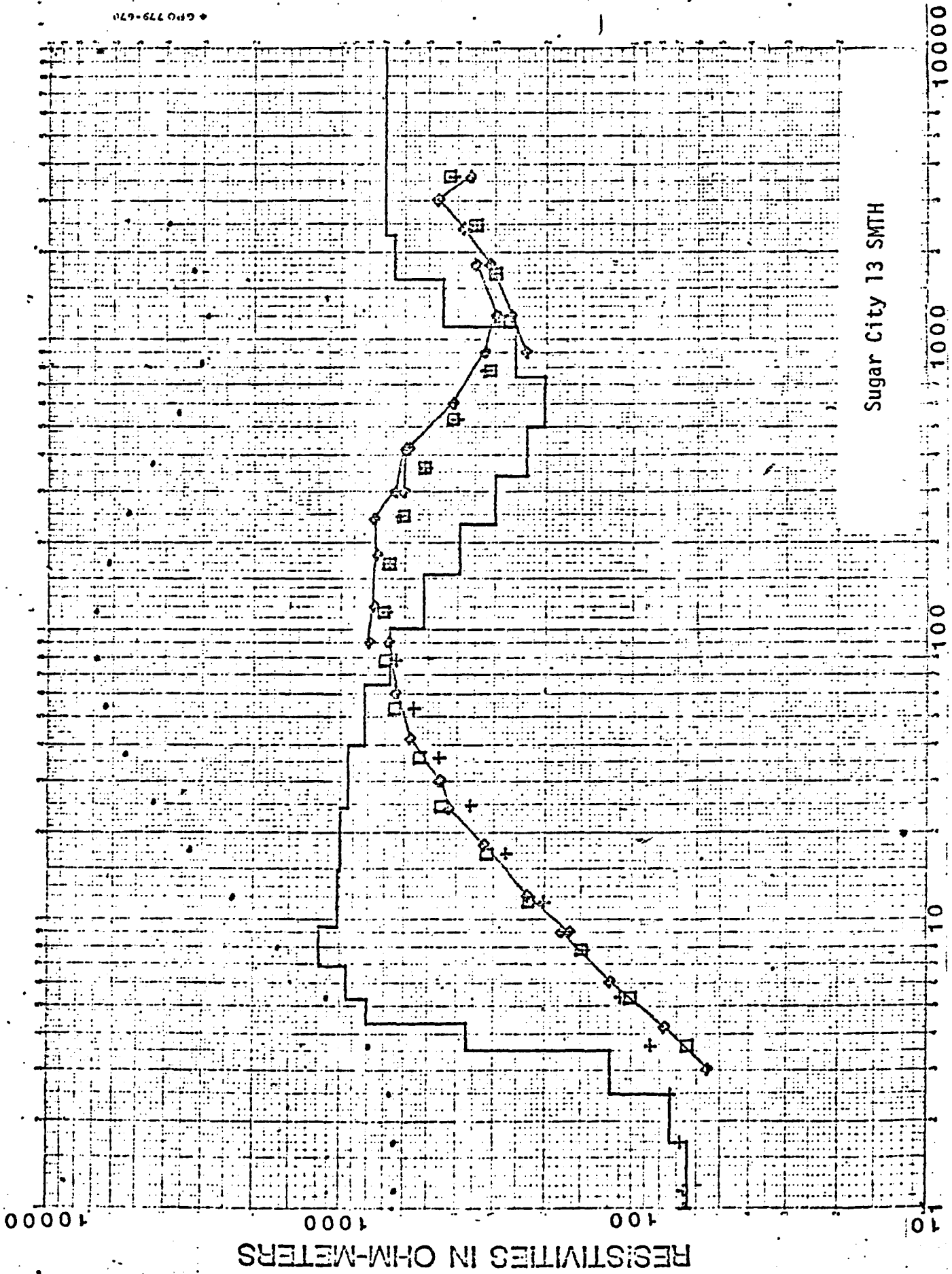
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS



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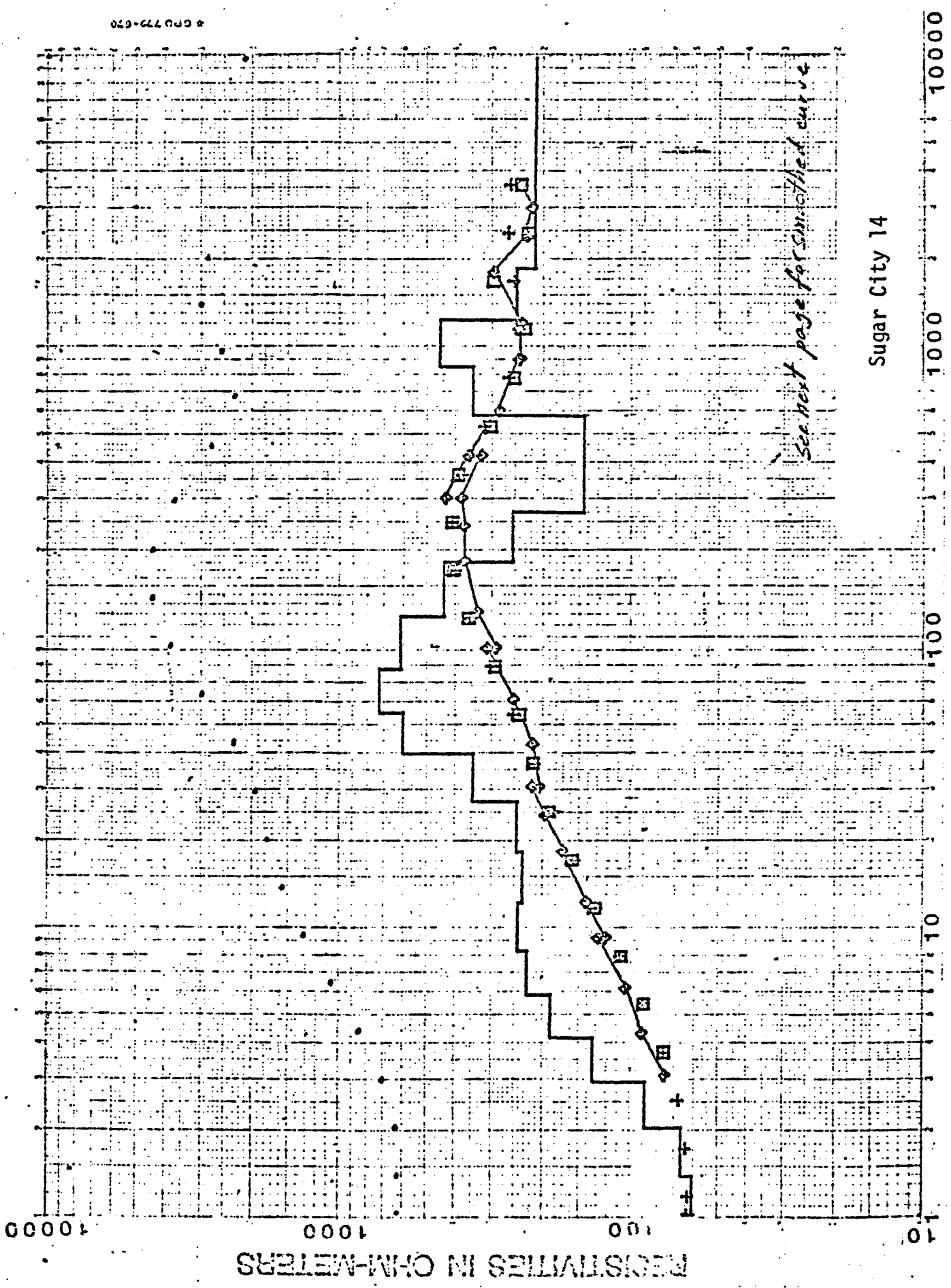
Sugar City 13



Sugar City 13 SMTH

RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

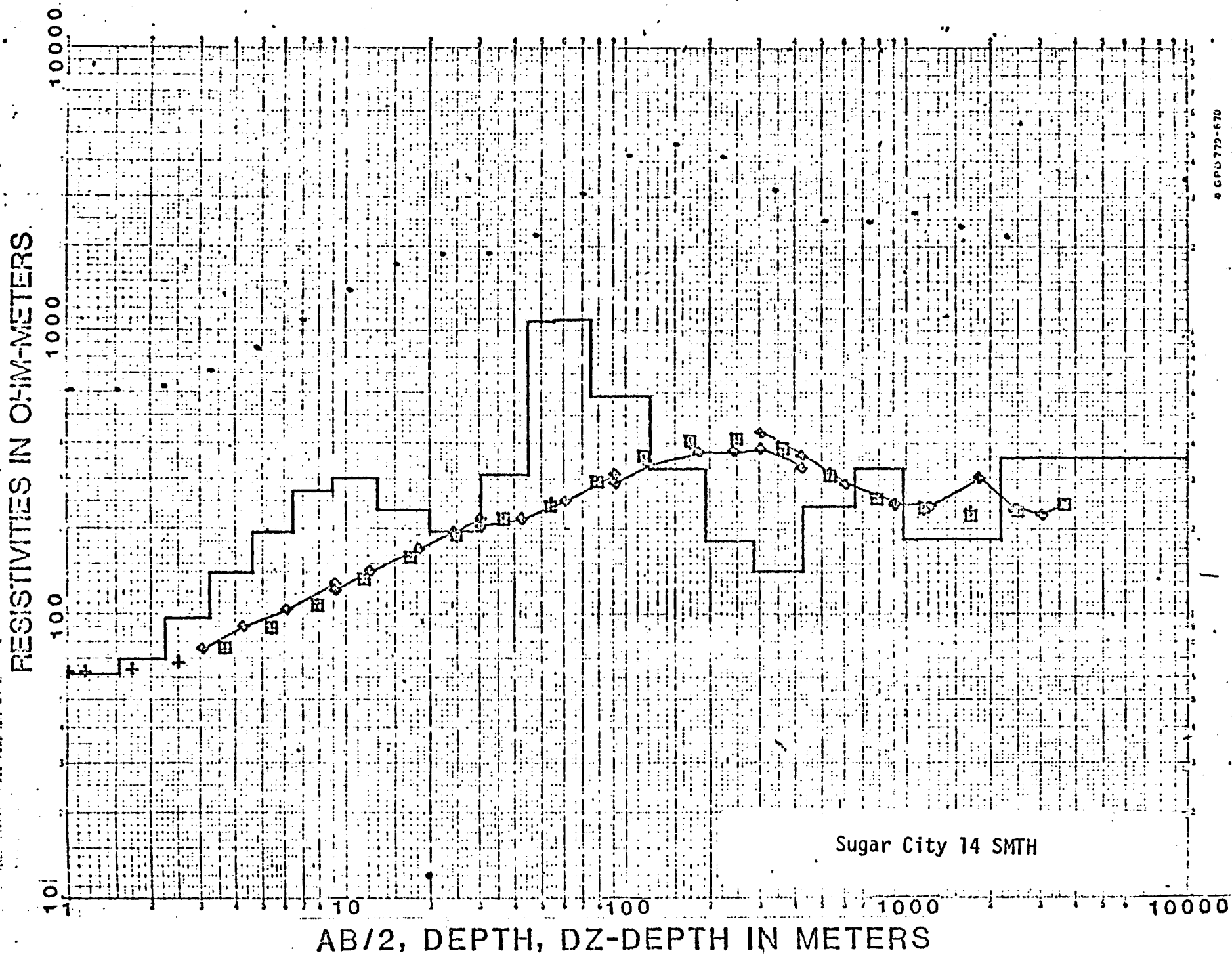
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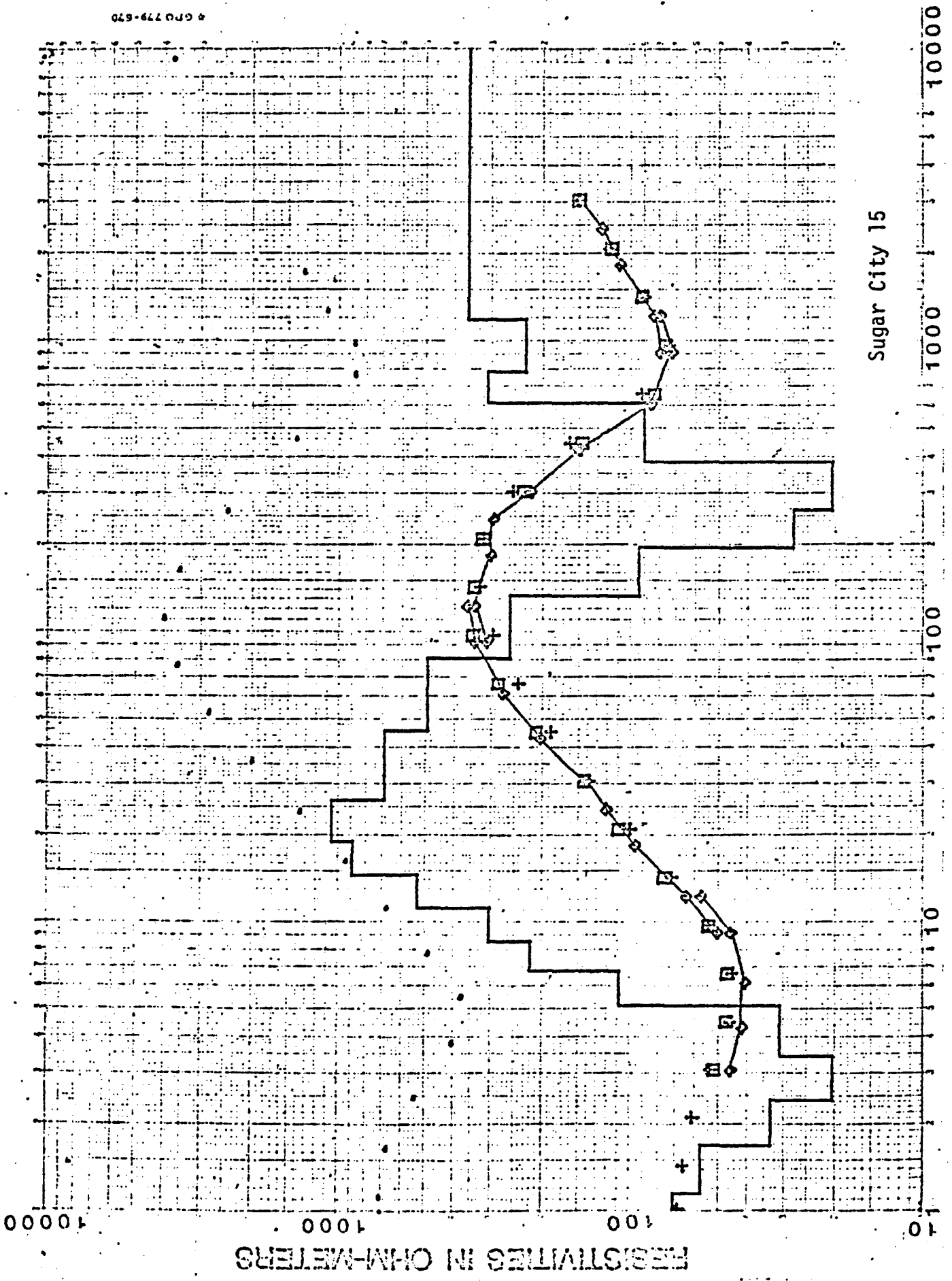


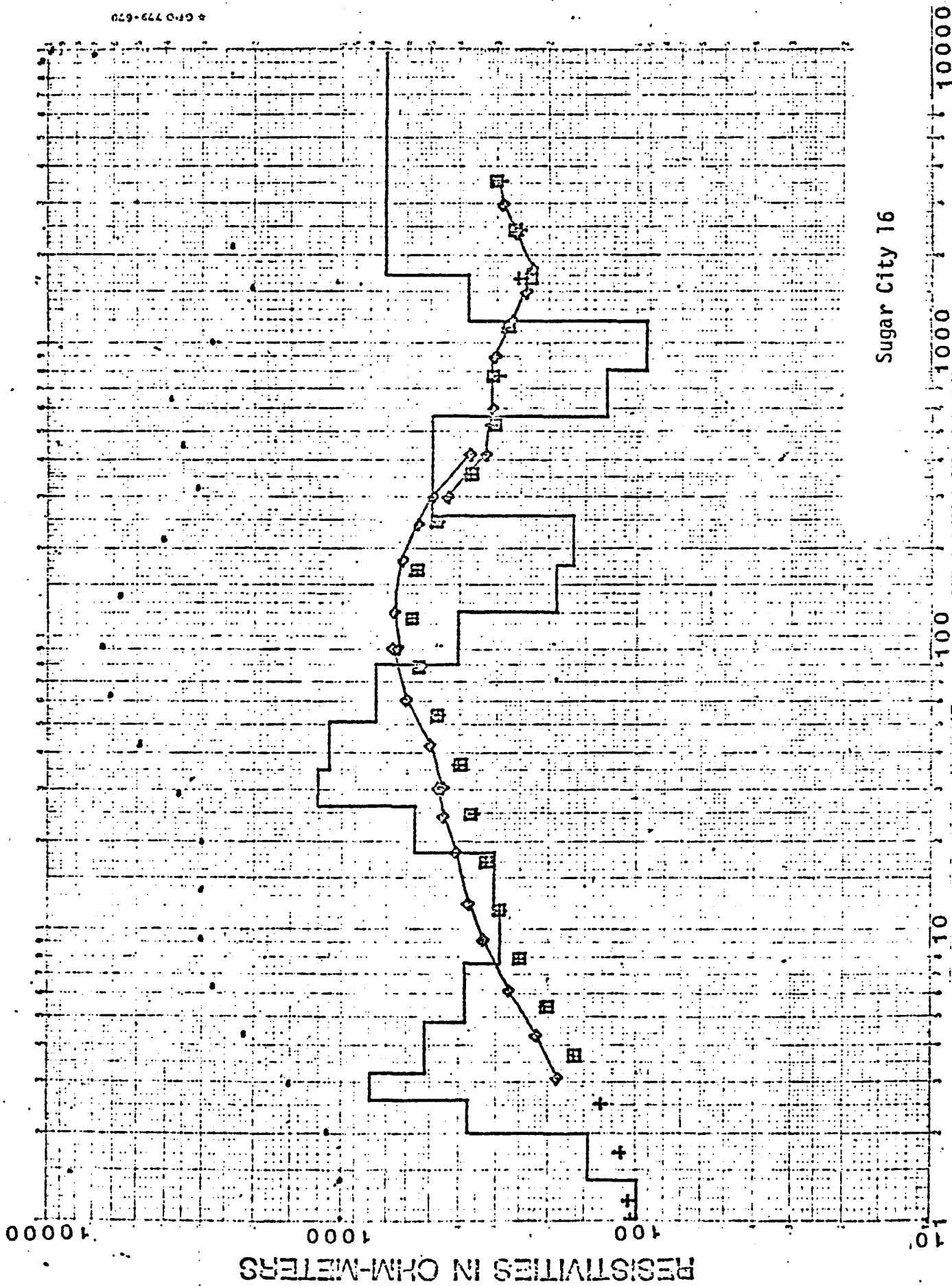
Sugar City 14

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

See next page for smoothed curve

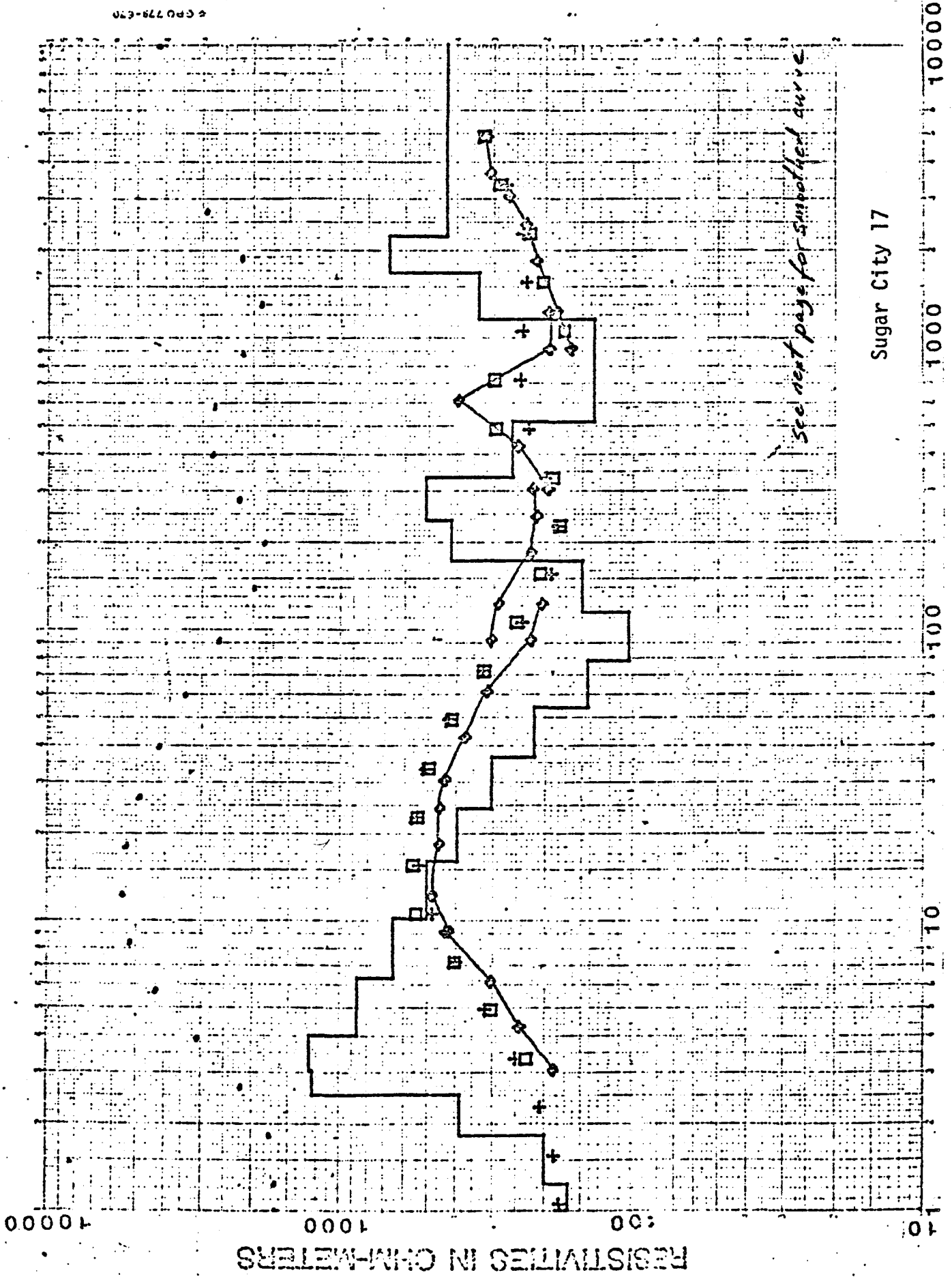


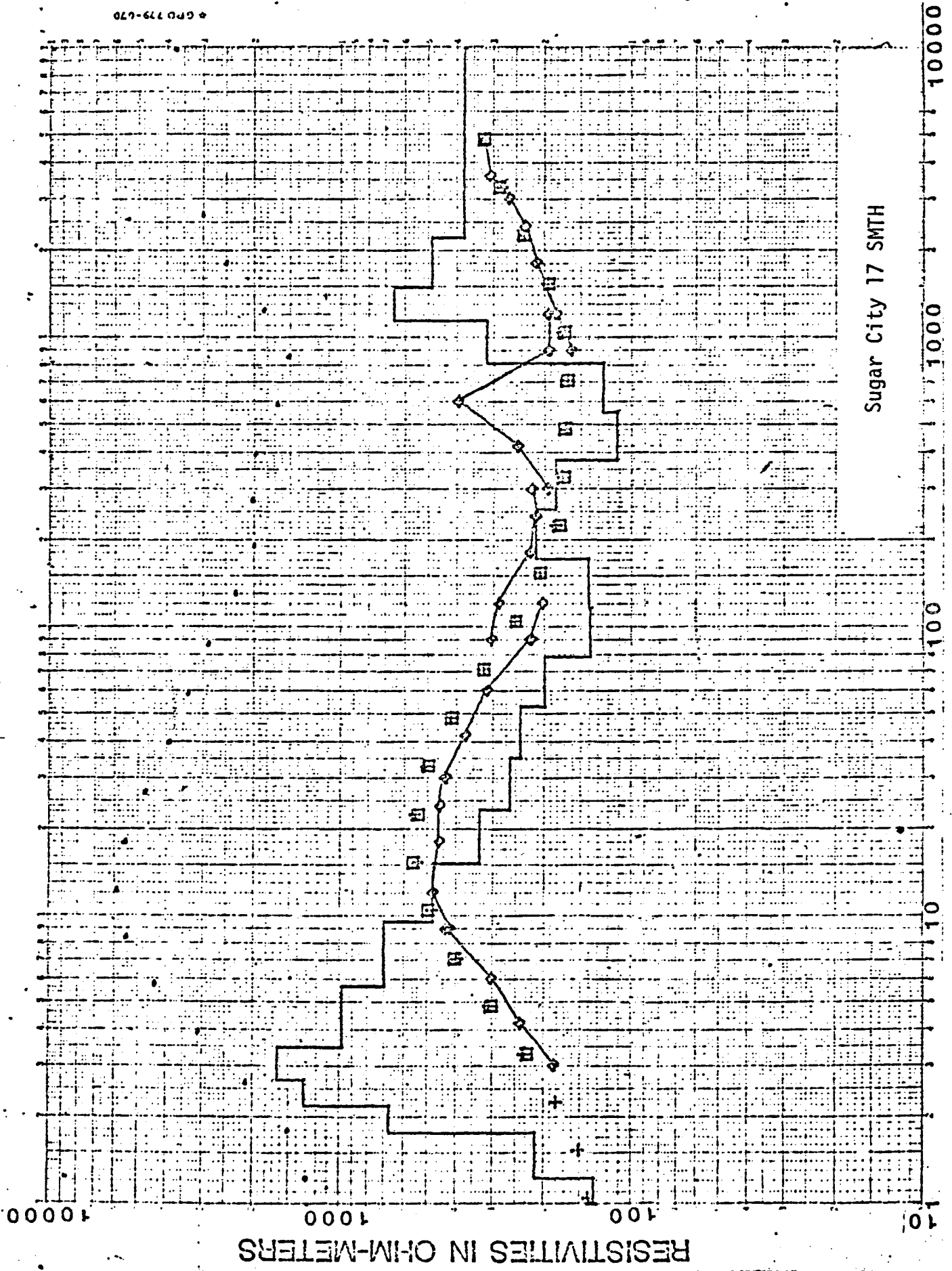




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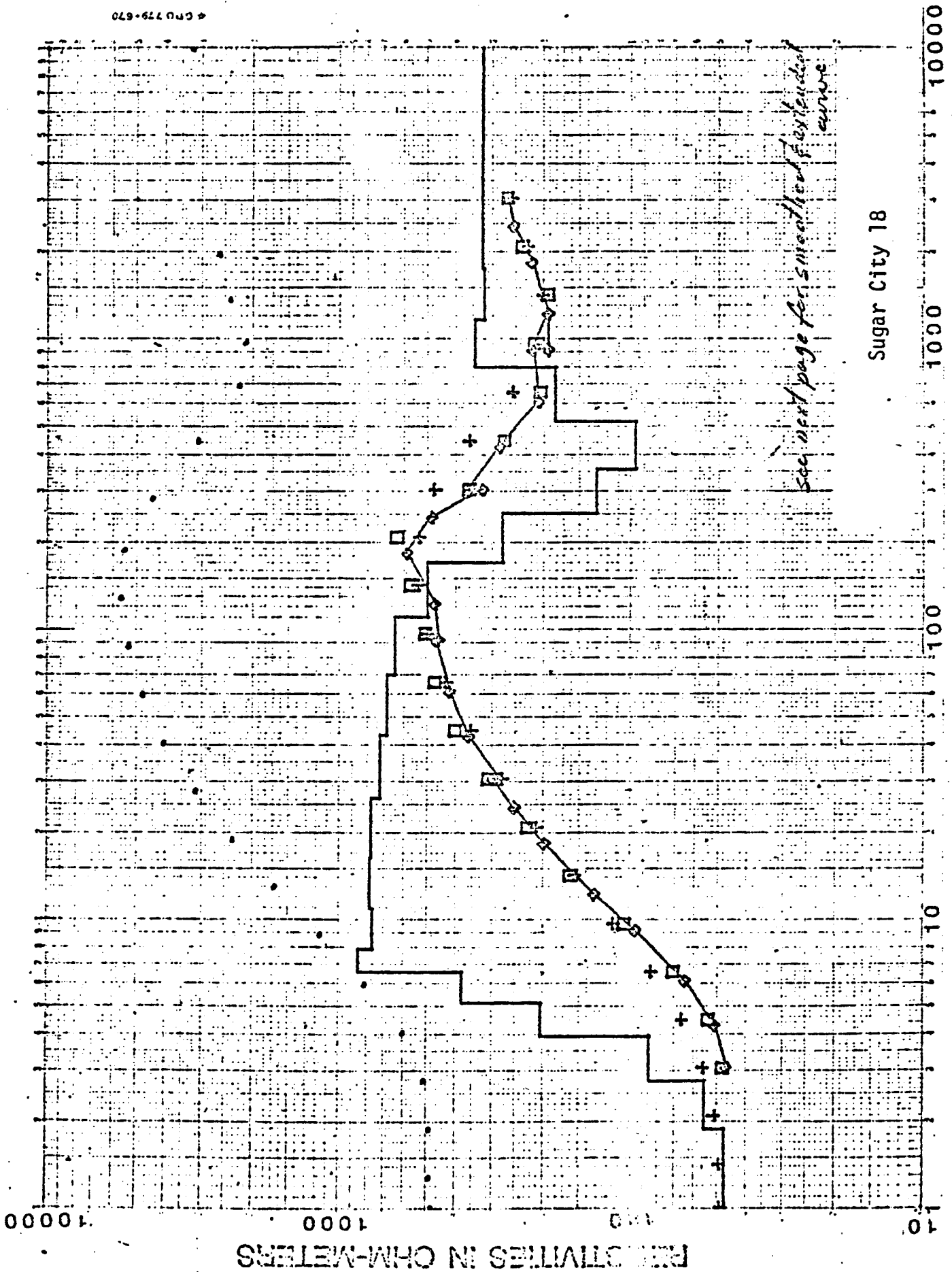
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Sugar City 17 SMTH

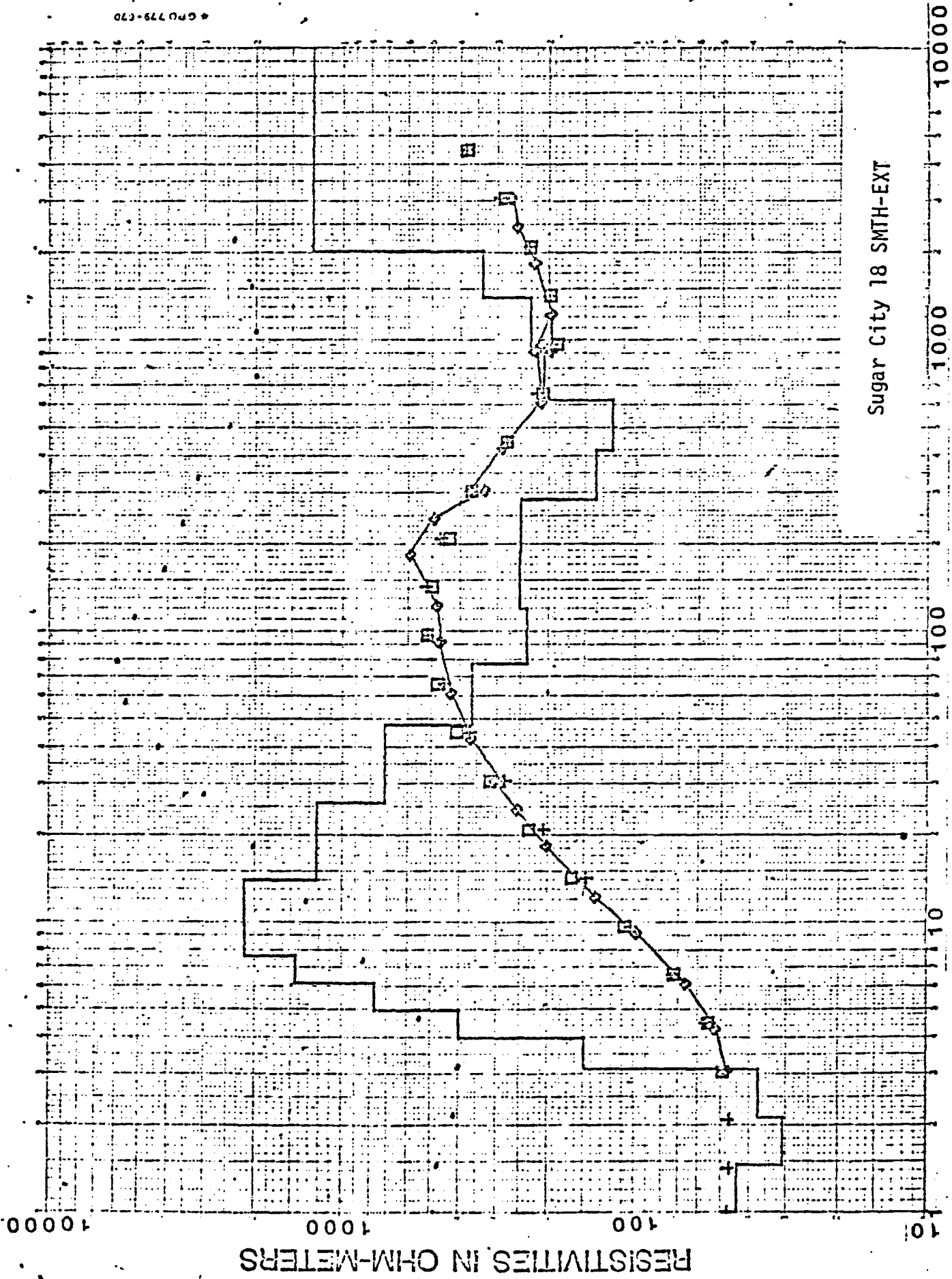
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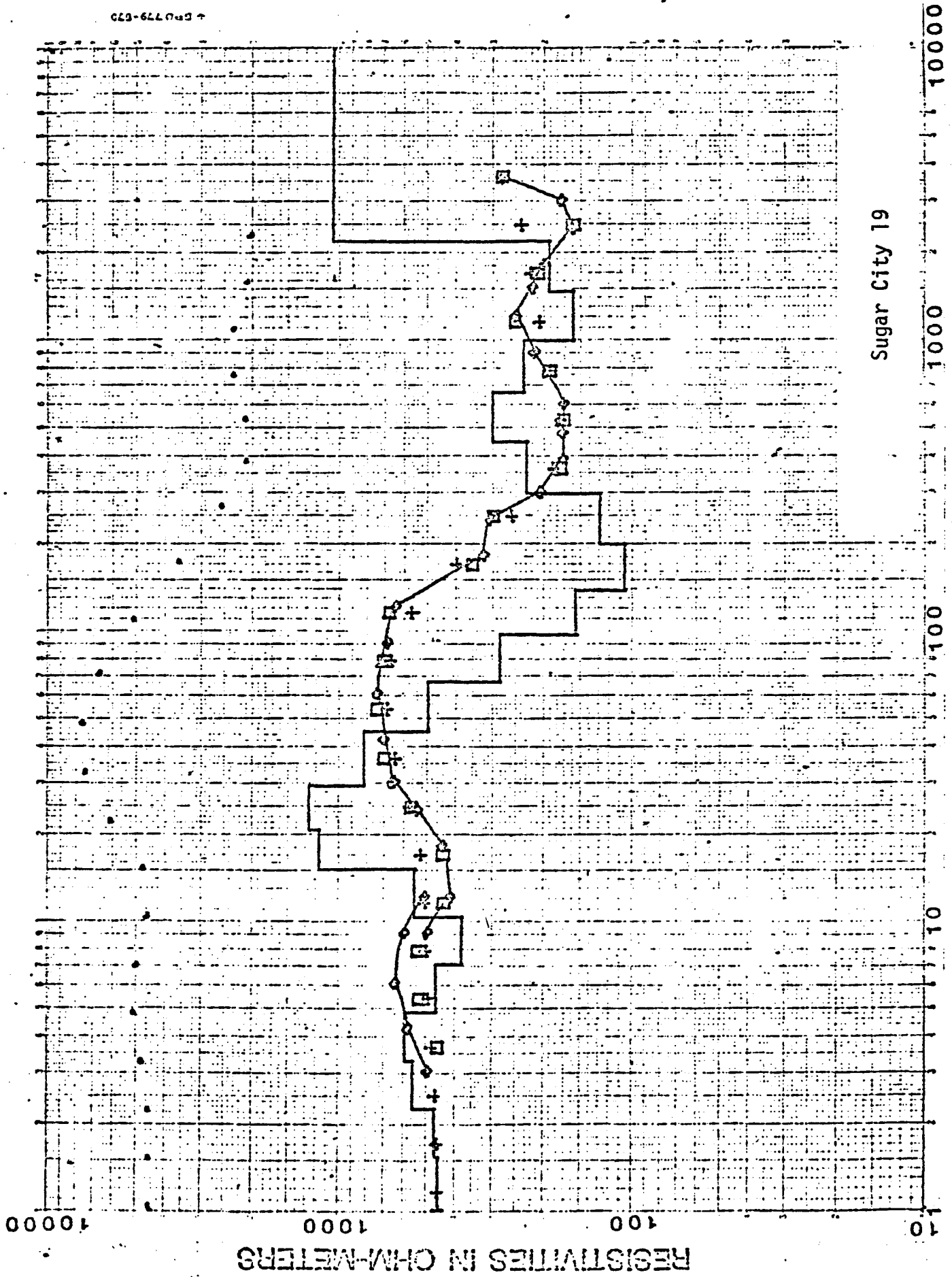


Sugar City 18

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

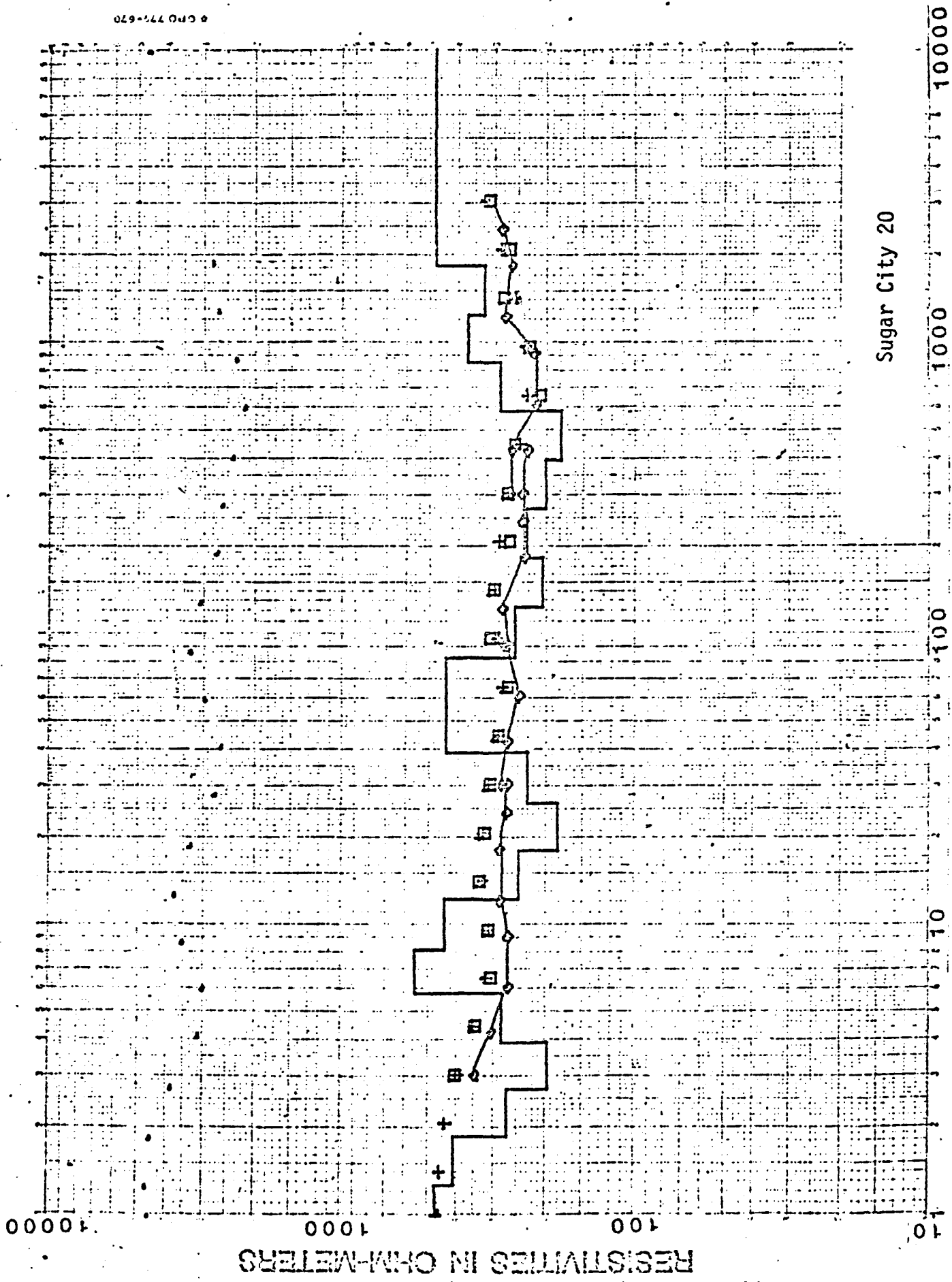




Sugar City 19

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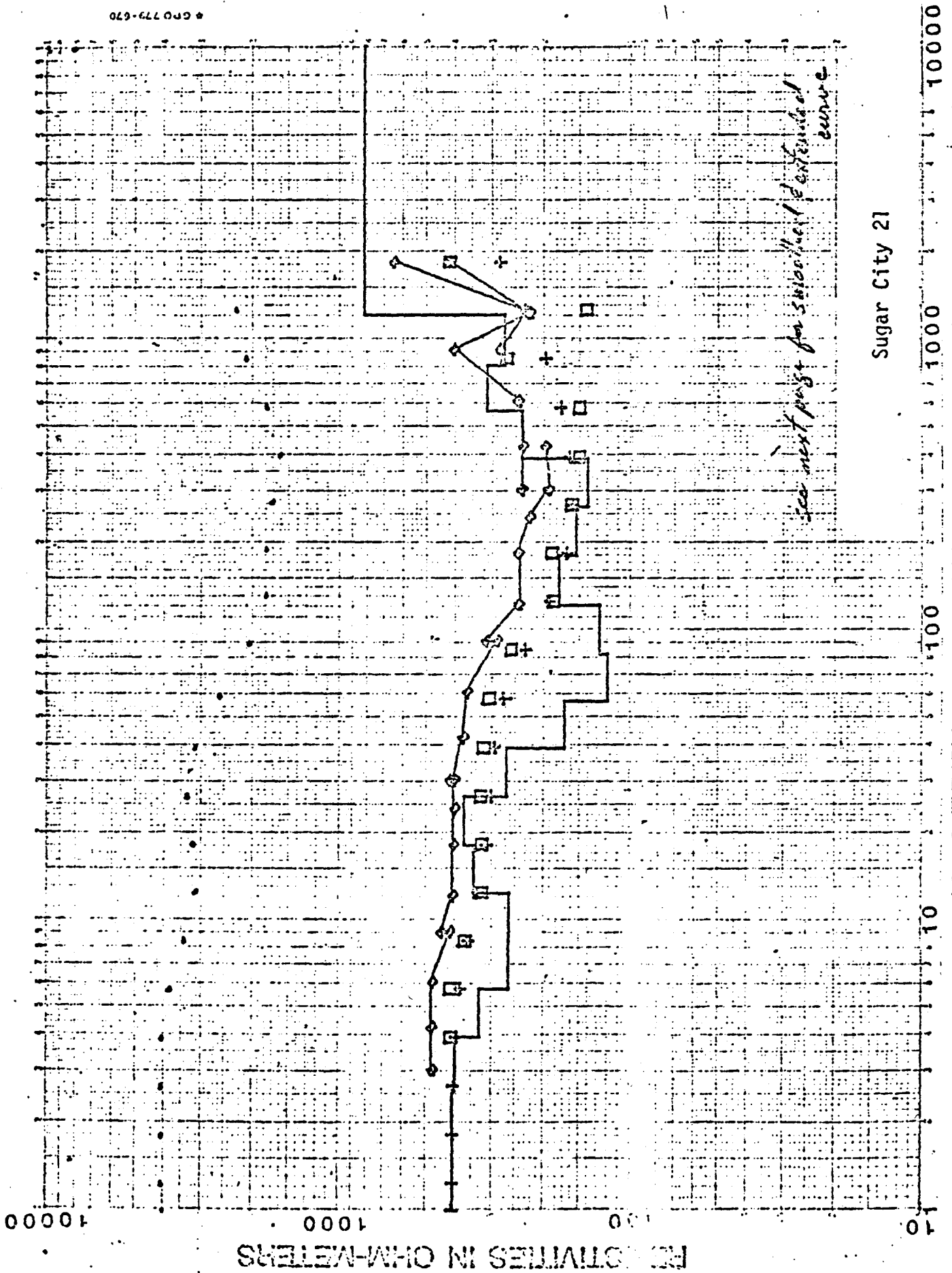
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS



Sugar City 20

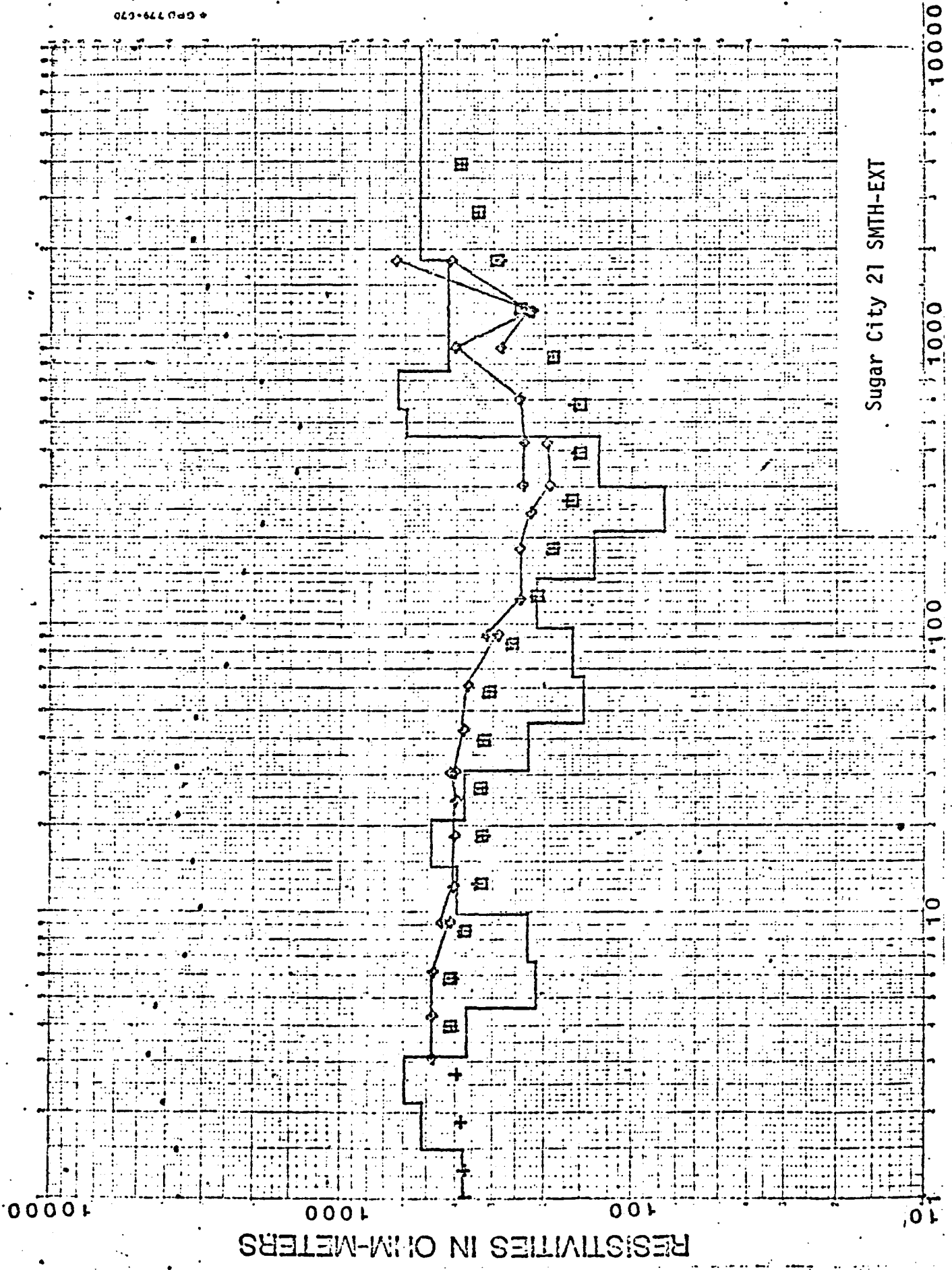
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

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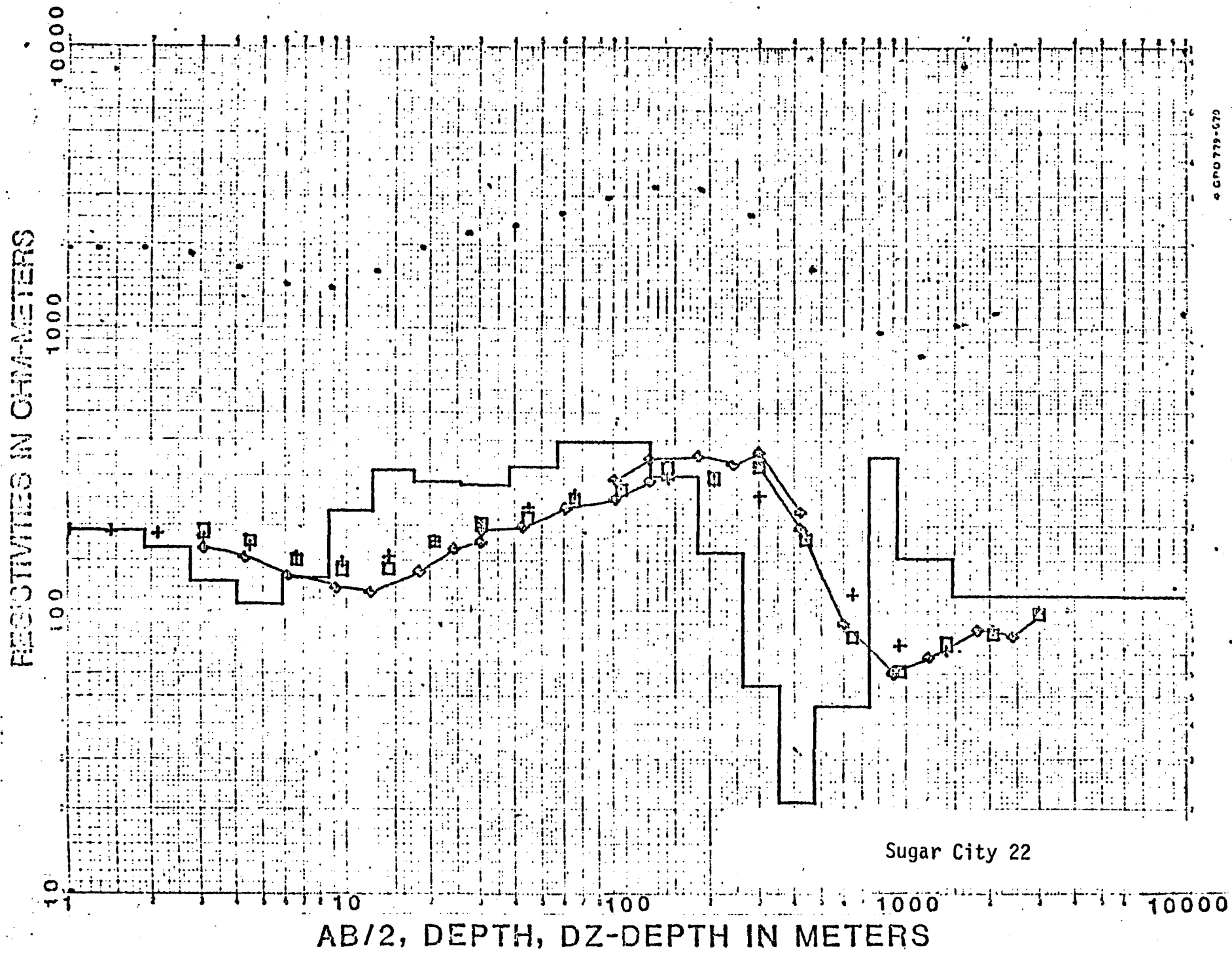


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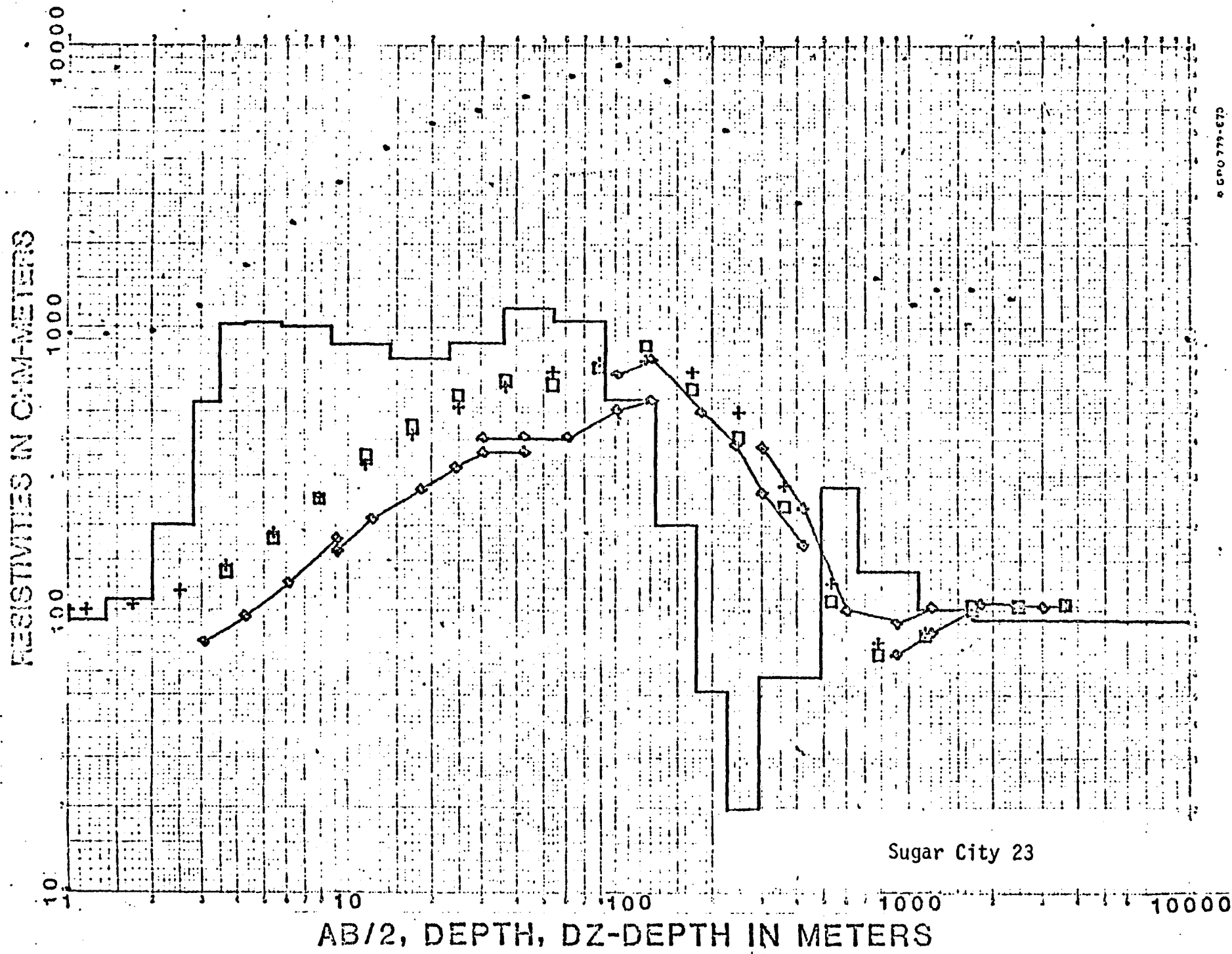


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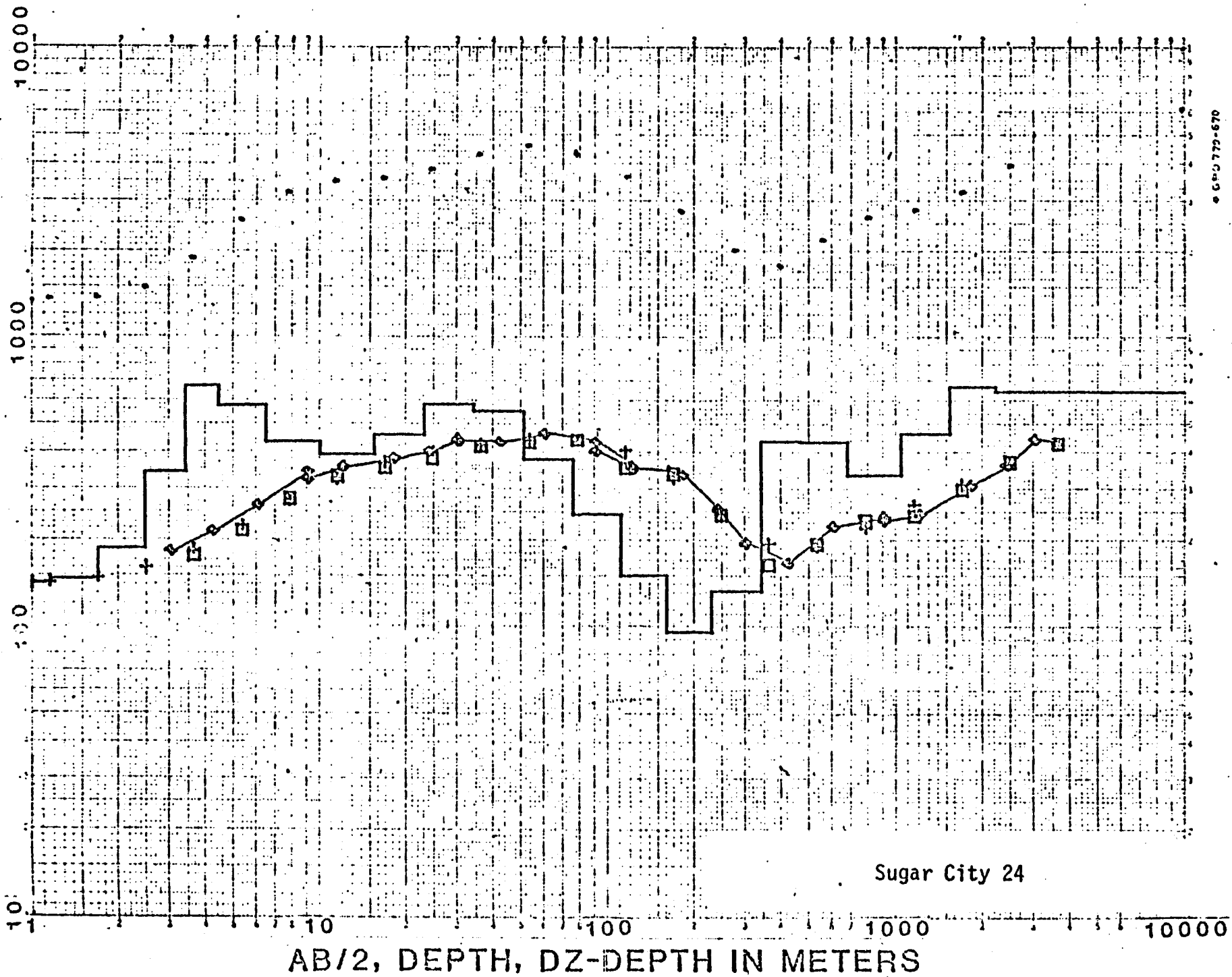
Sugar City 22

47



Sugar City 23

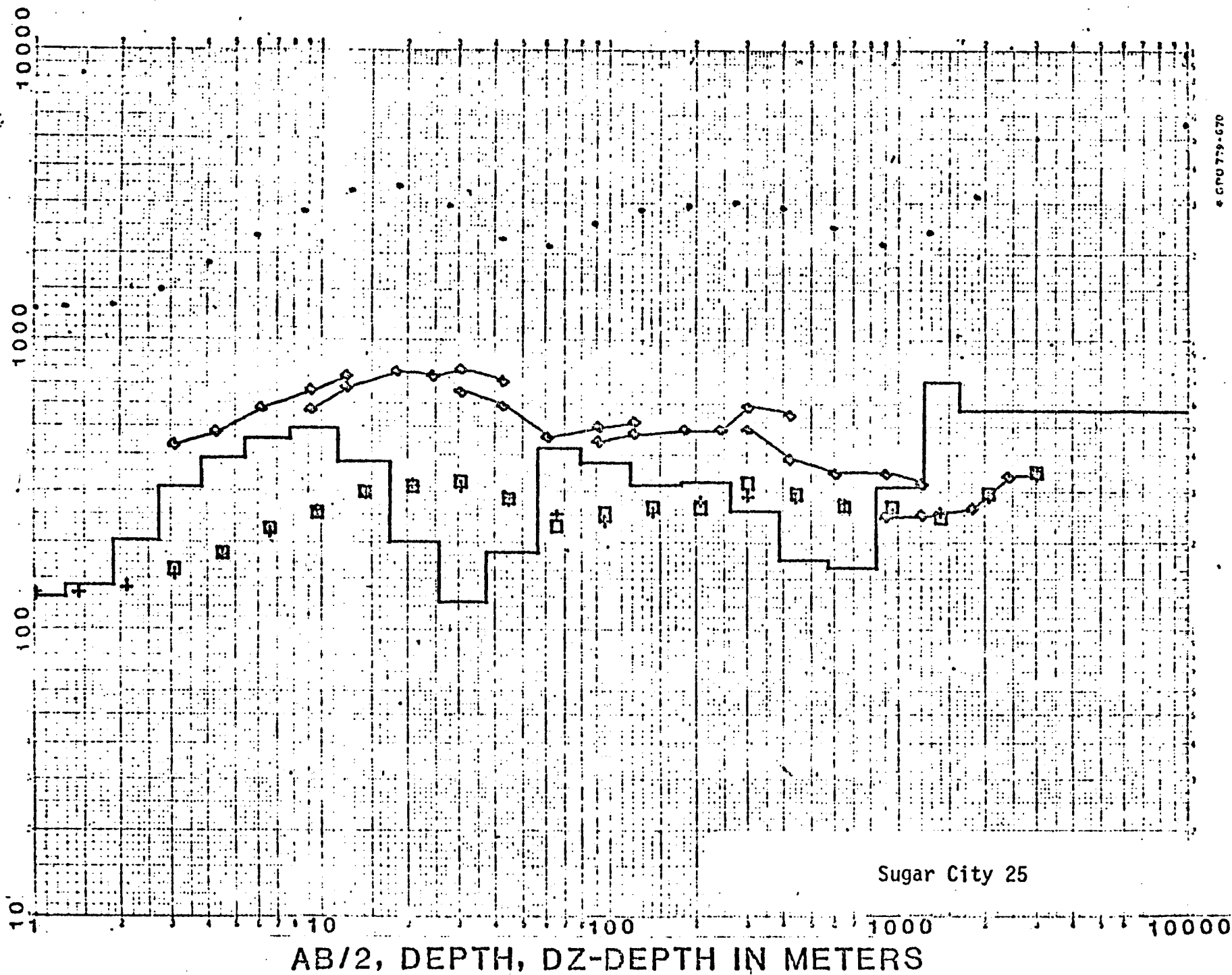
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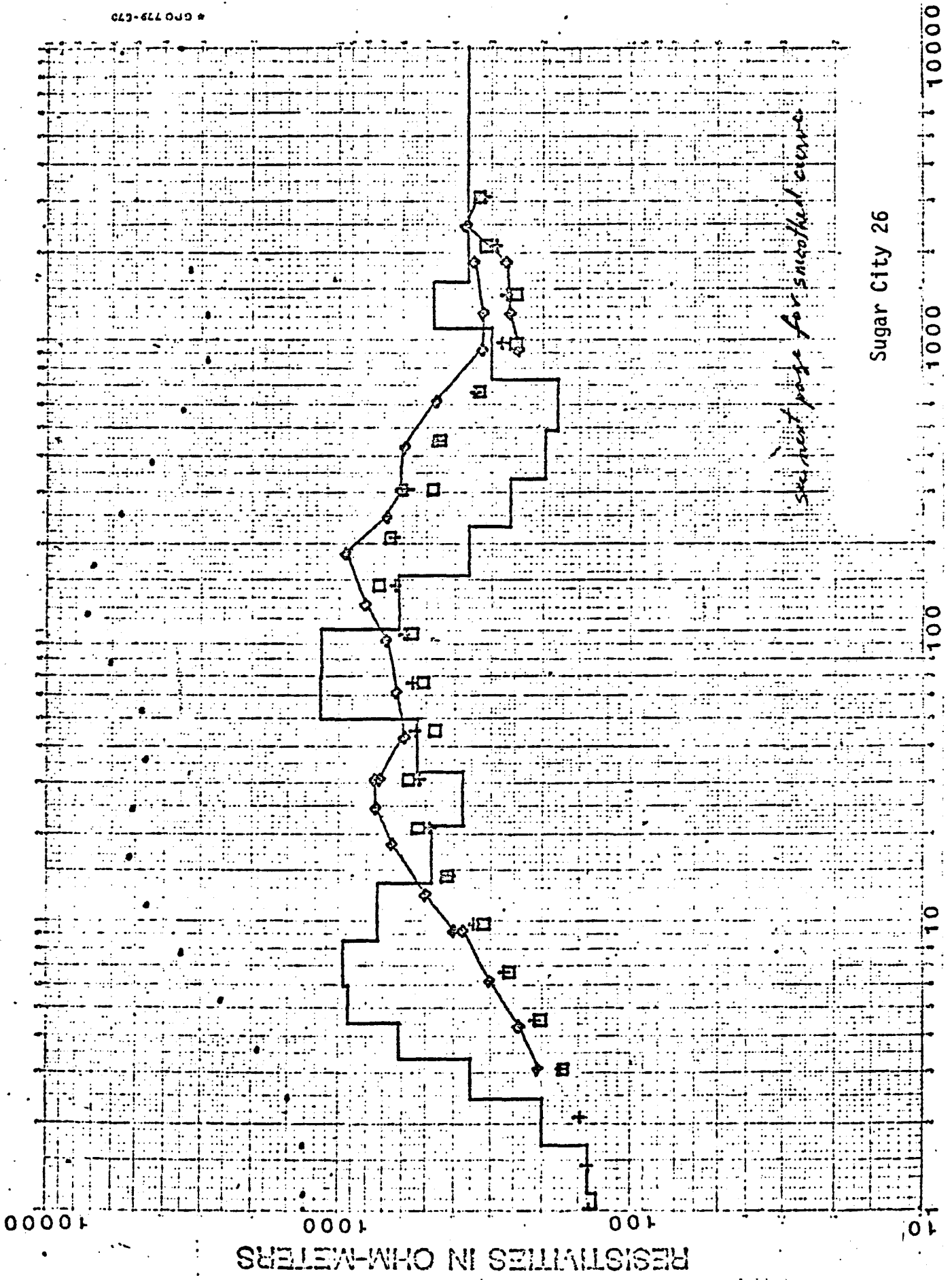
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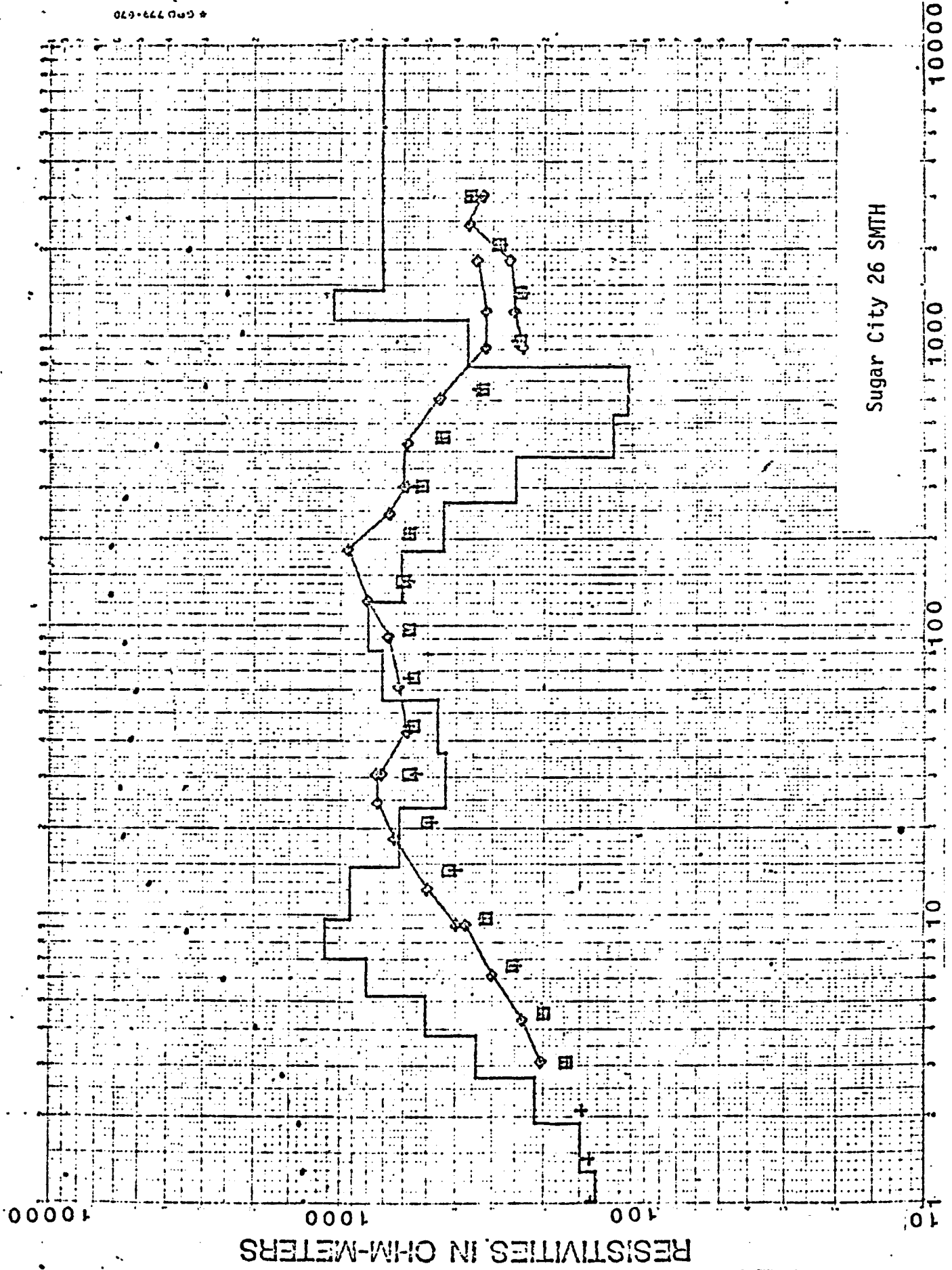
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RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS



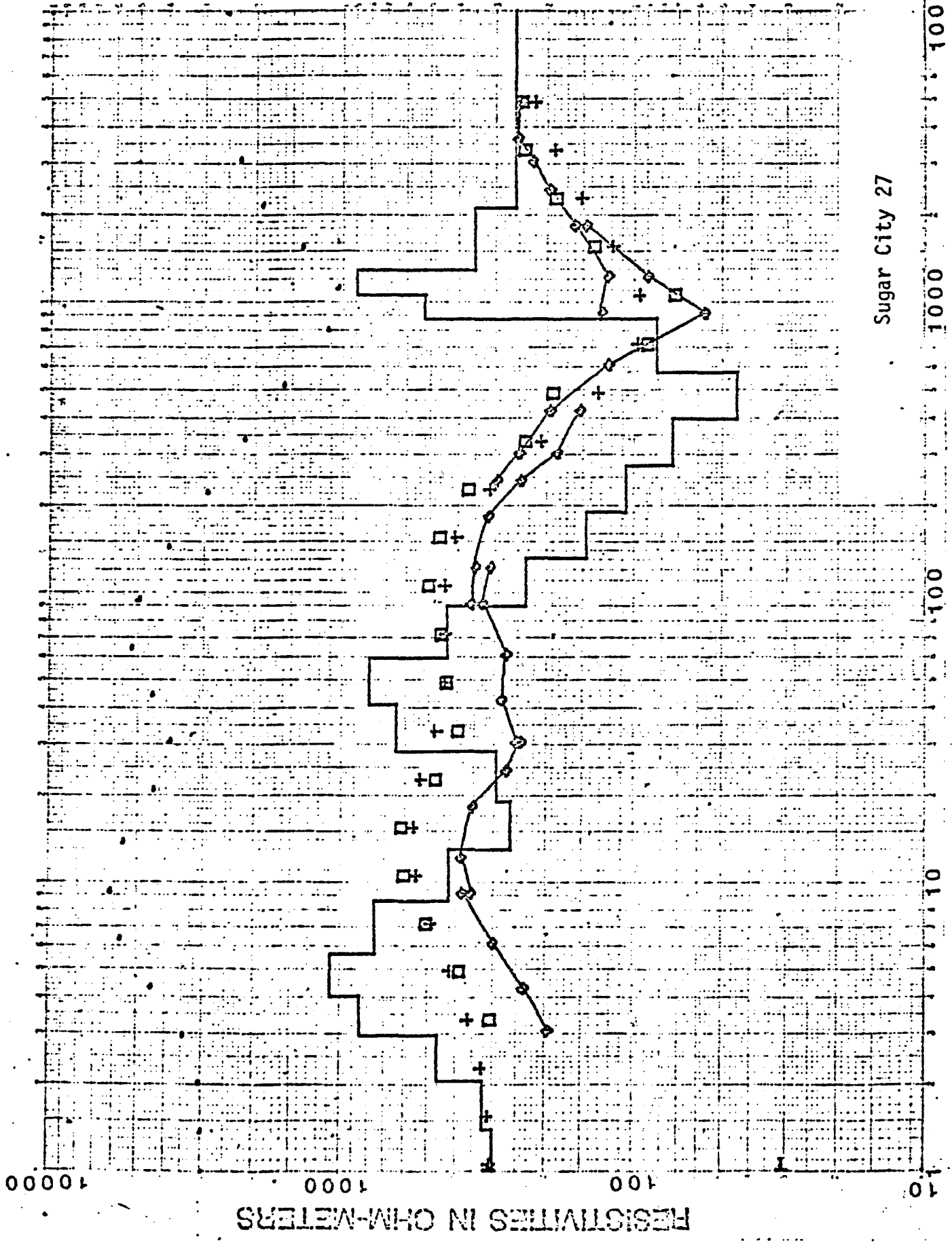
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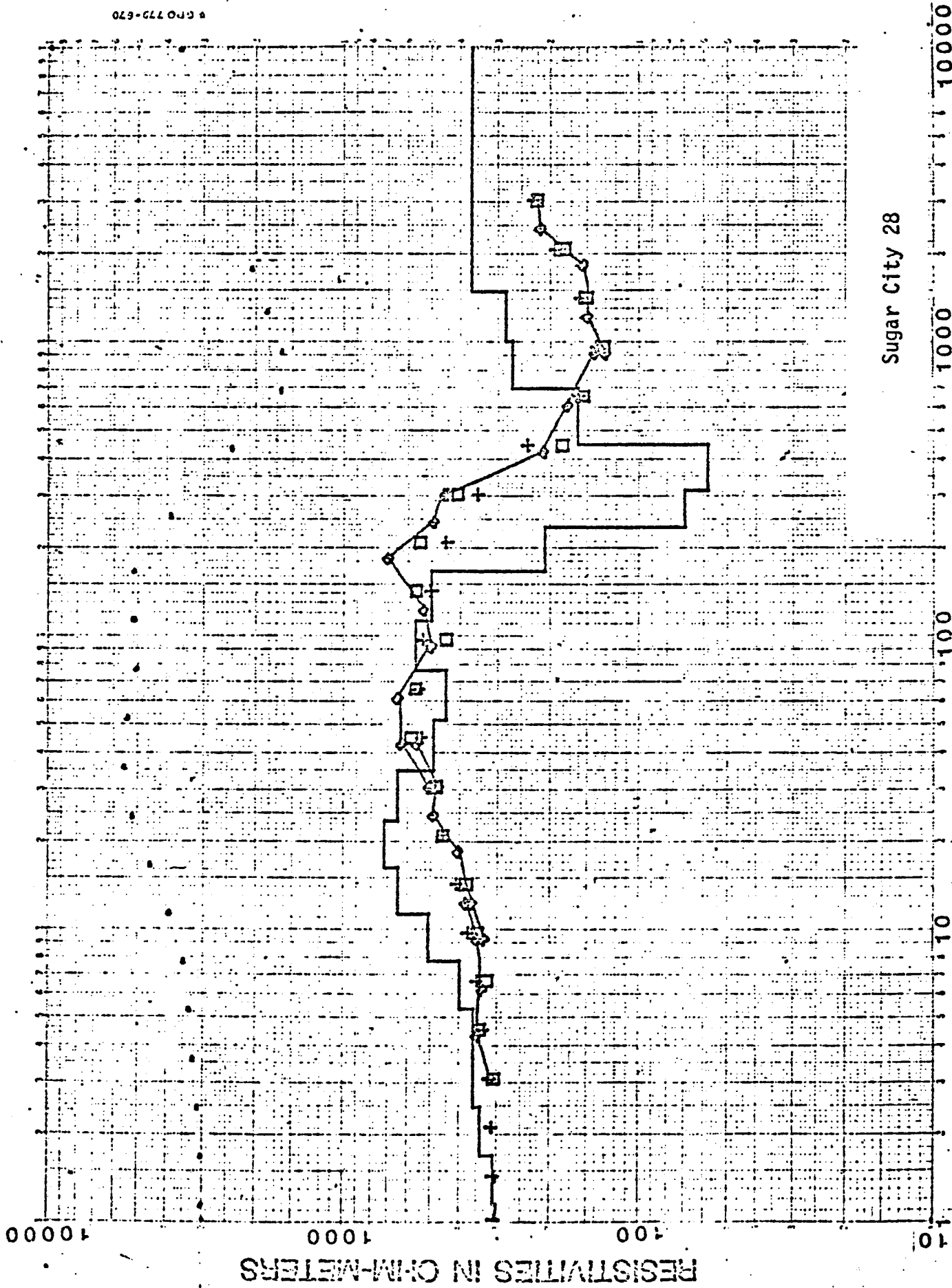
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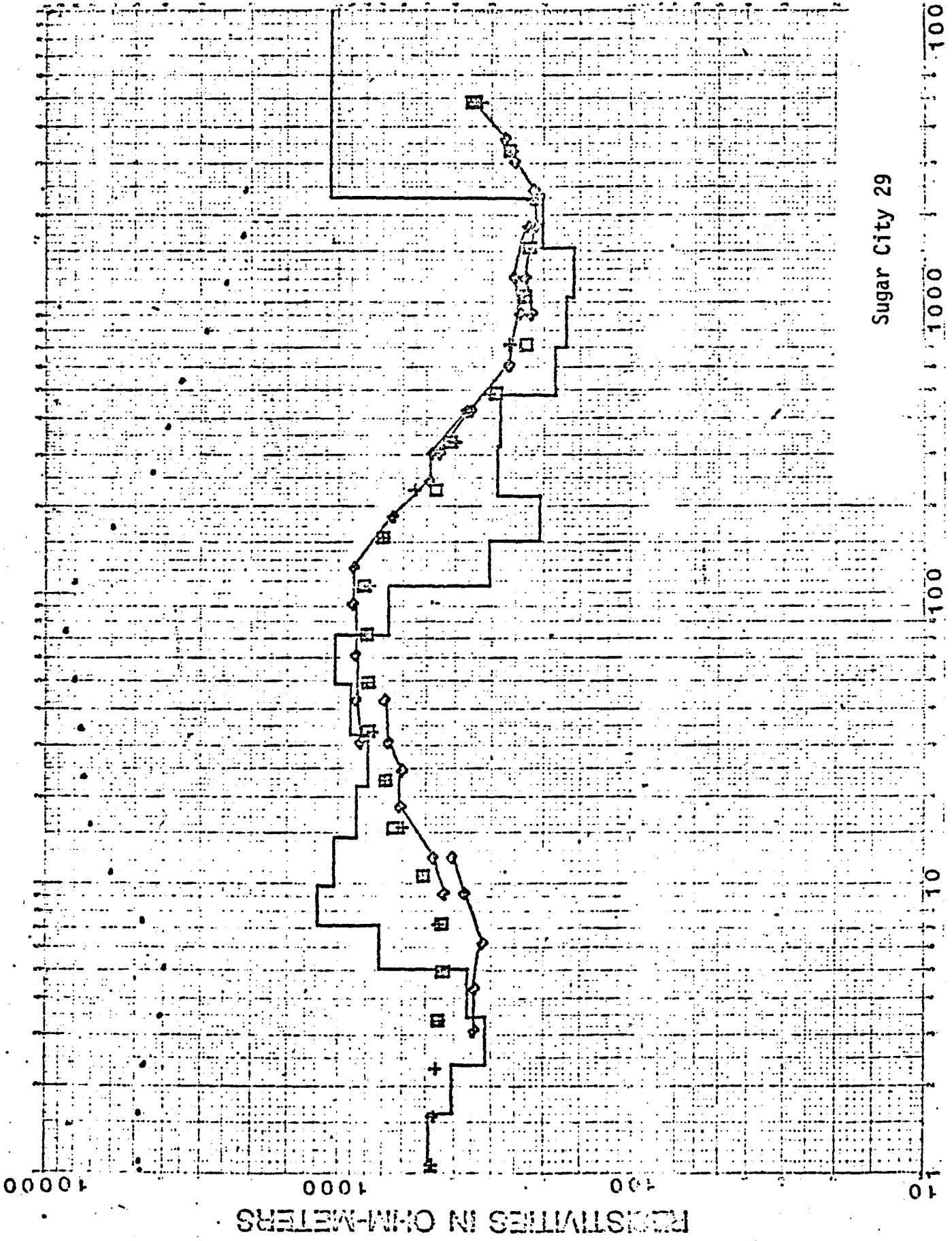
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS



AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

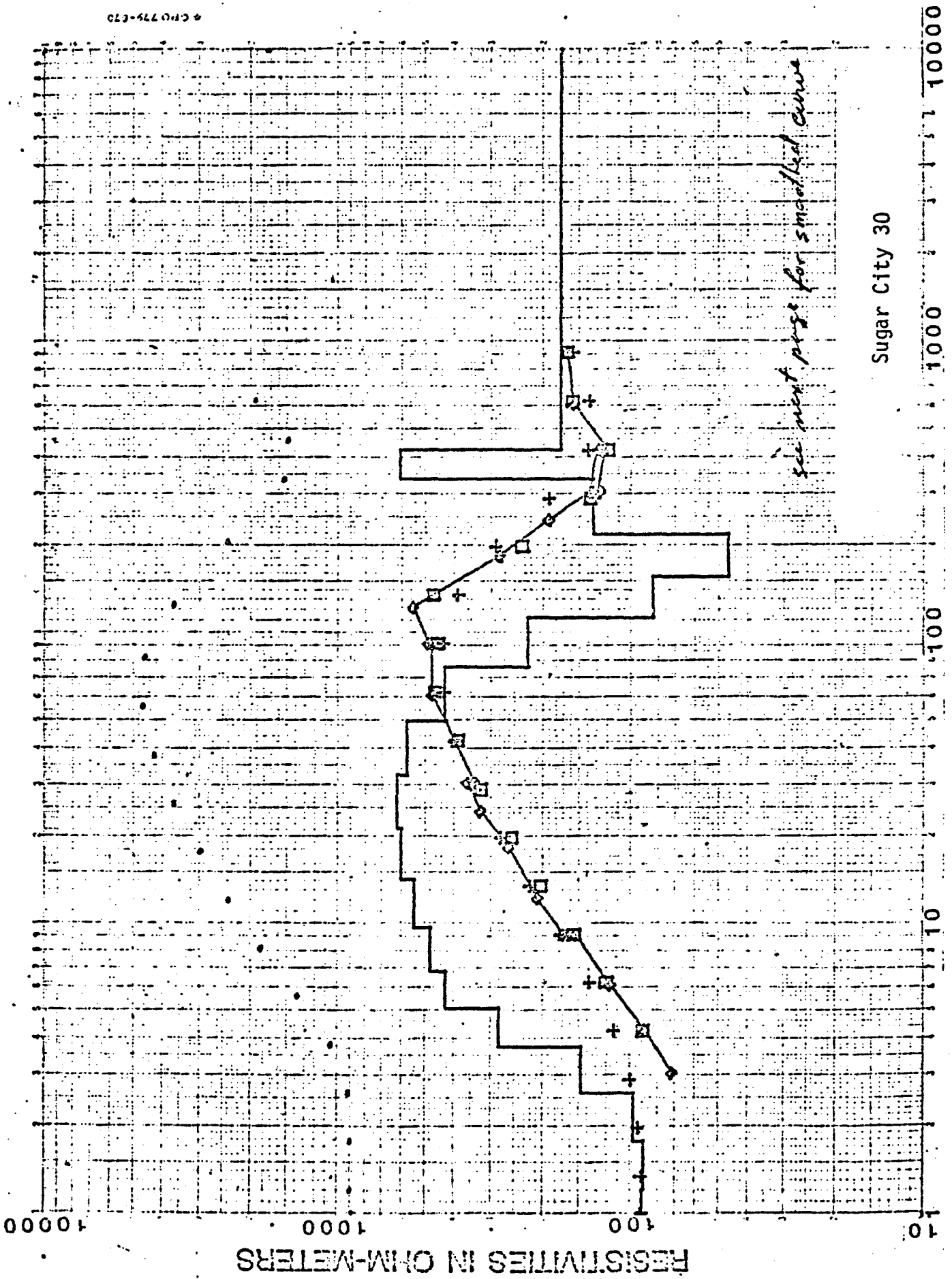
Sugar City 27

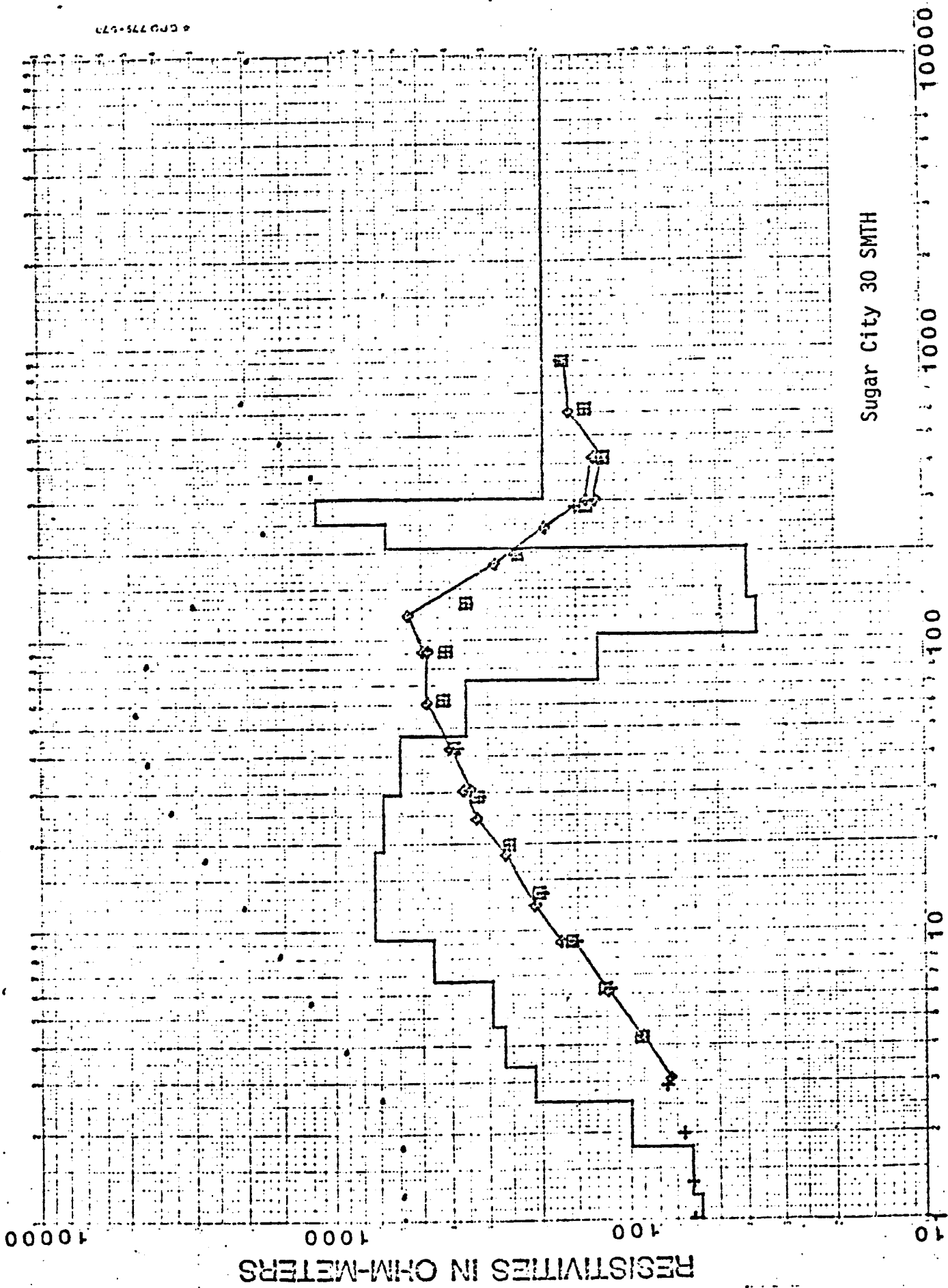


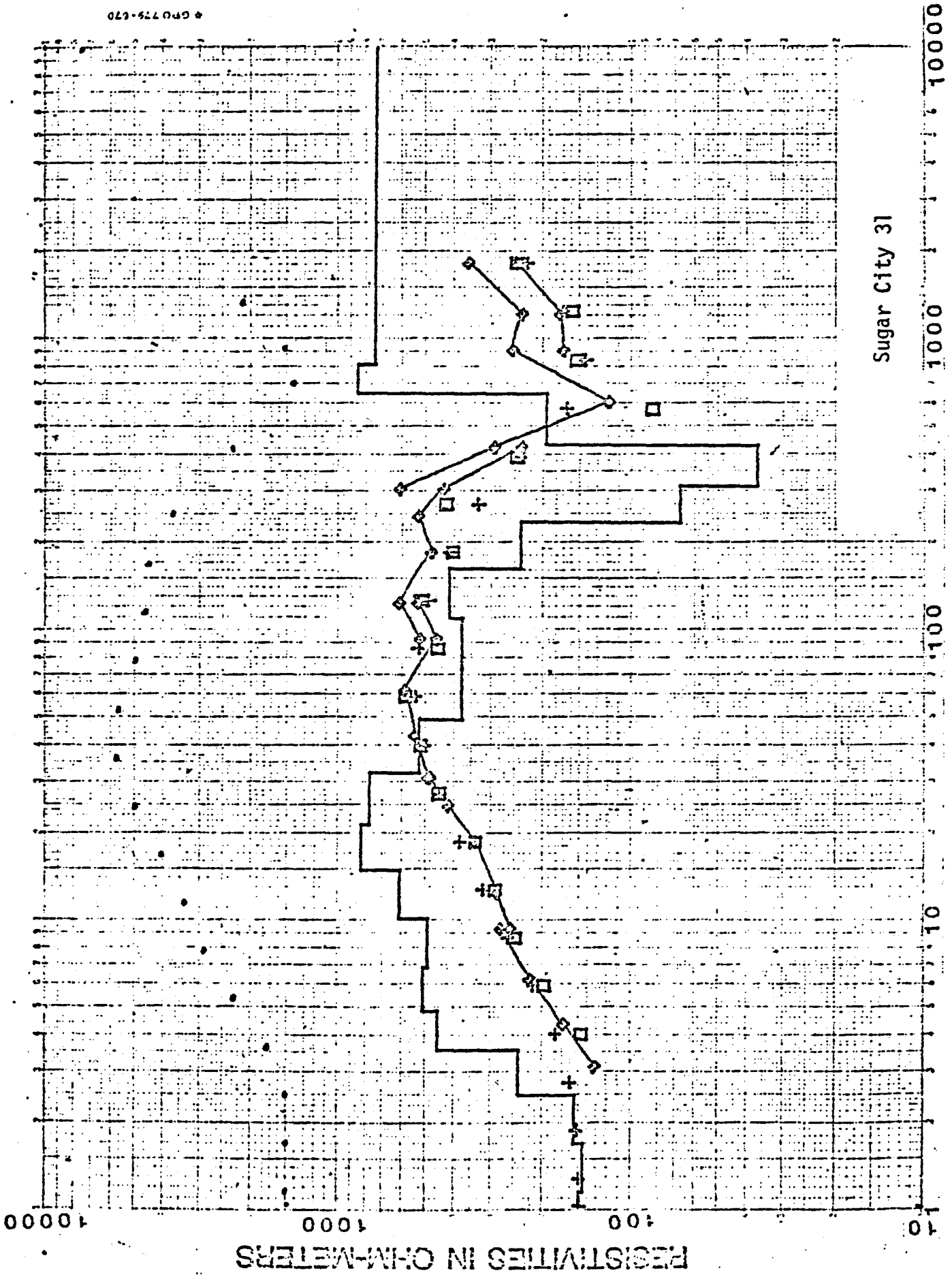


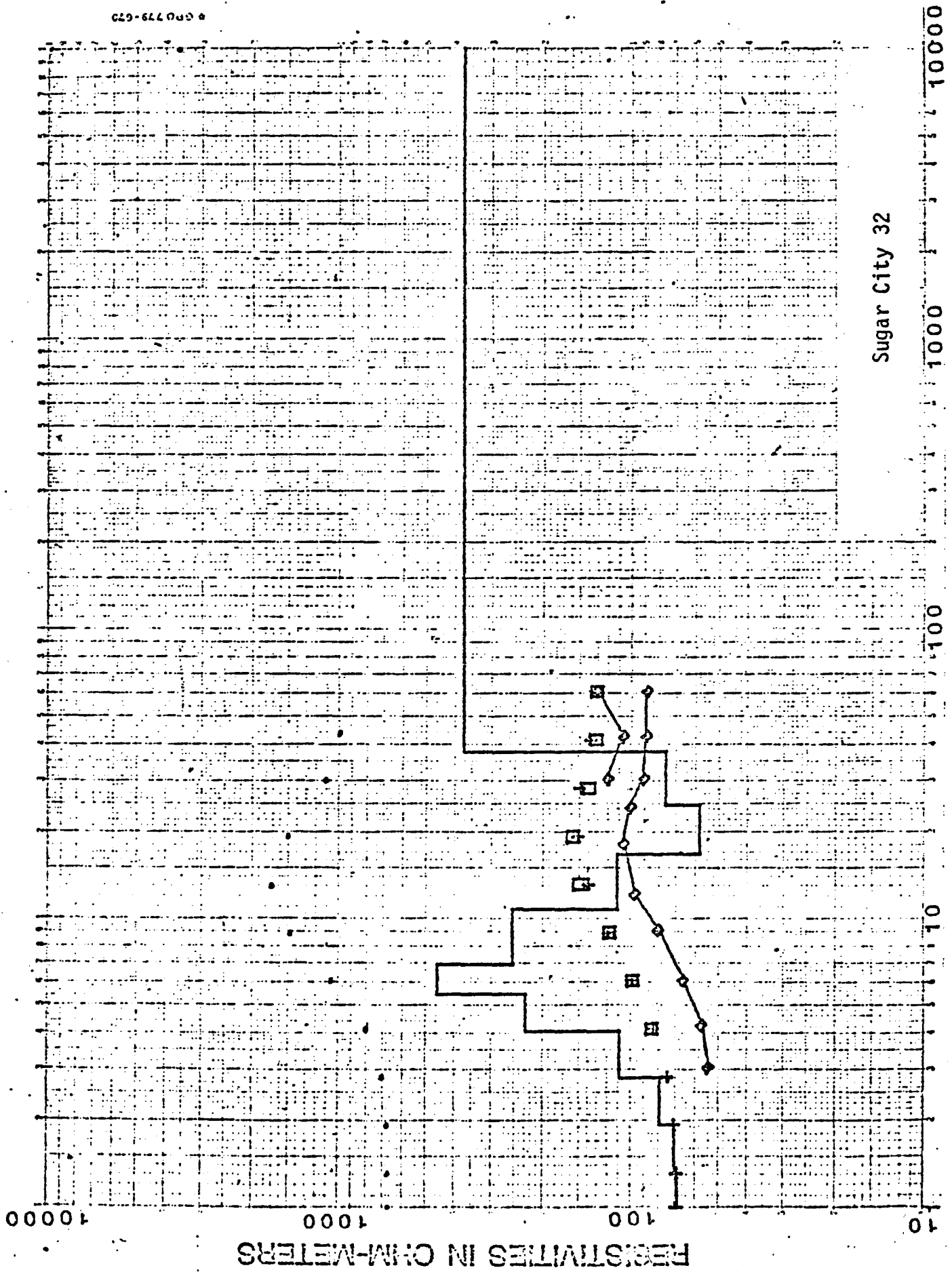
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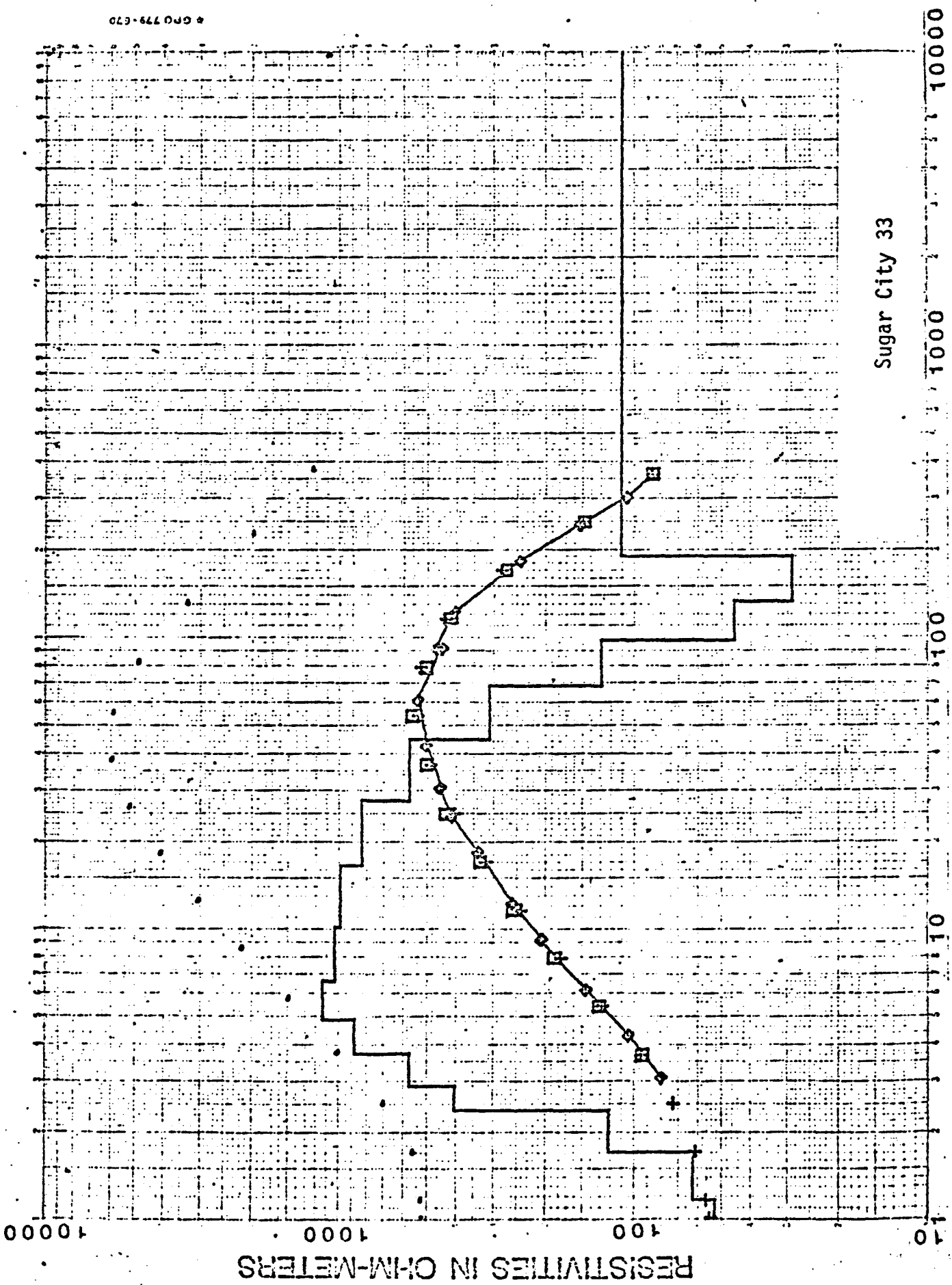
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

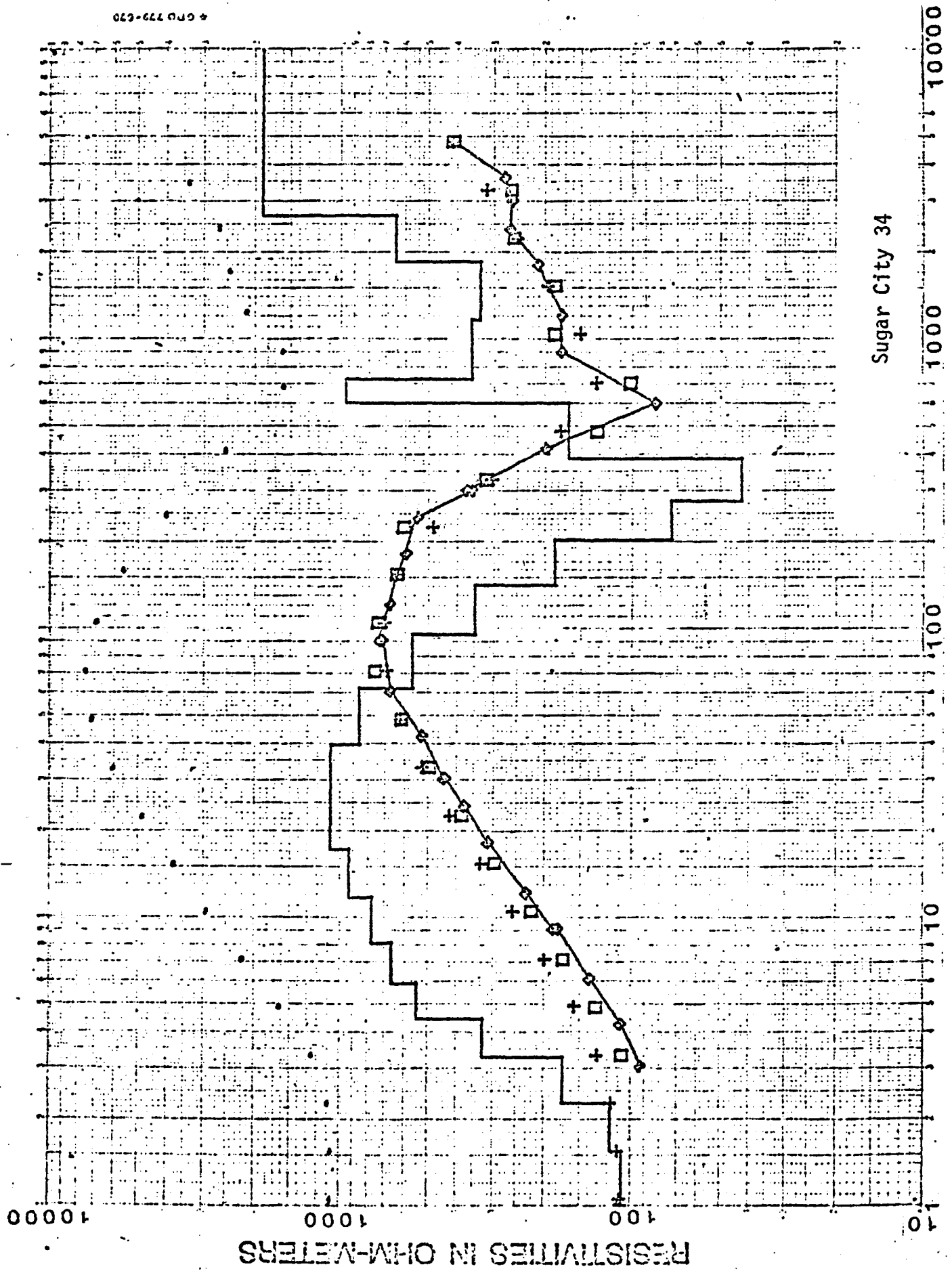






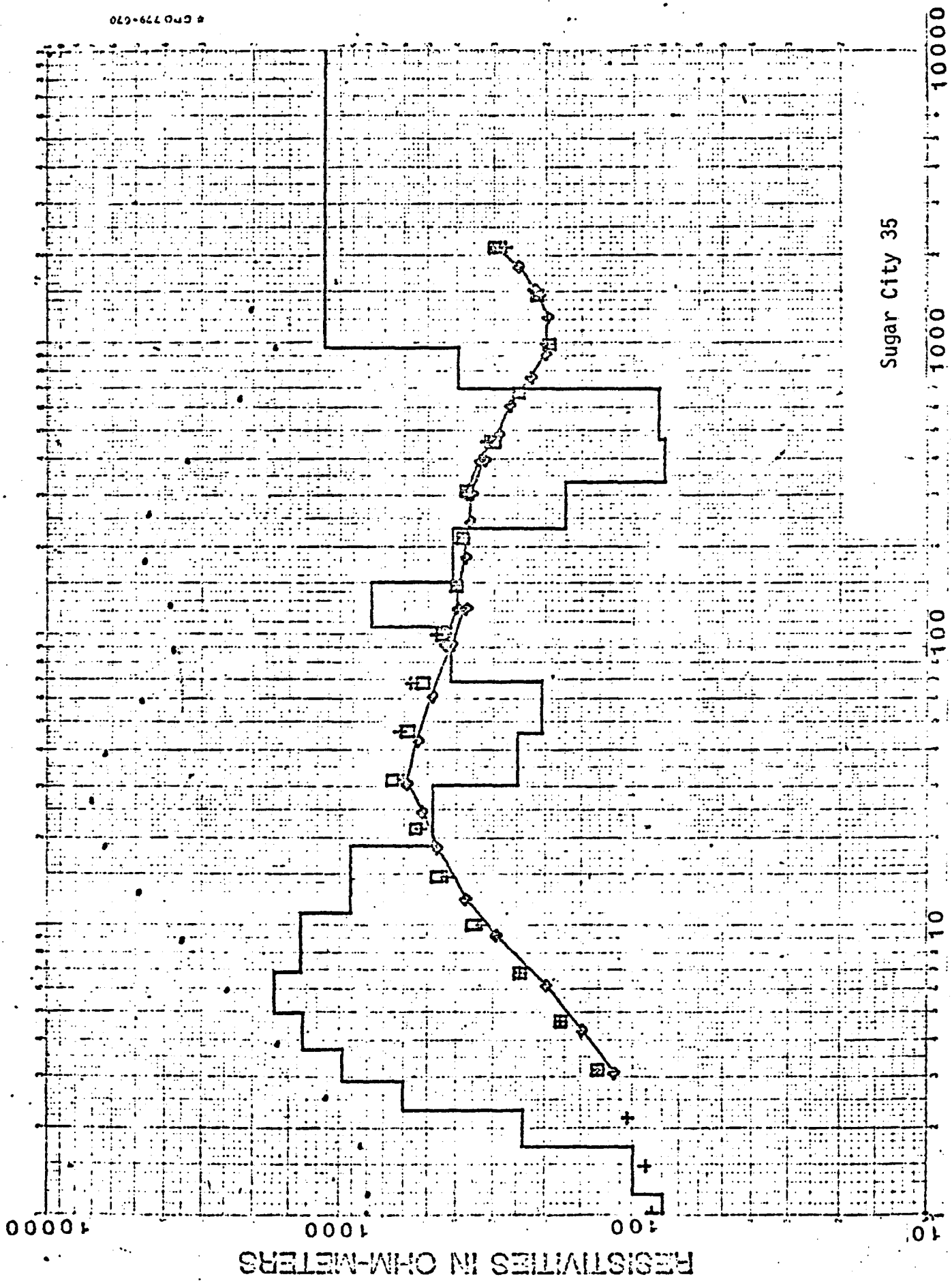


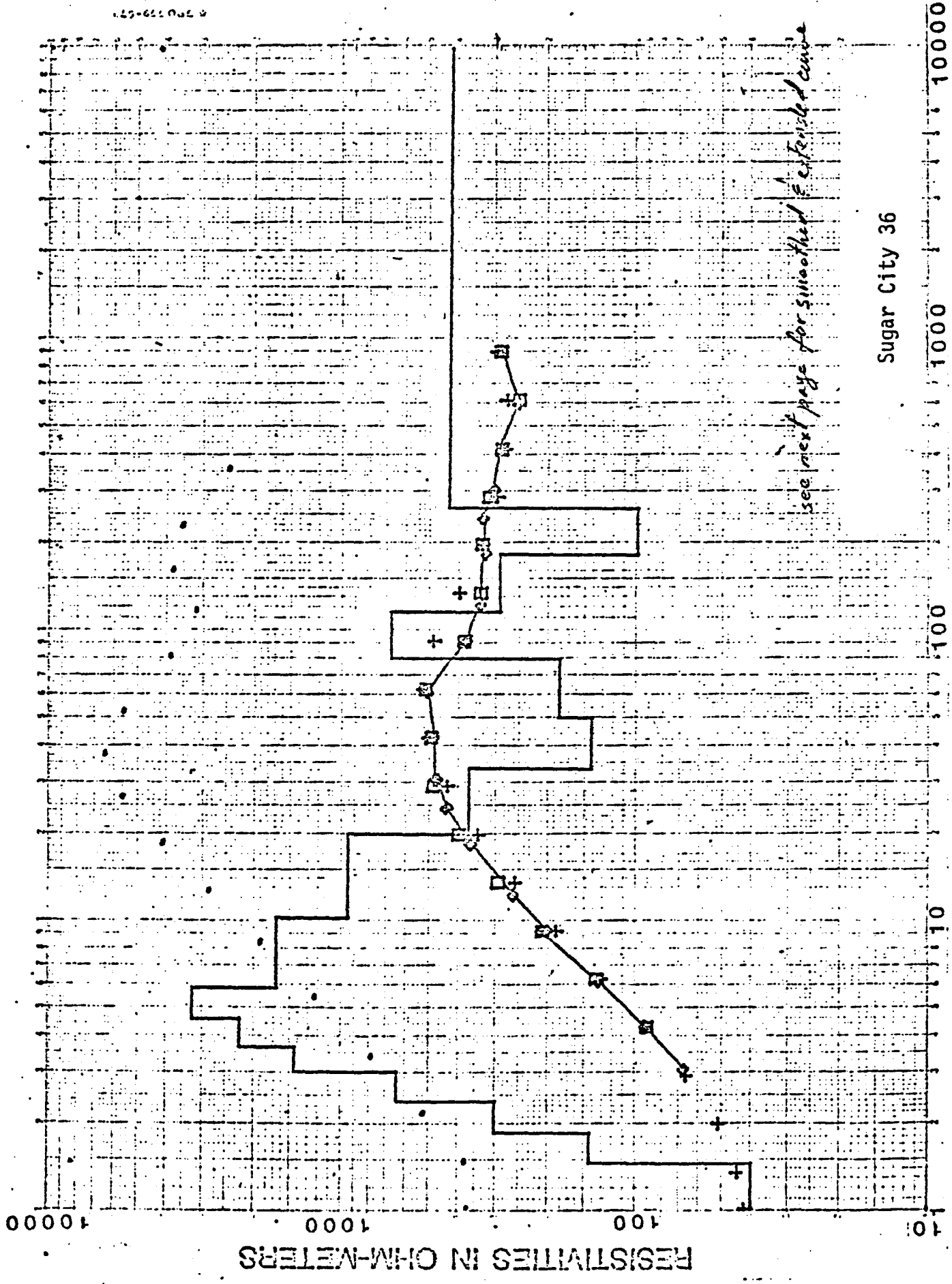




Sugar City 34

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

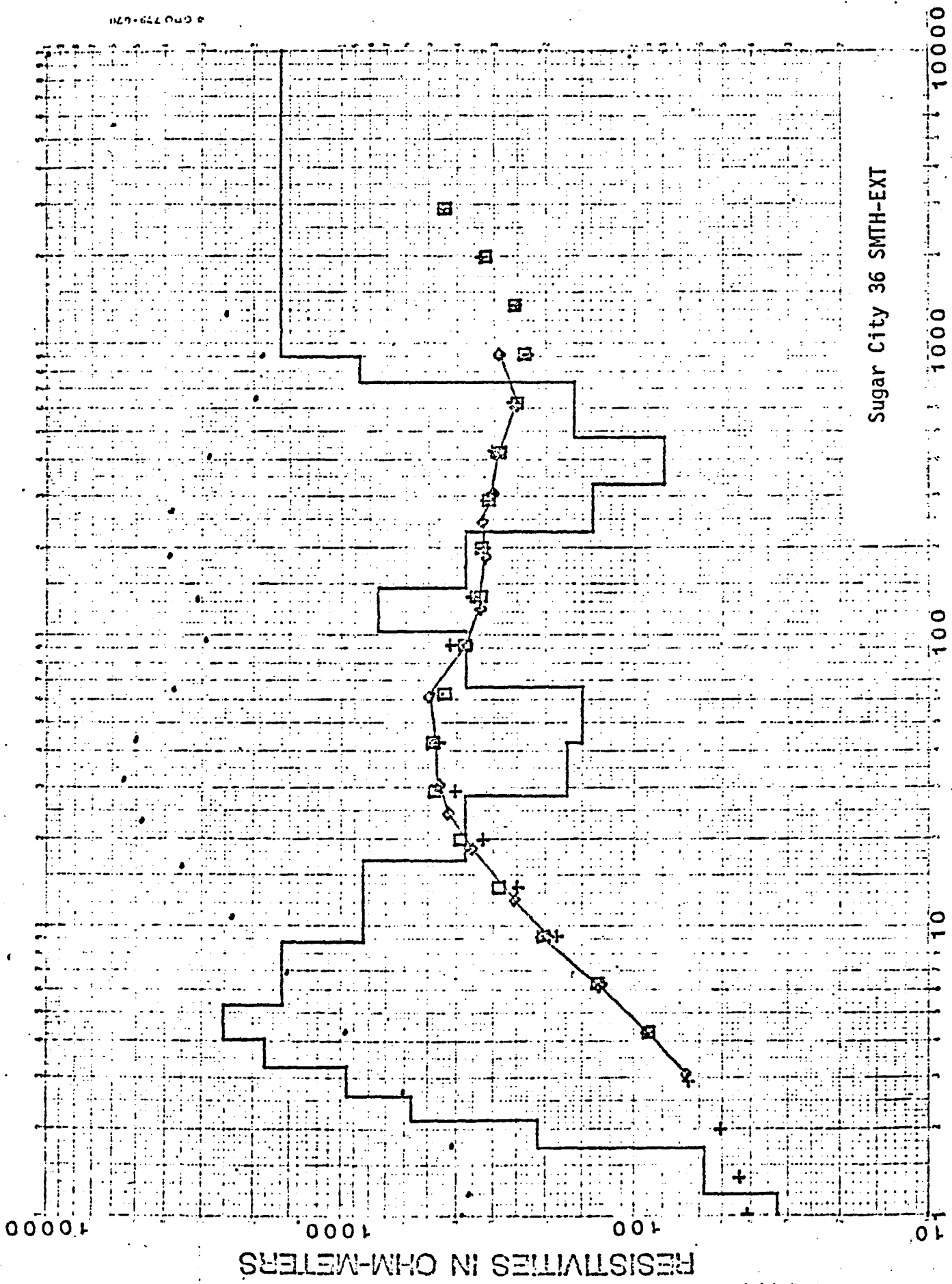


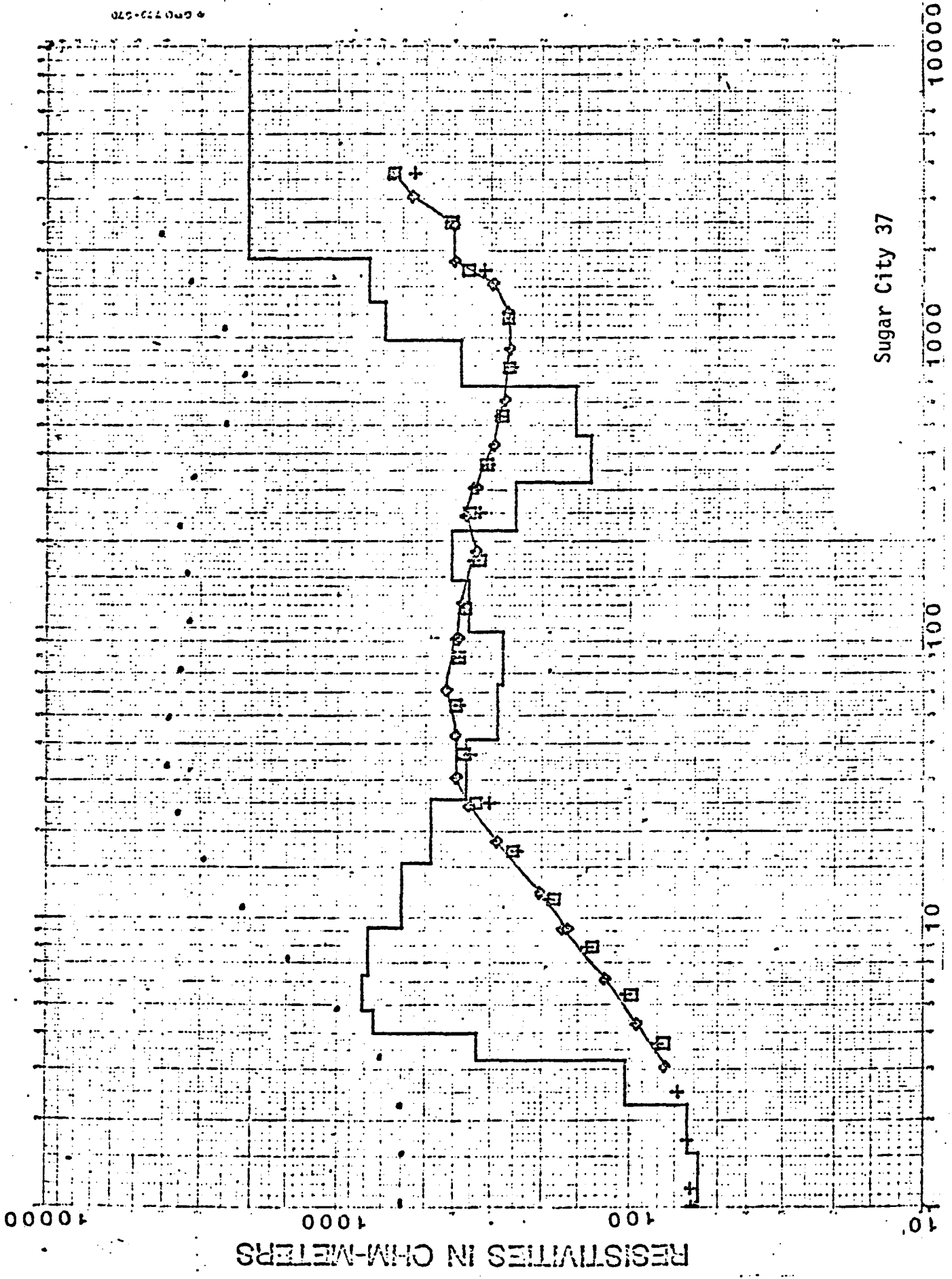


Sugar City 36

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

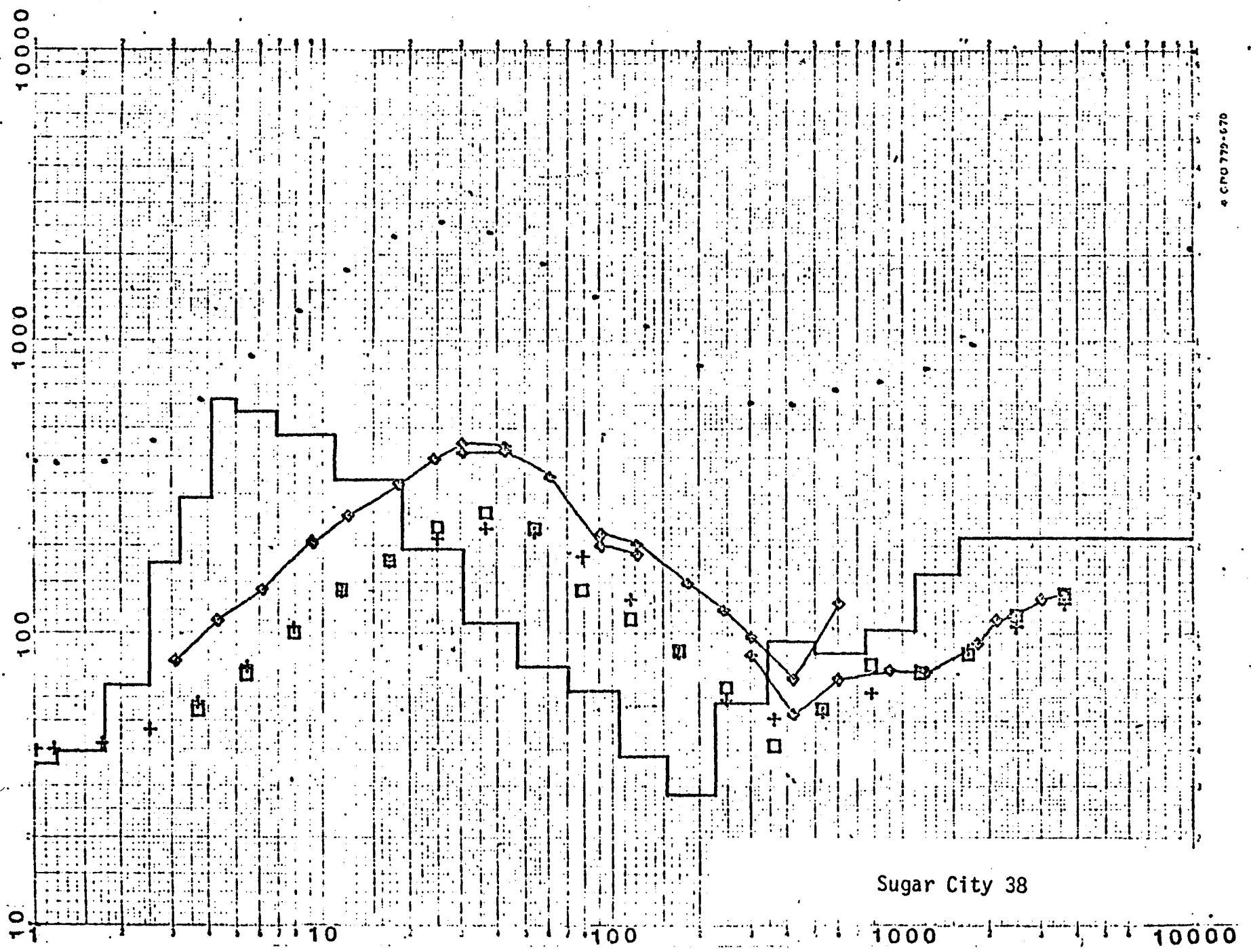
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS





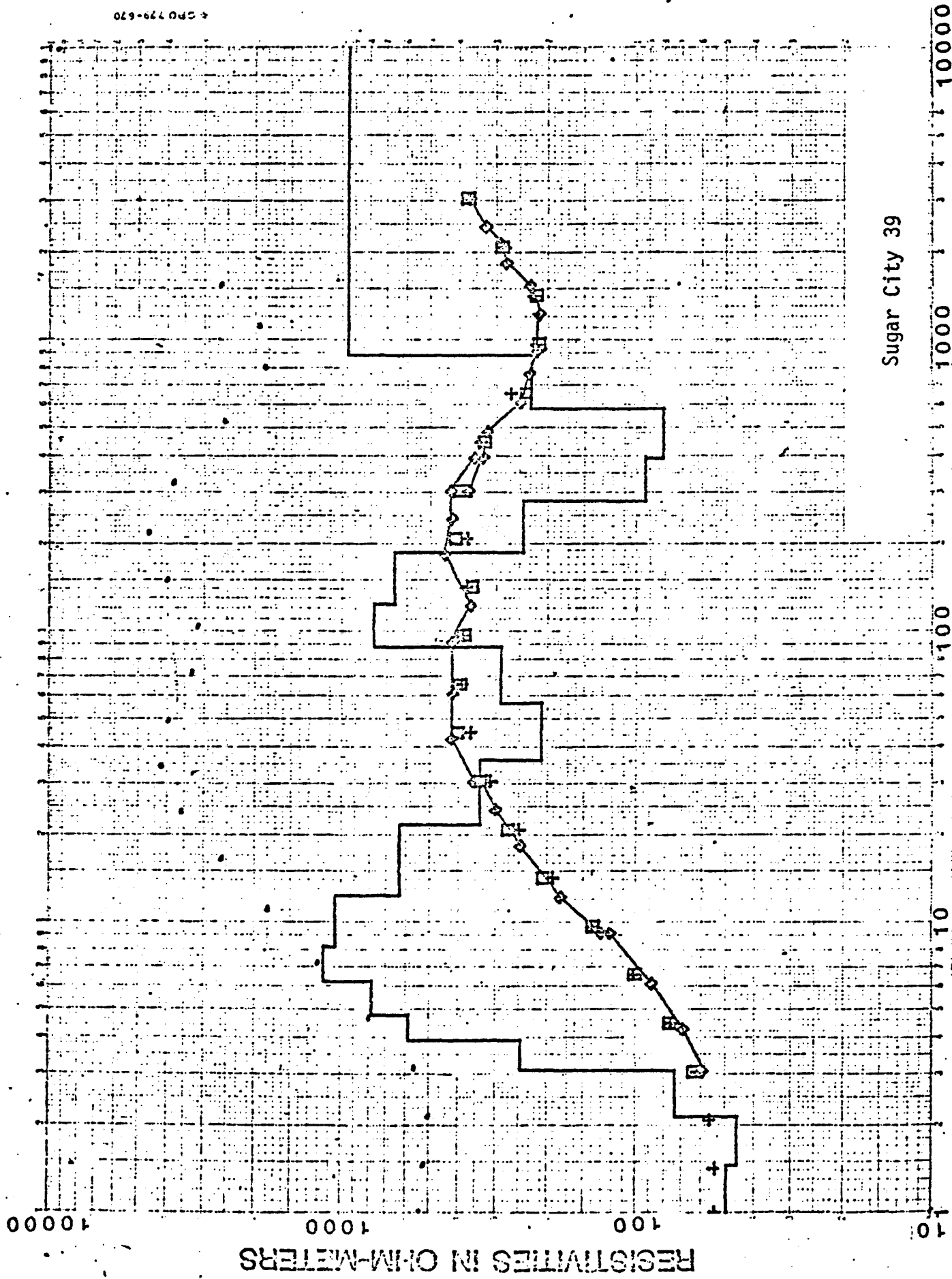
67

RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS



Sugar City 38

4 CPO 779-670

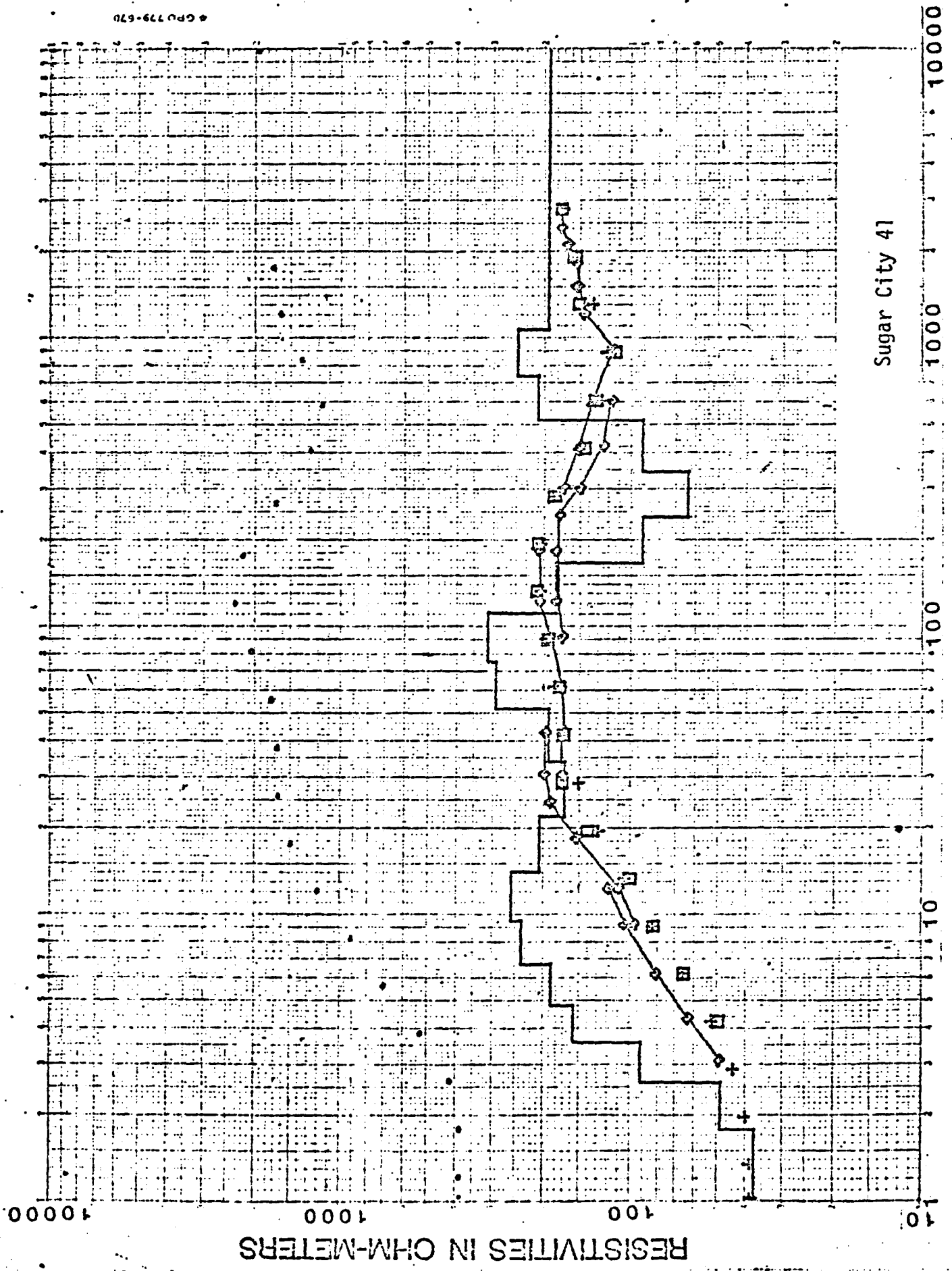


Sugar City 39

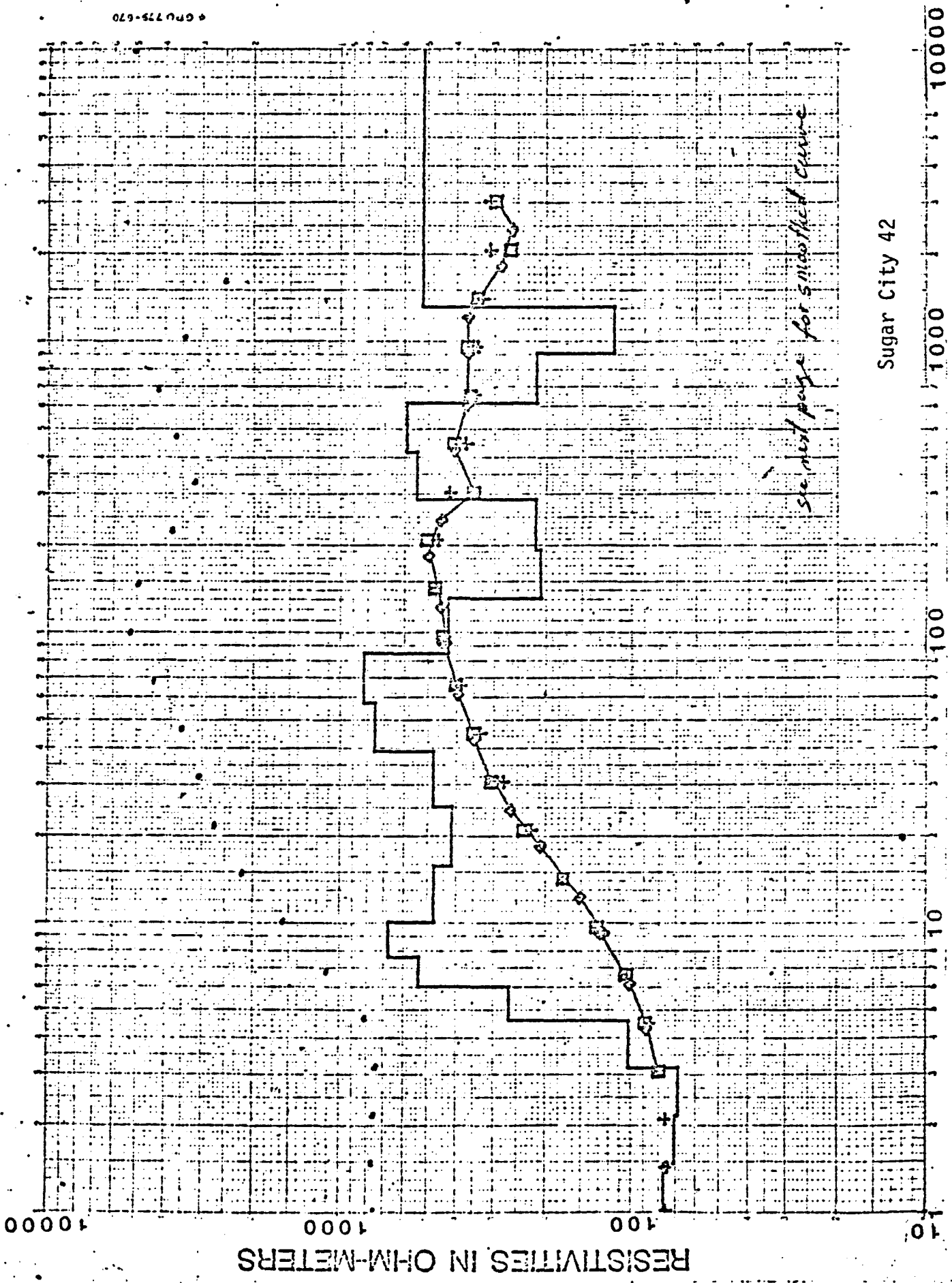
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

4-CNO 779-670

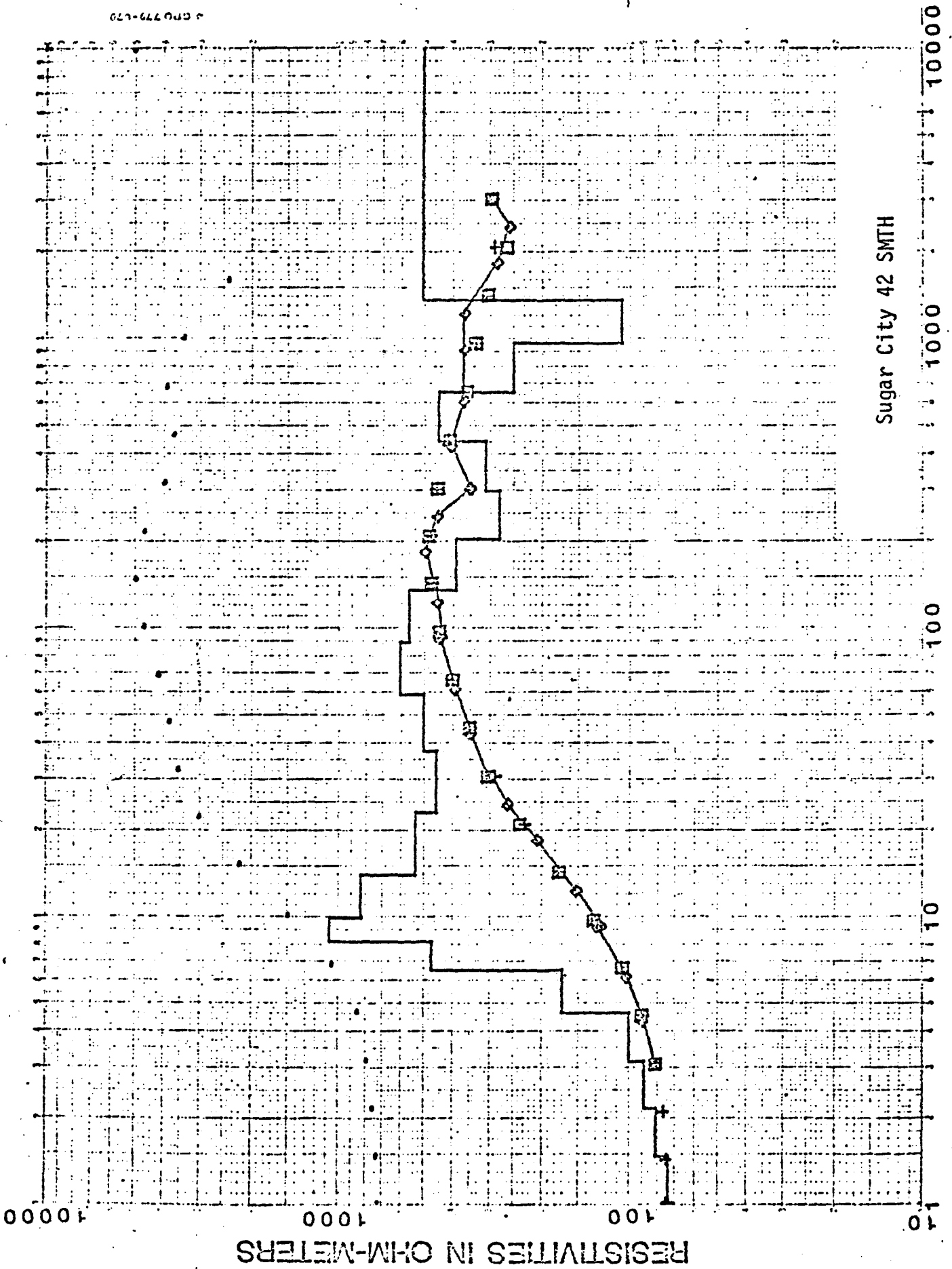


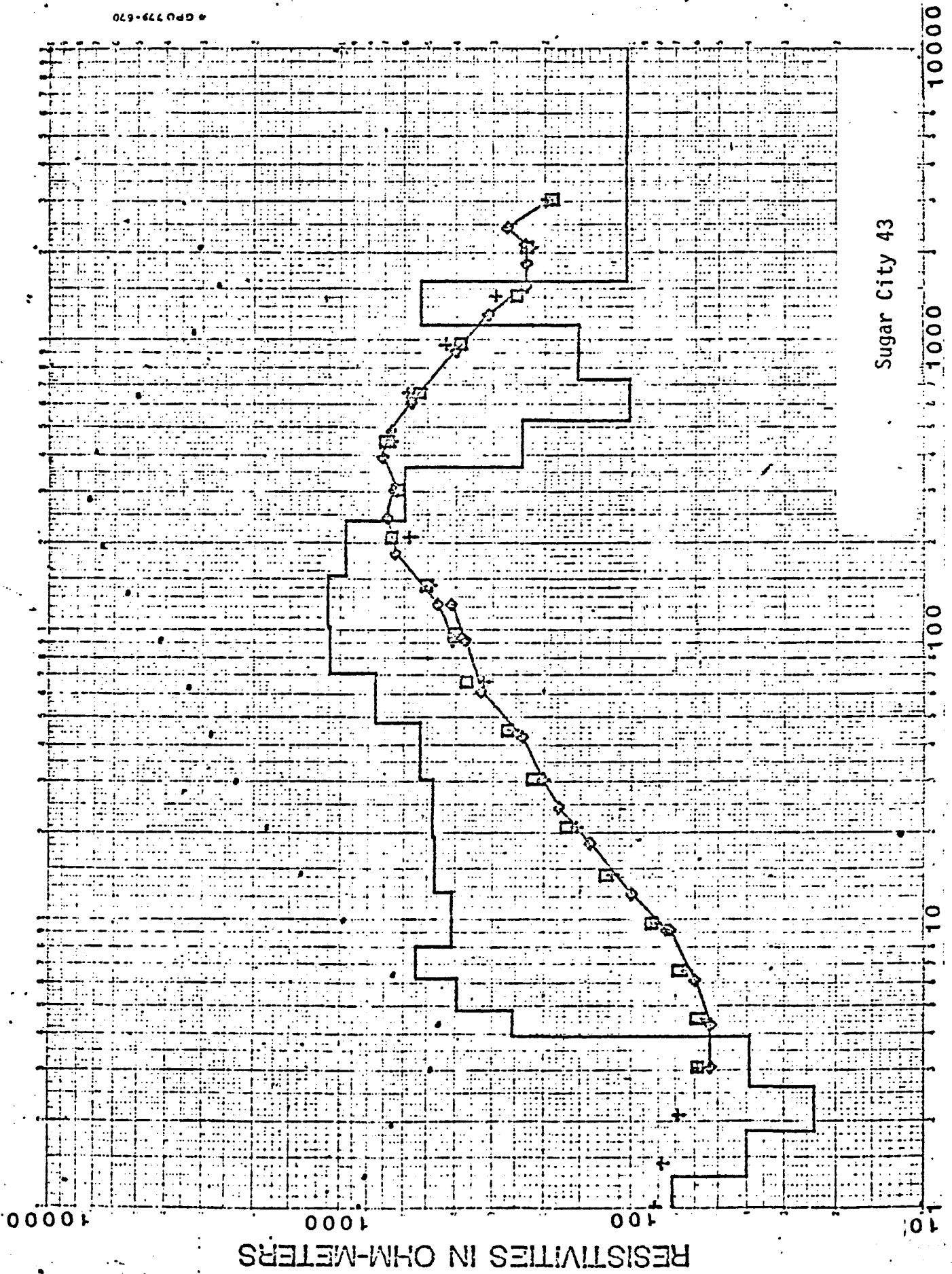
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS



Sugar City 42

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS



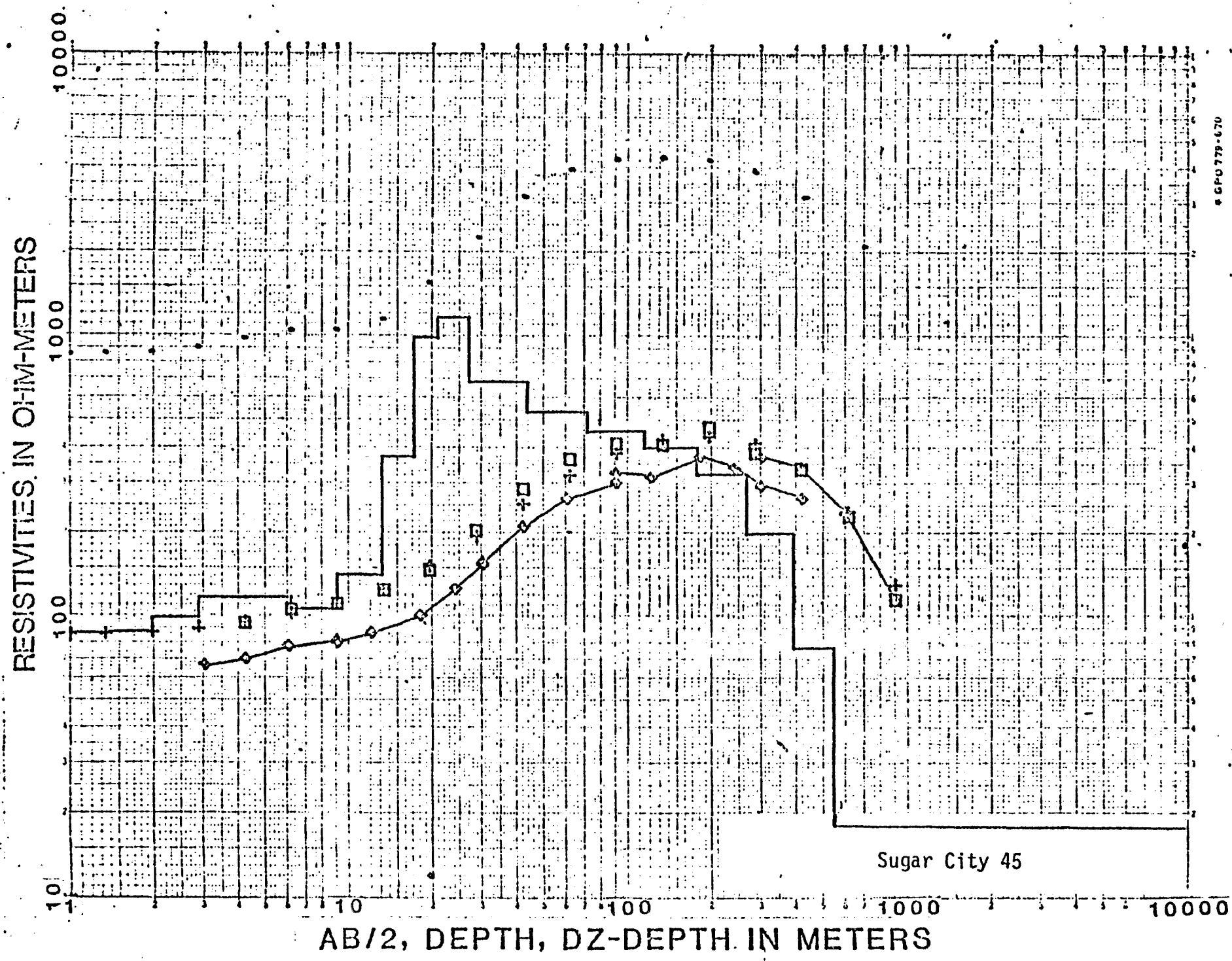


Sugar City 43

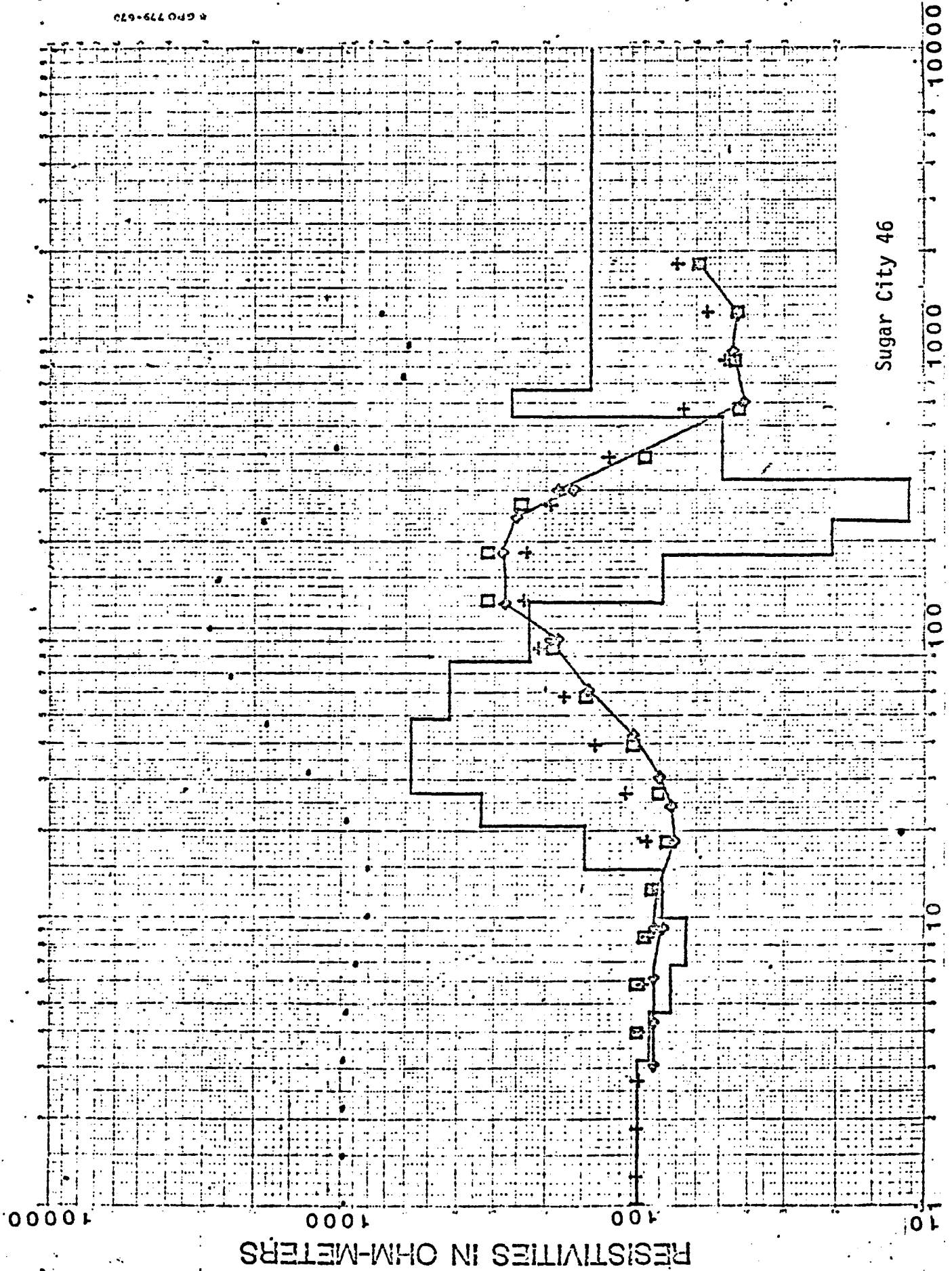
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

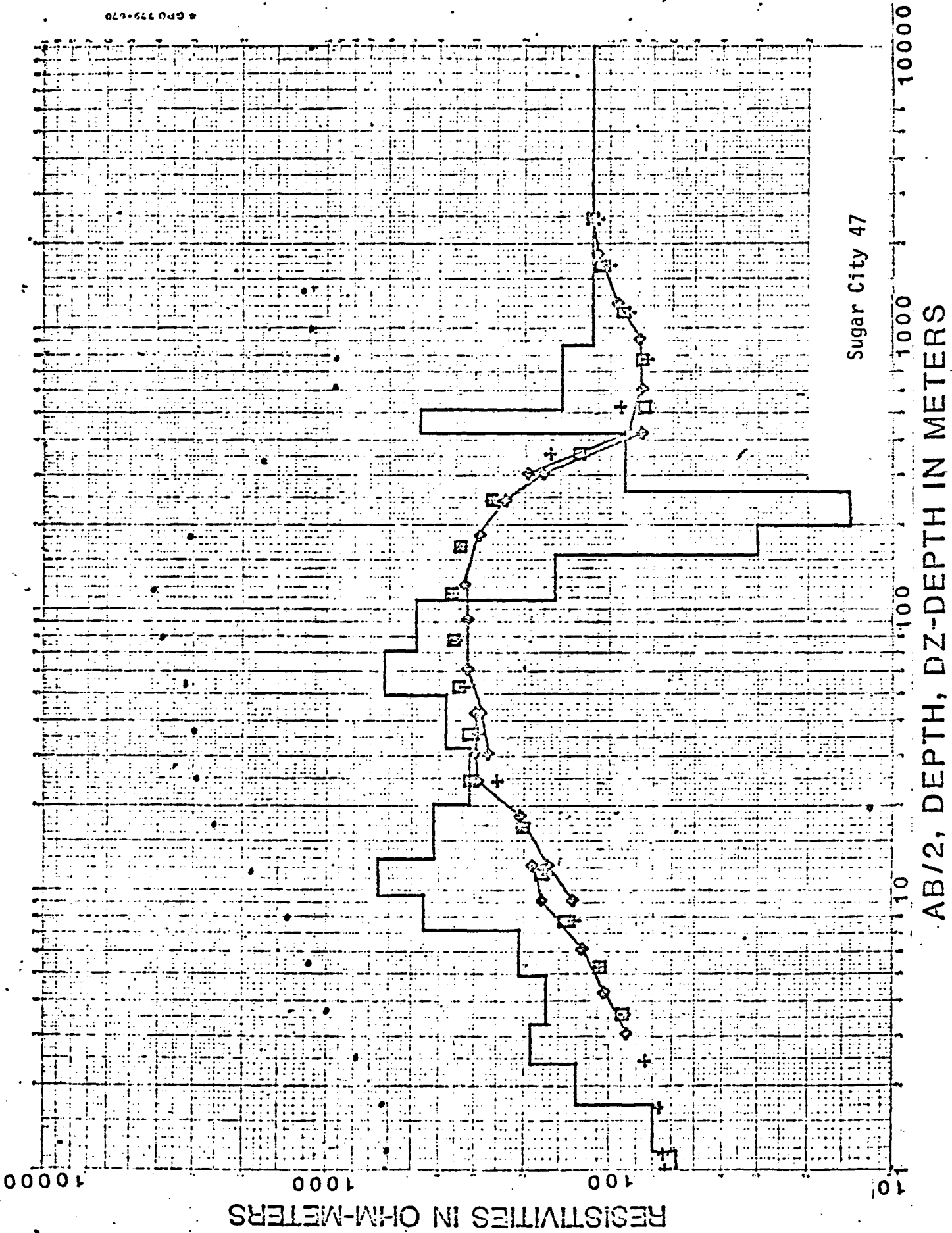
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

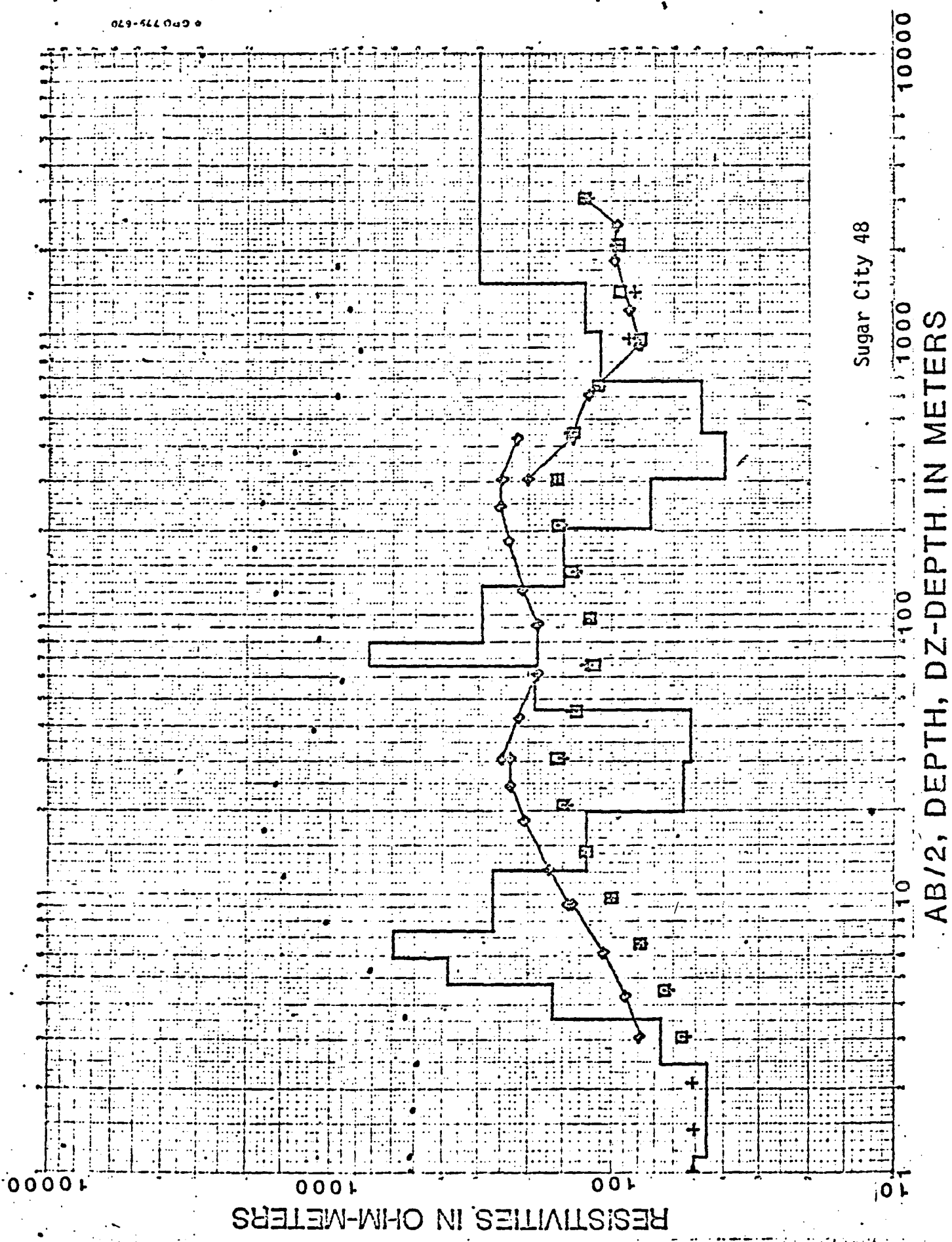
57



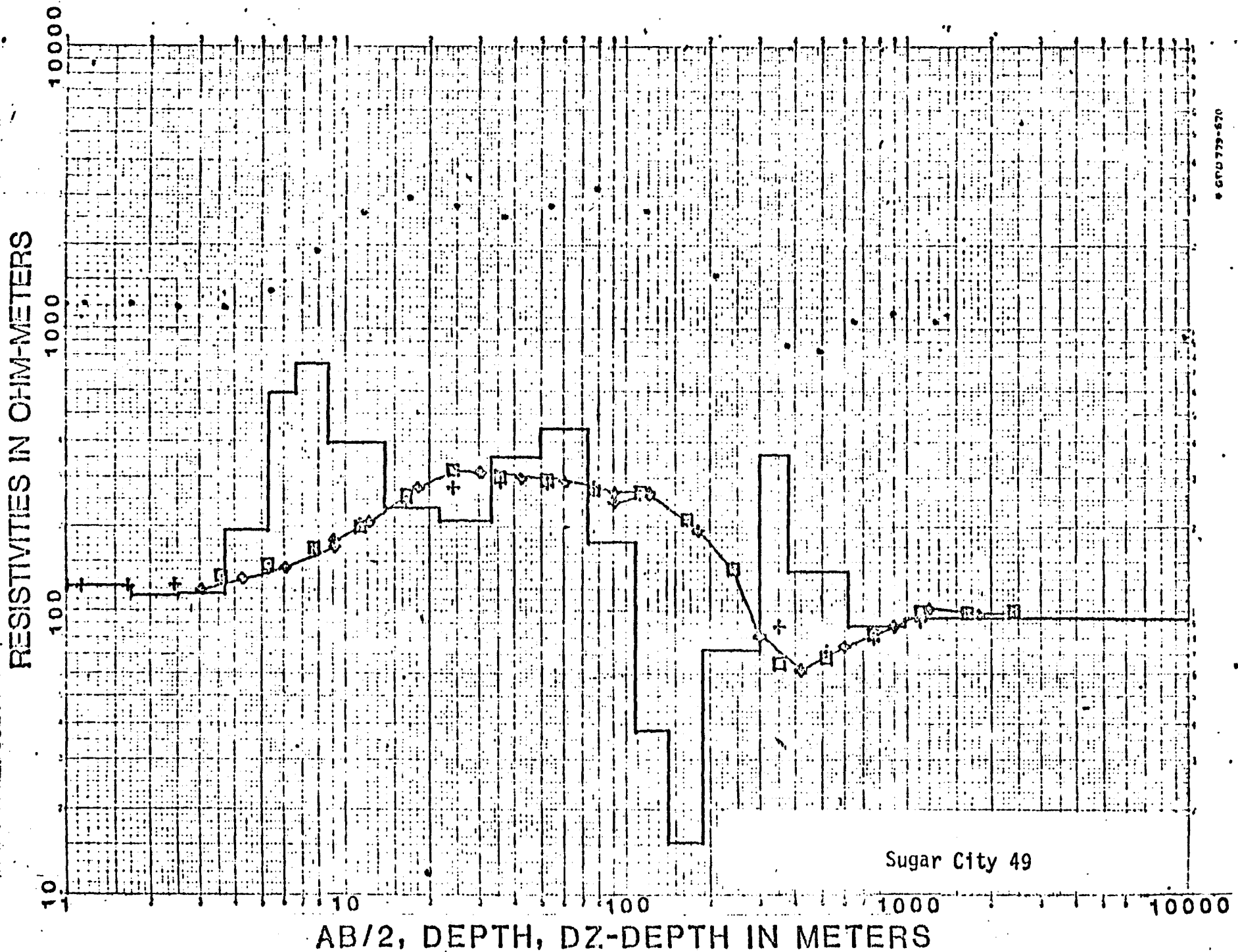
* GPO 779-670



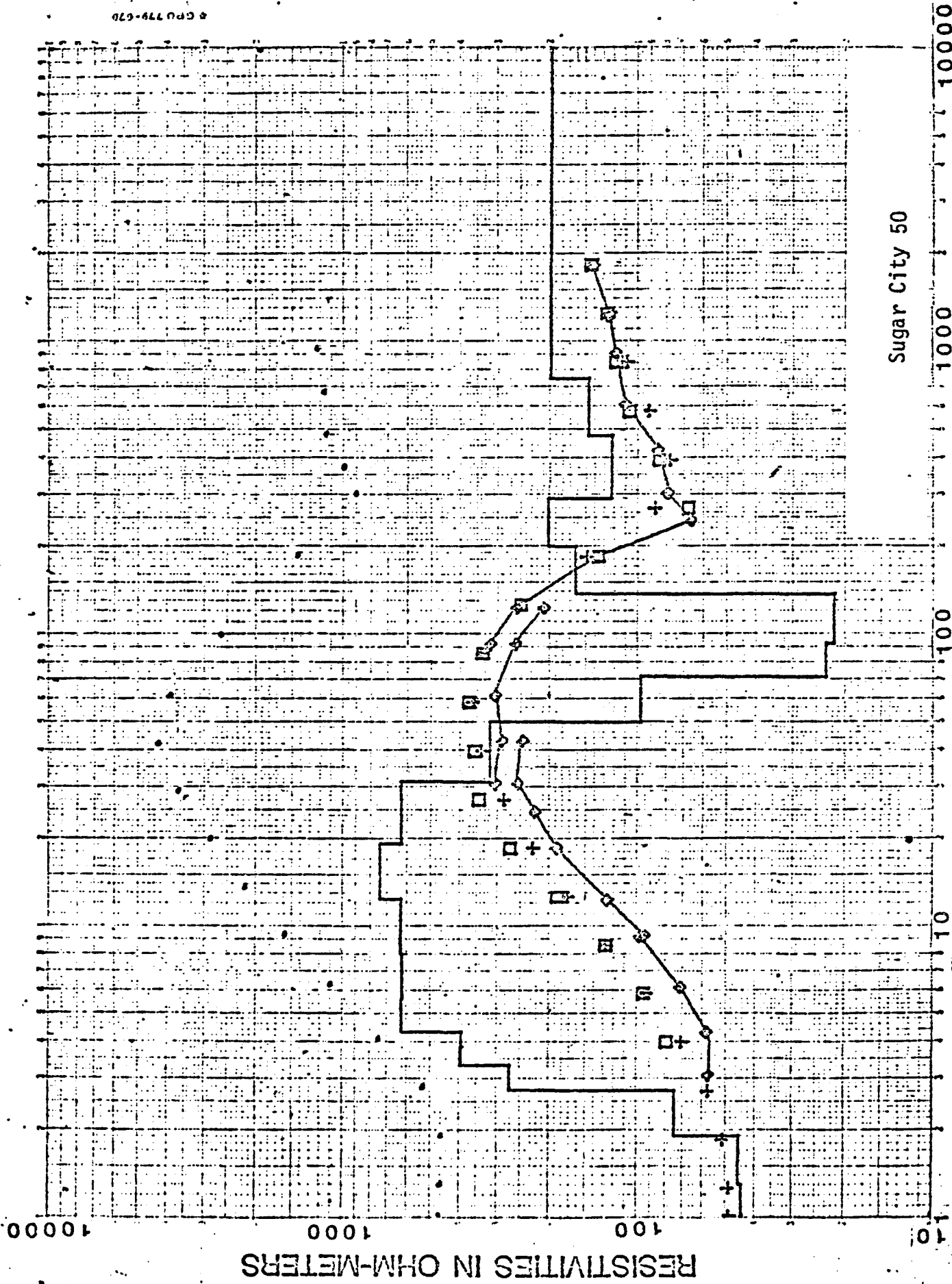




79



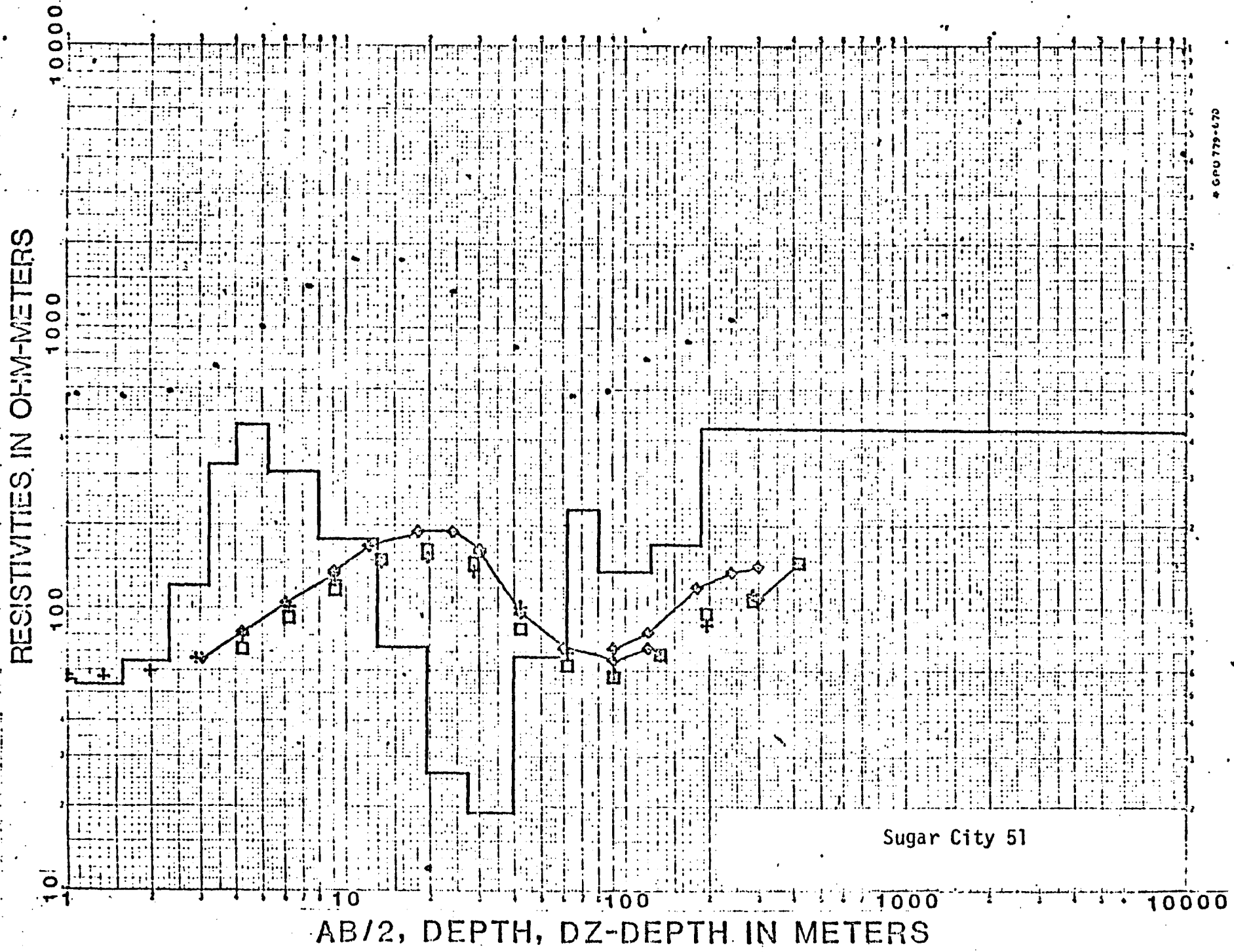
• GPO 779-570

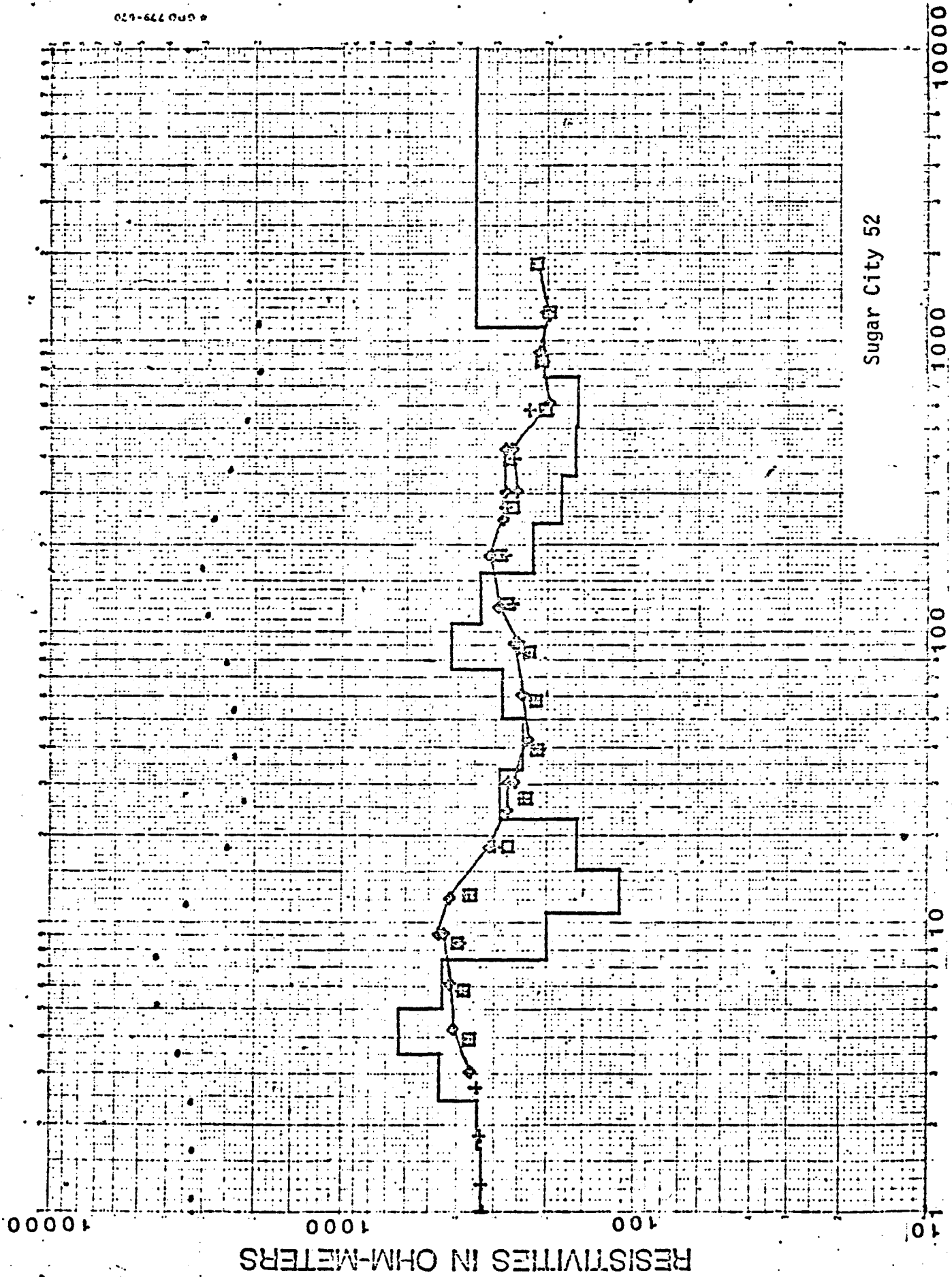


AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

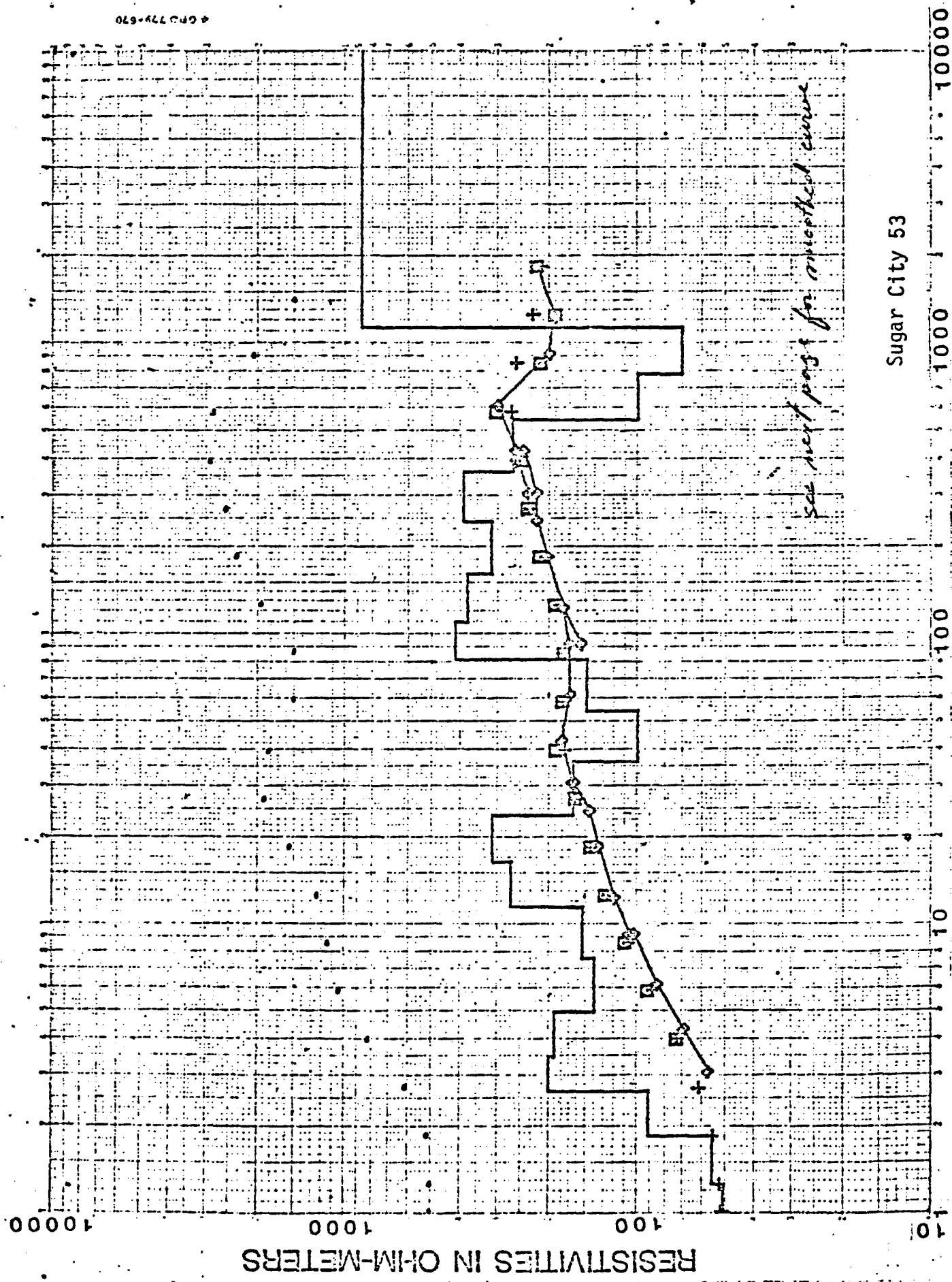
★ GPU 779-670

18





Sugar City 52

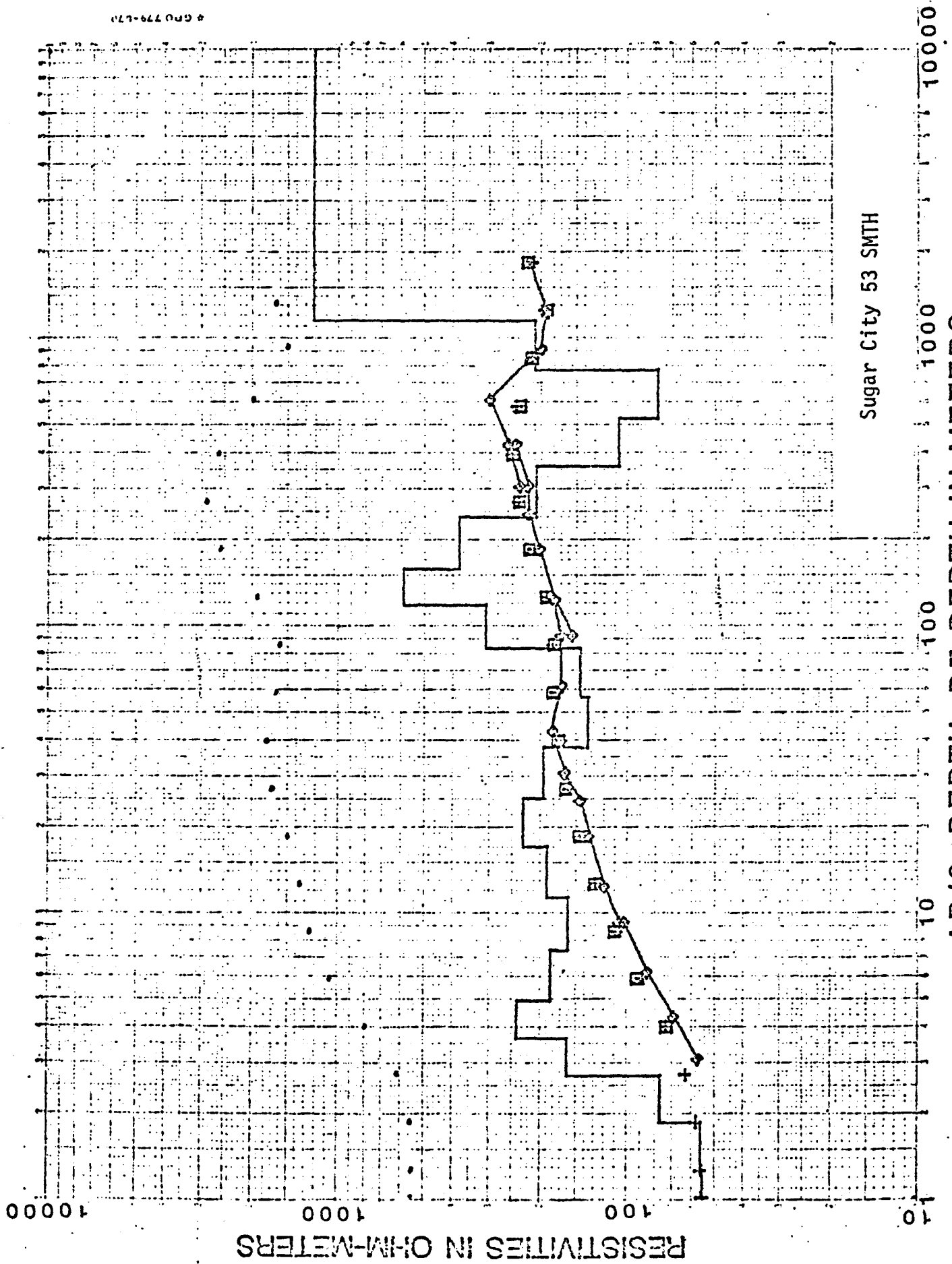


Sugar City 53

see next page for smoothed curve

RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

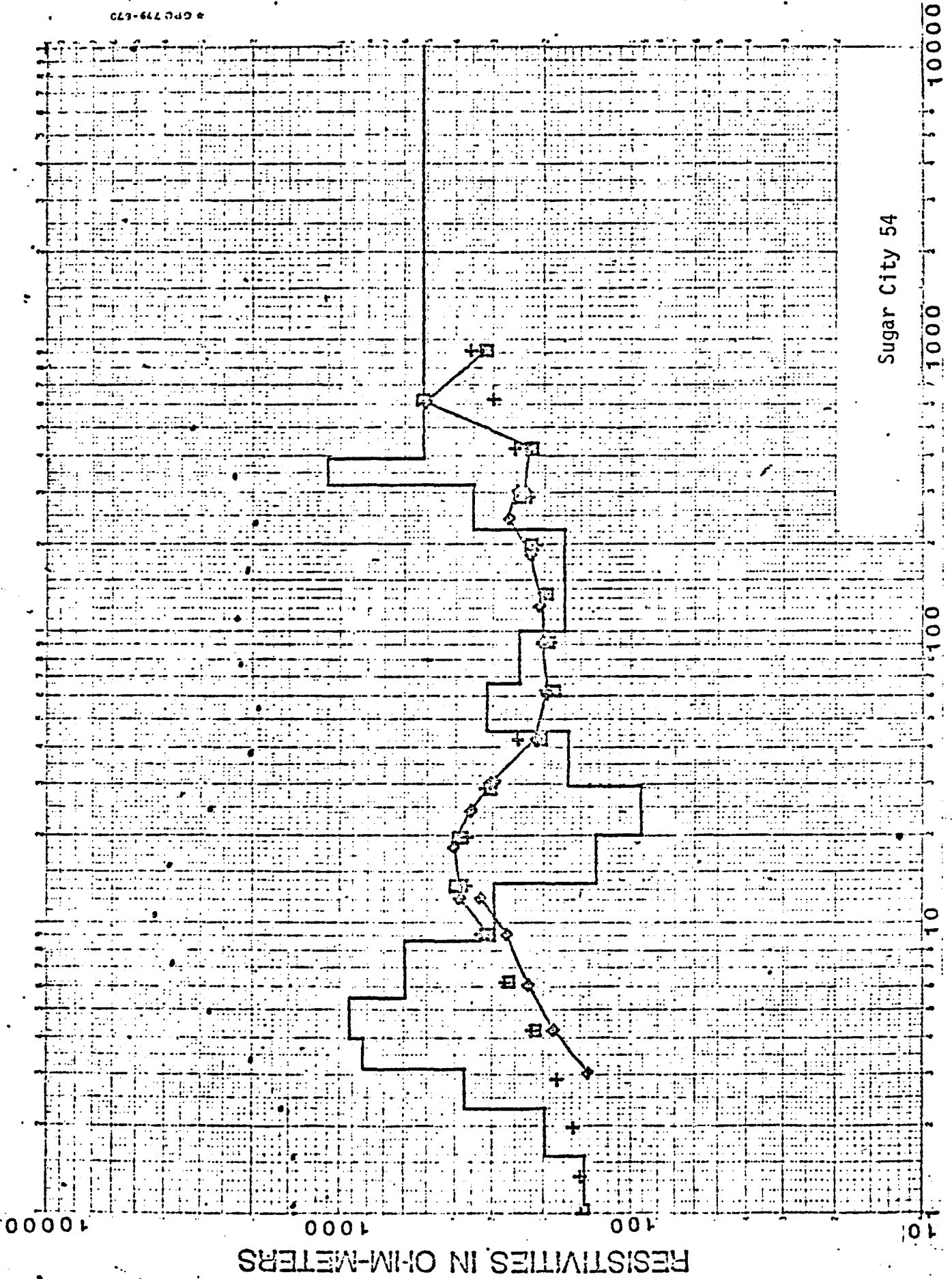
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

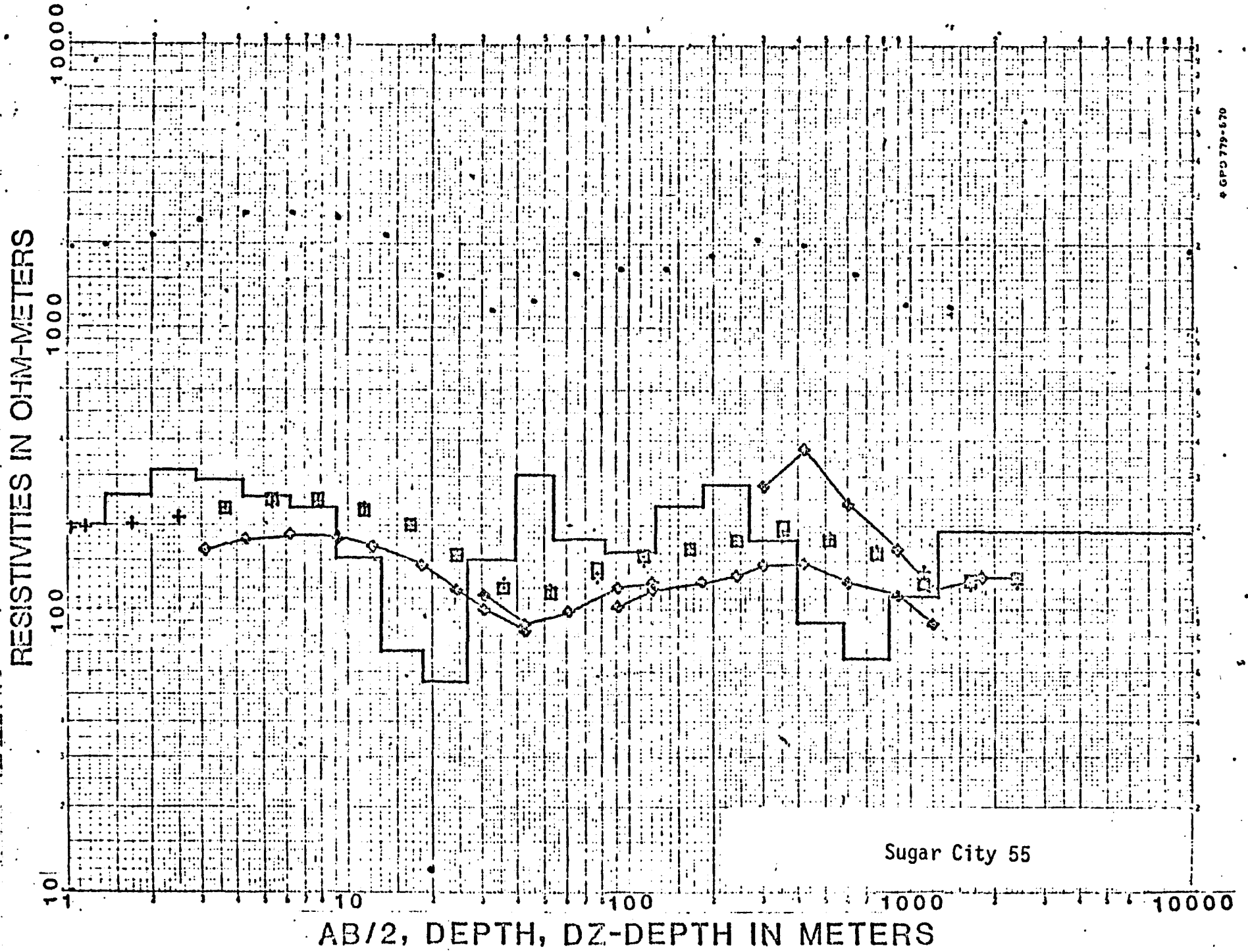


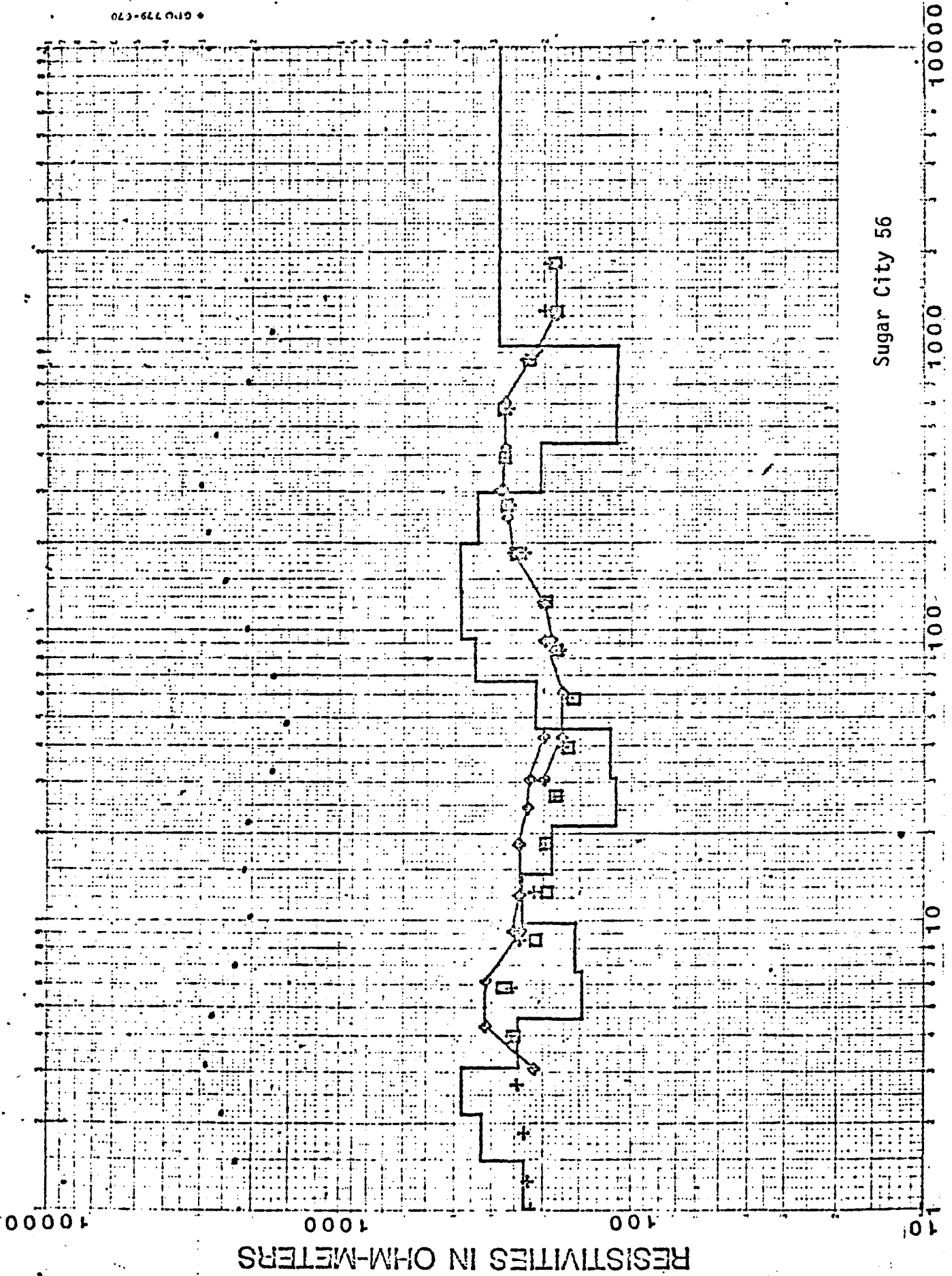
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

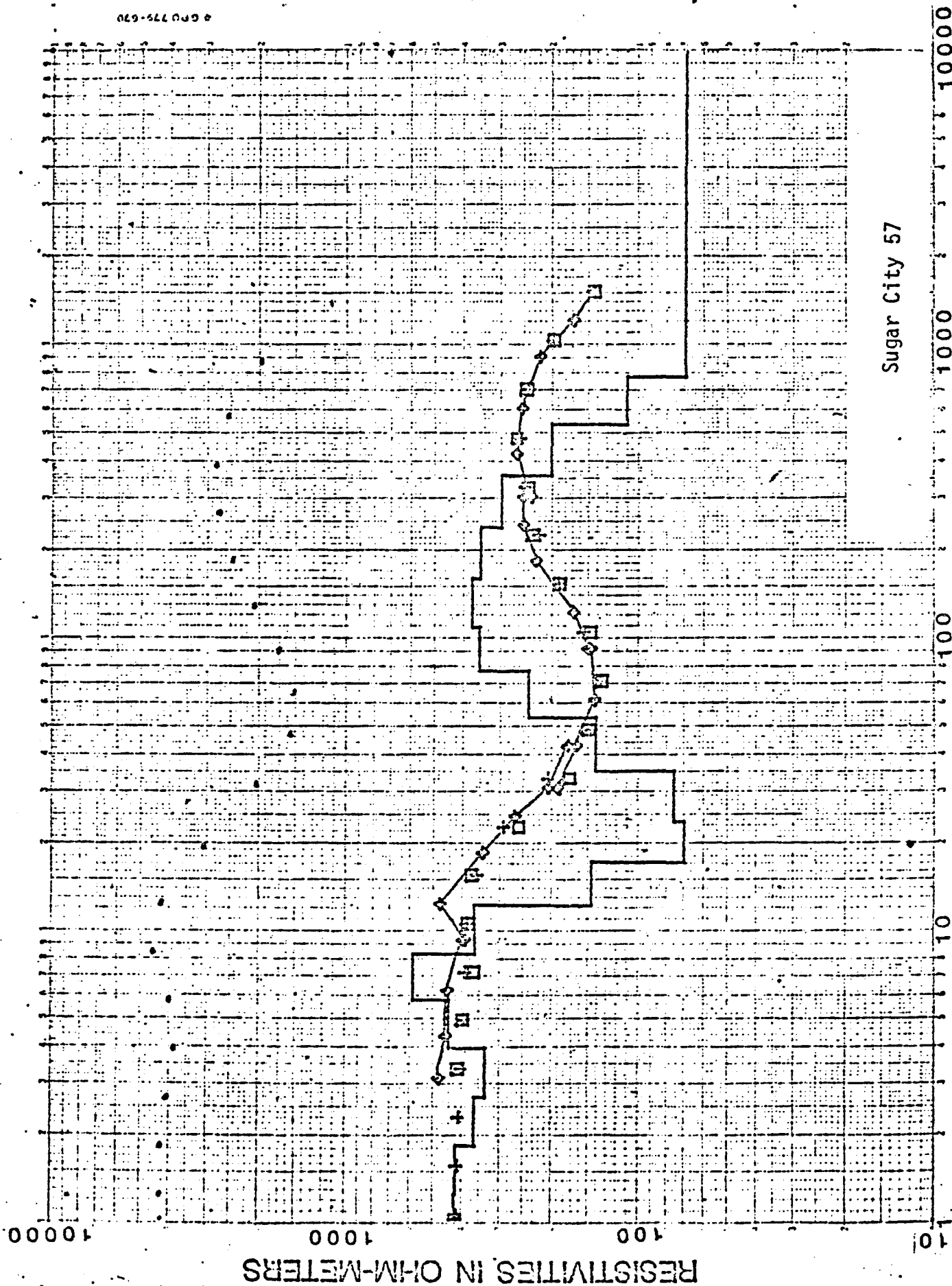
Sugar City 53 SMTH

RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS





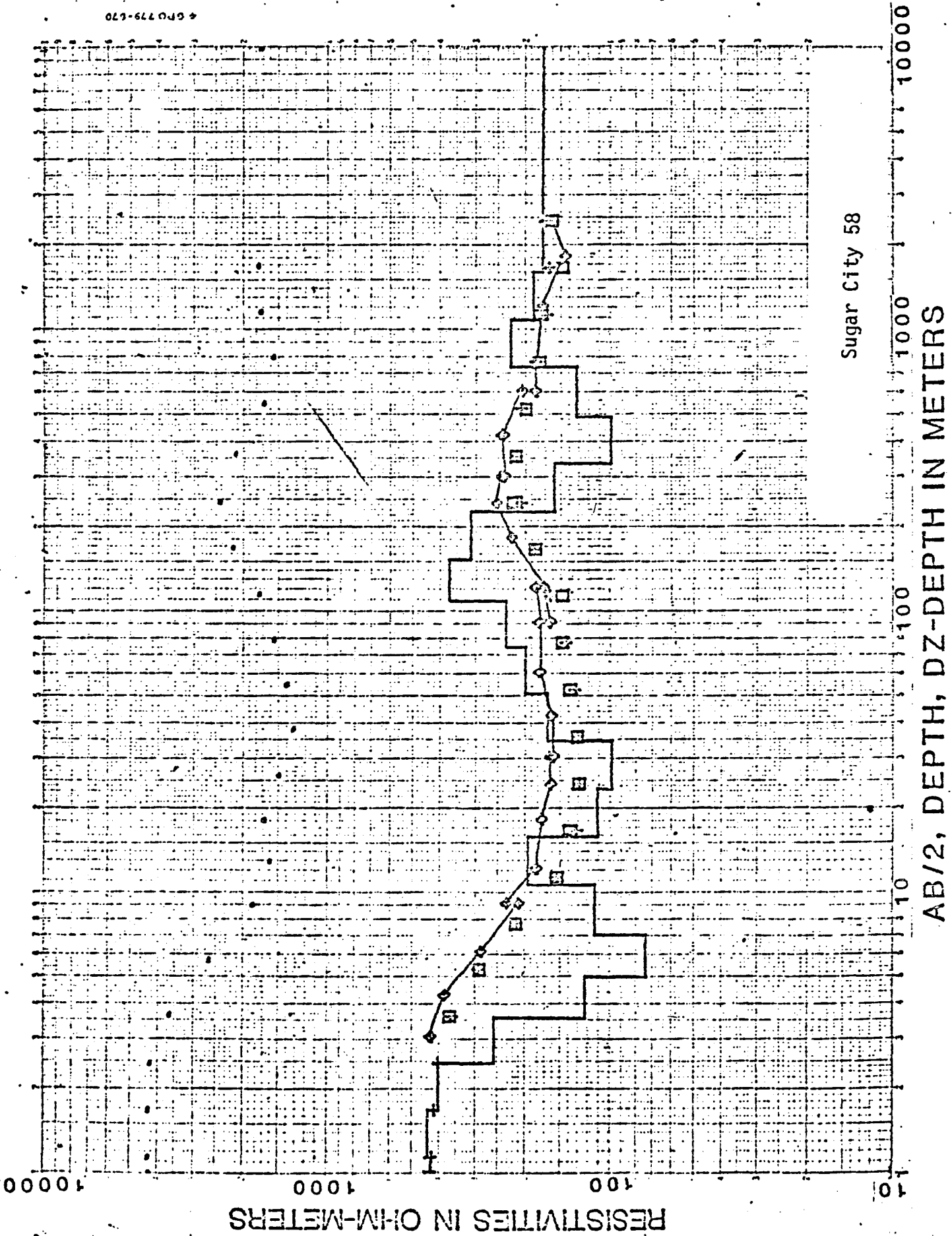




Sugar City 57

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

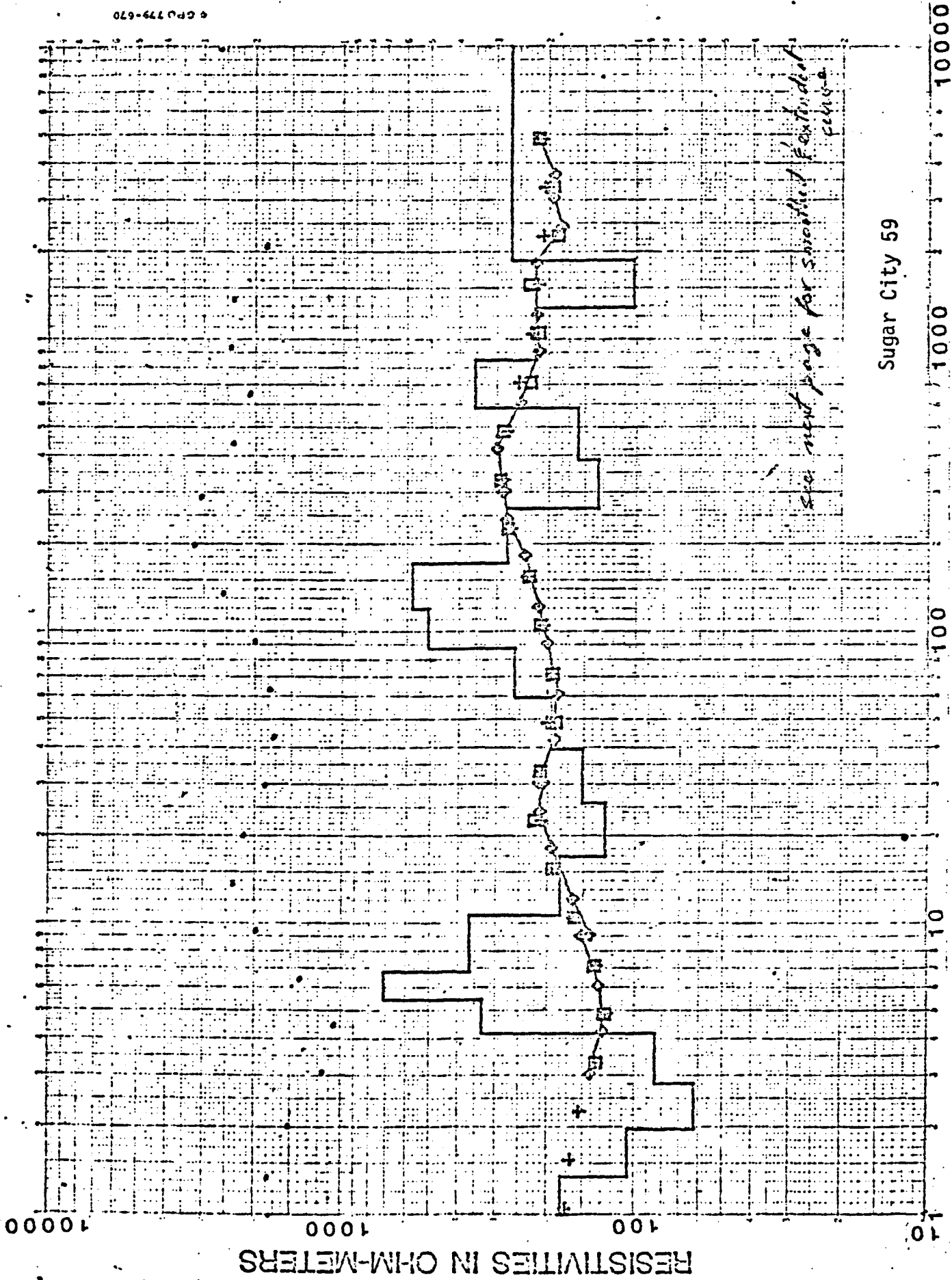
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS



Sugar City 58

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

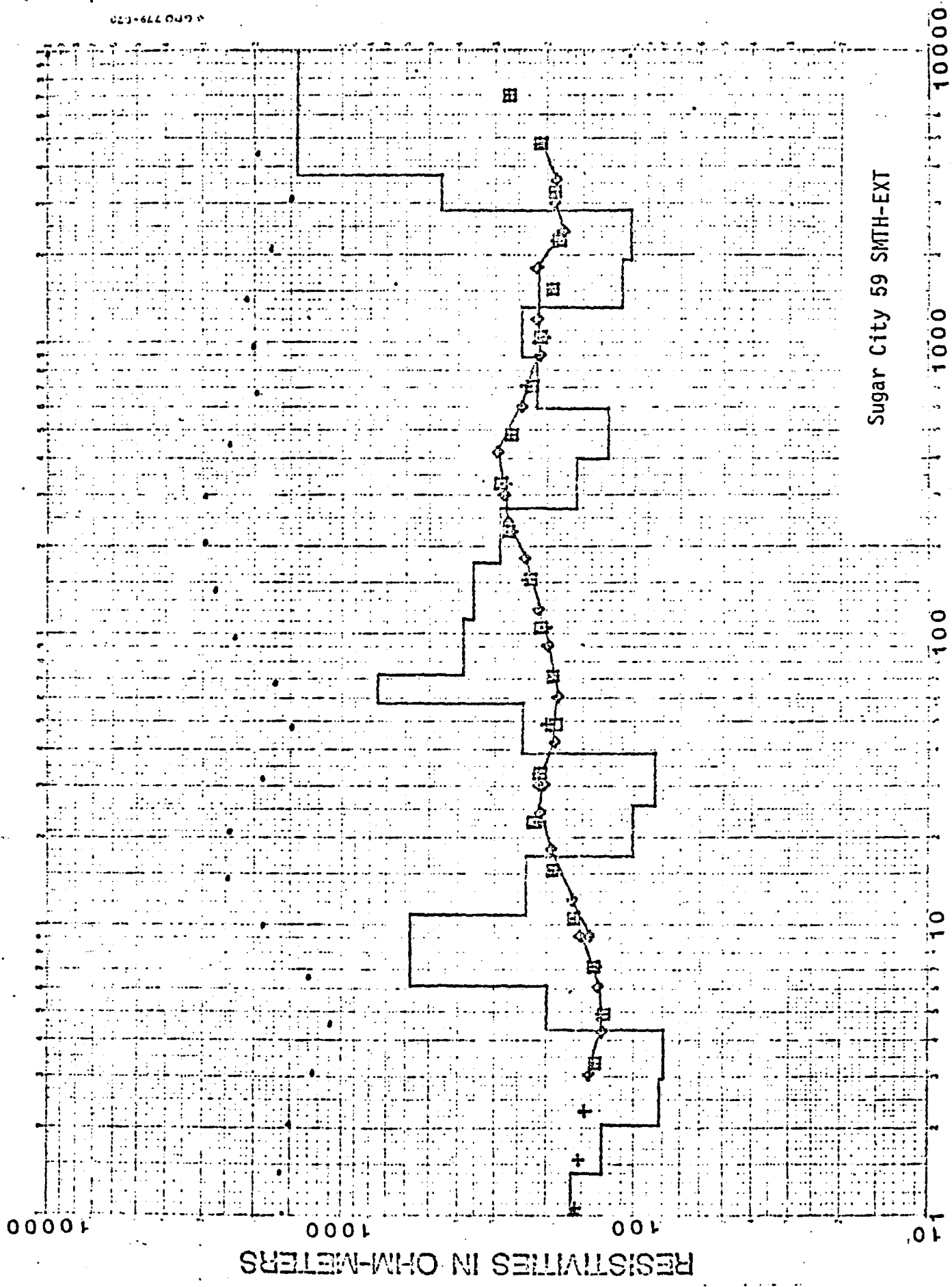
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS



Sugar City 59

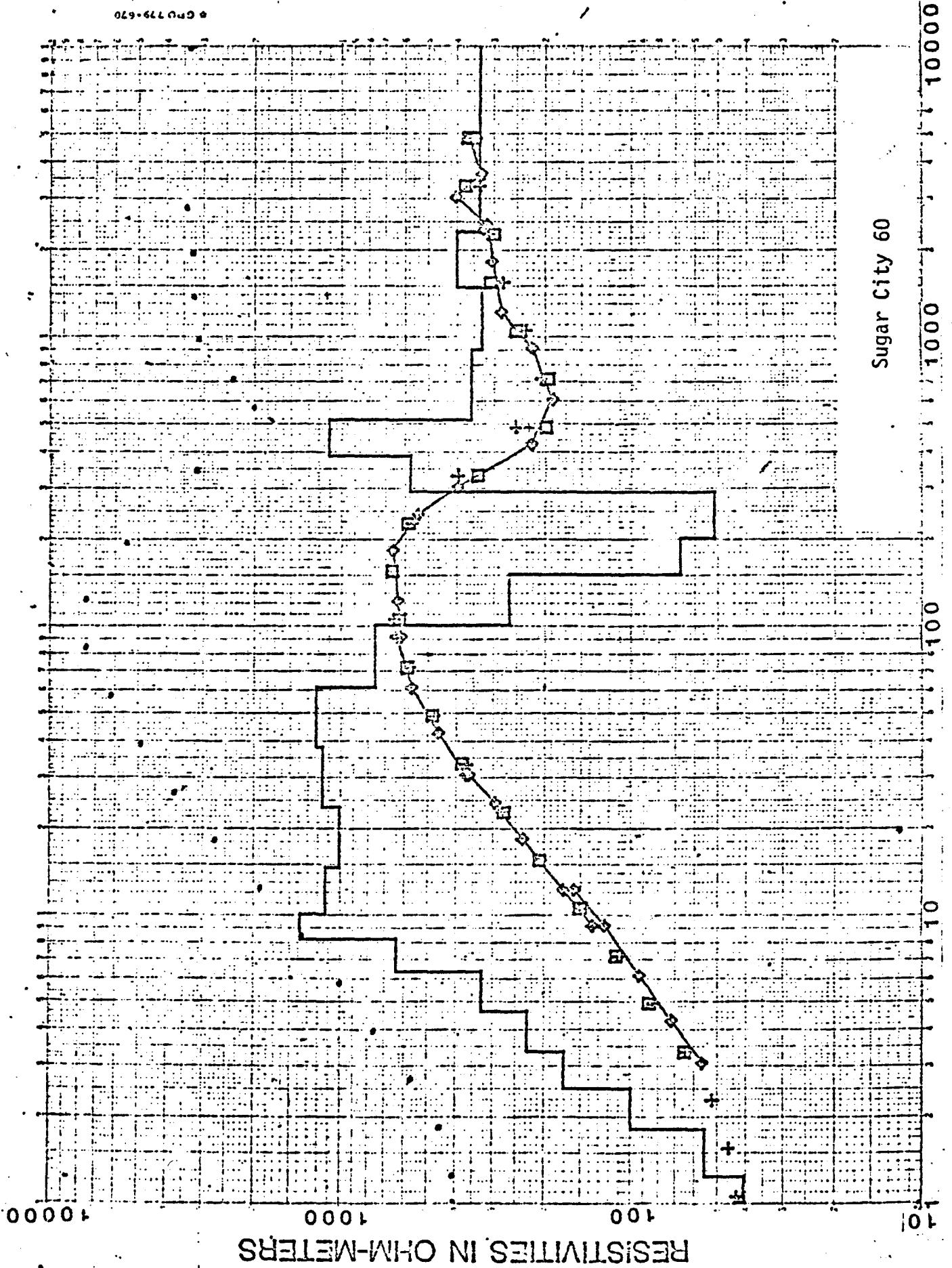
See next page for smoothed resistivity curve

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS



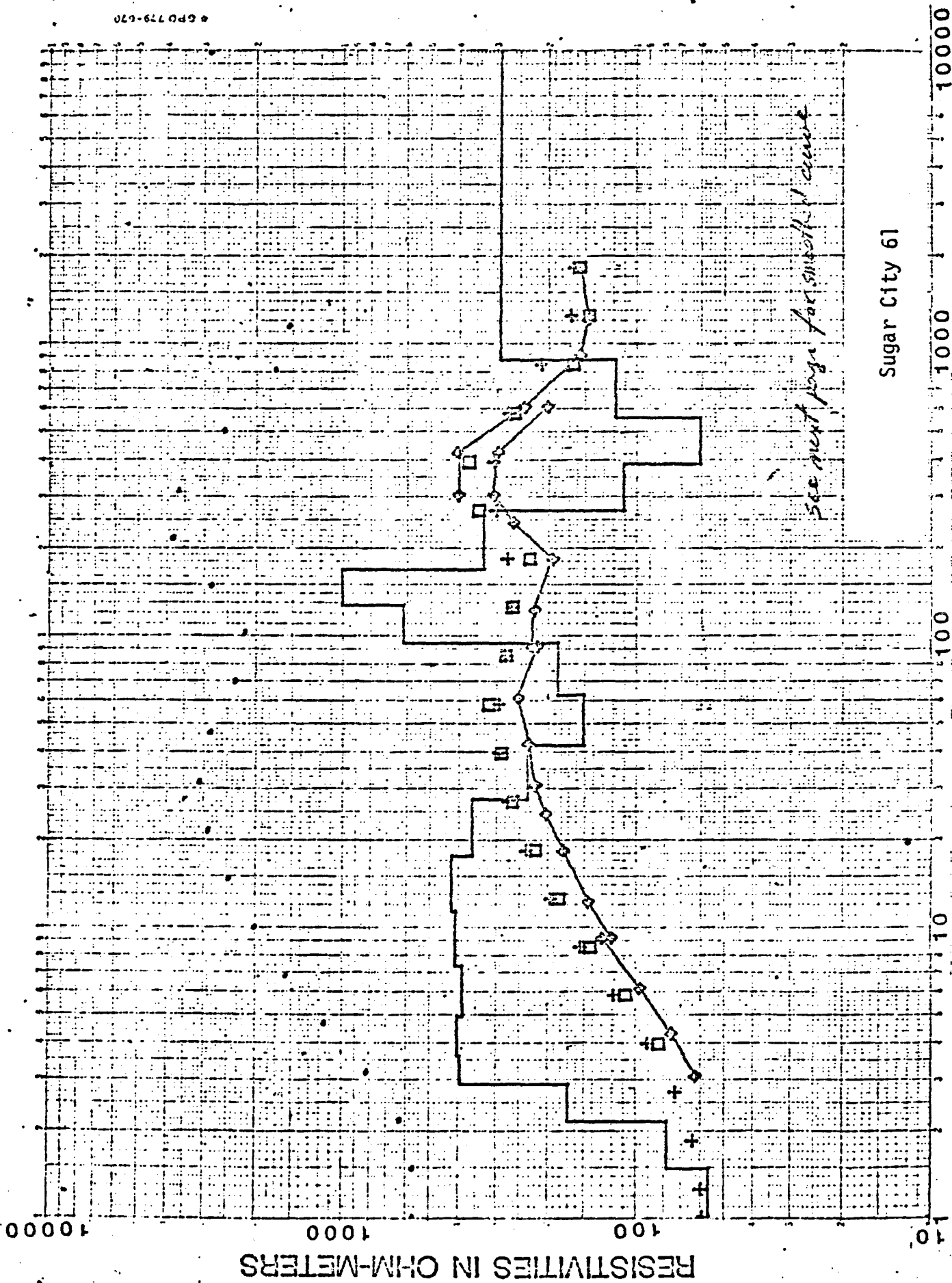
Sugar City 59 SMTH-EXT

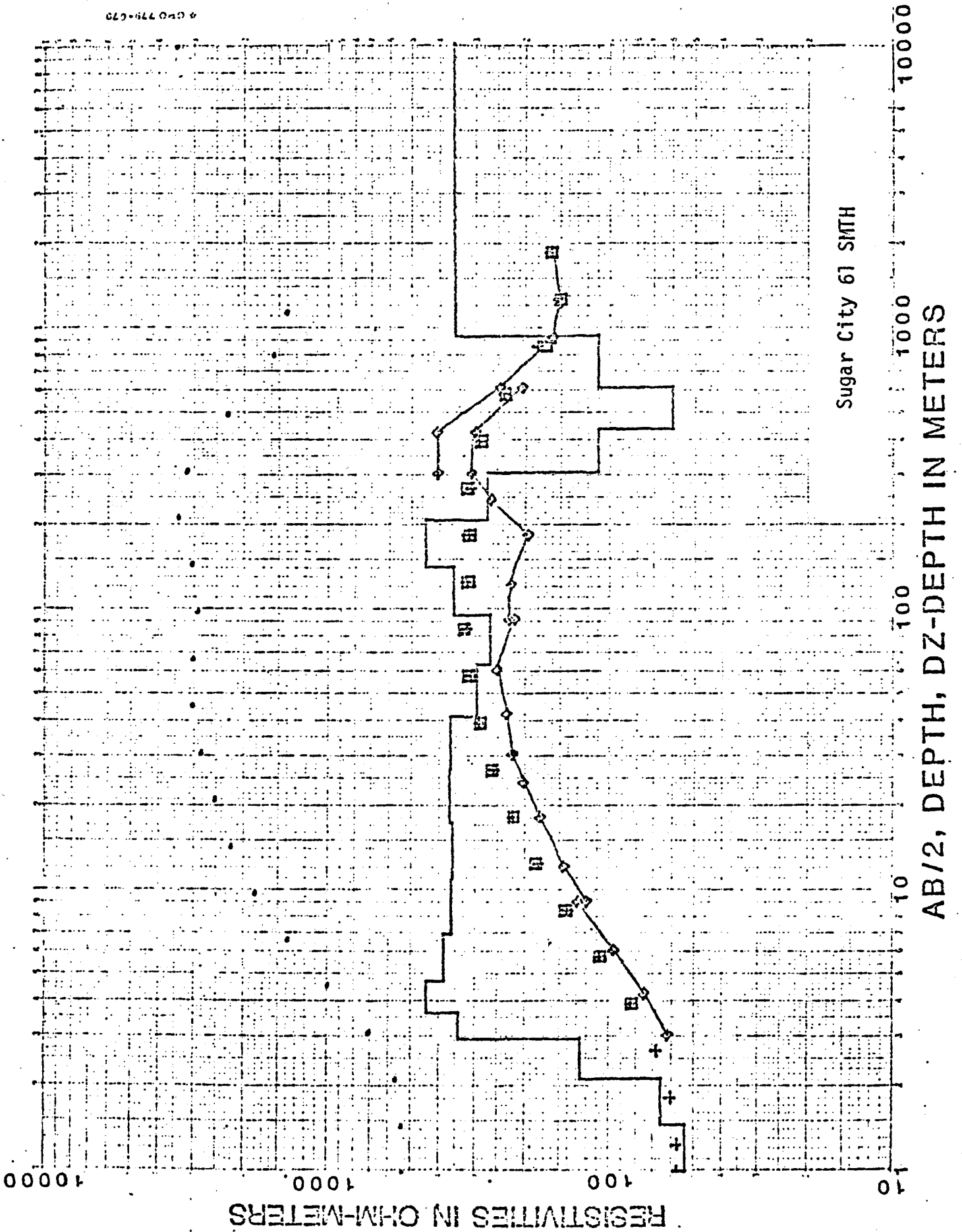
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS



Sugar City 60

AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

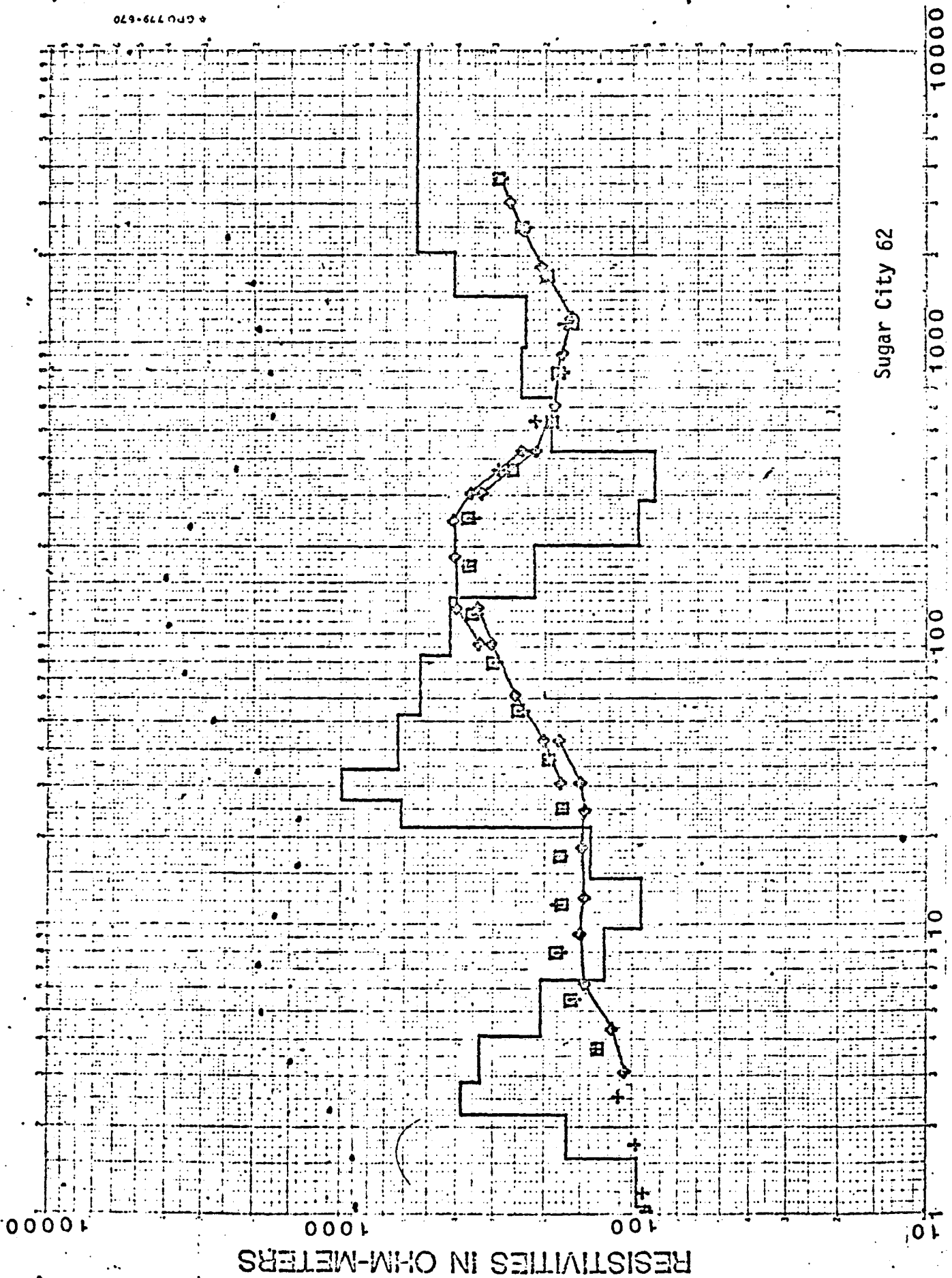


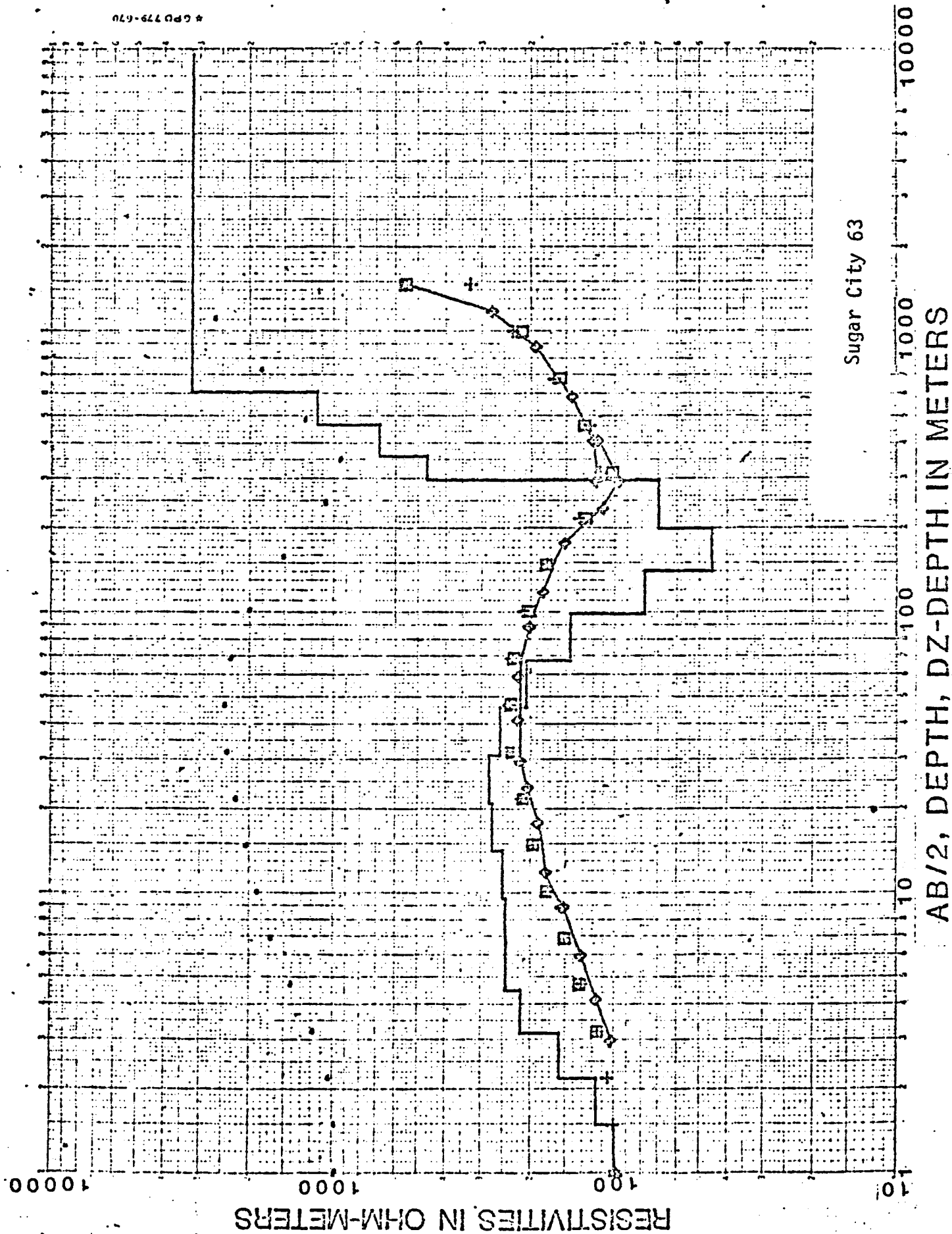


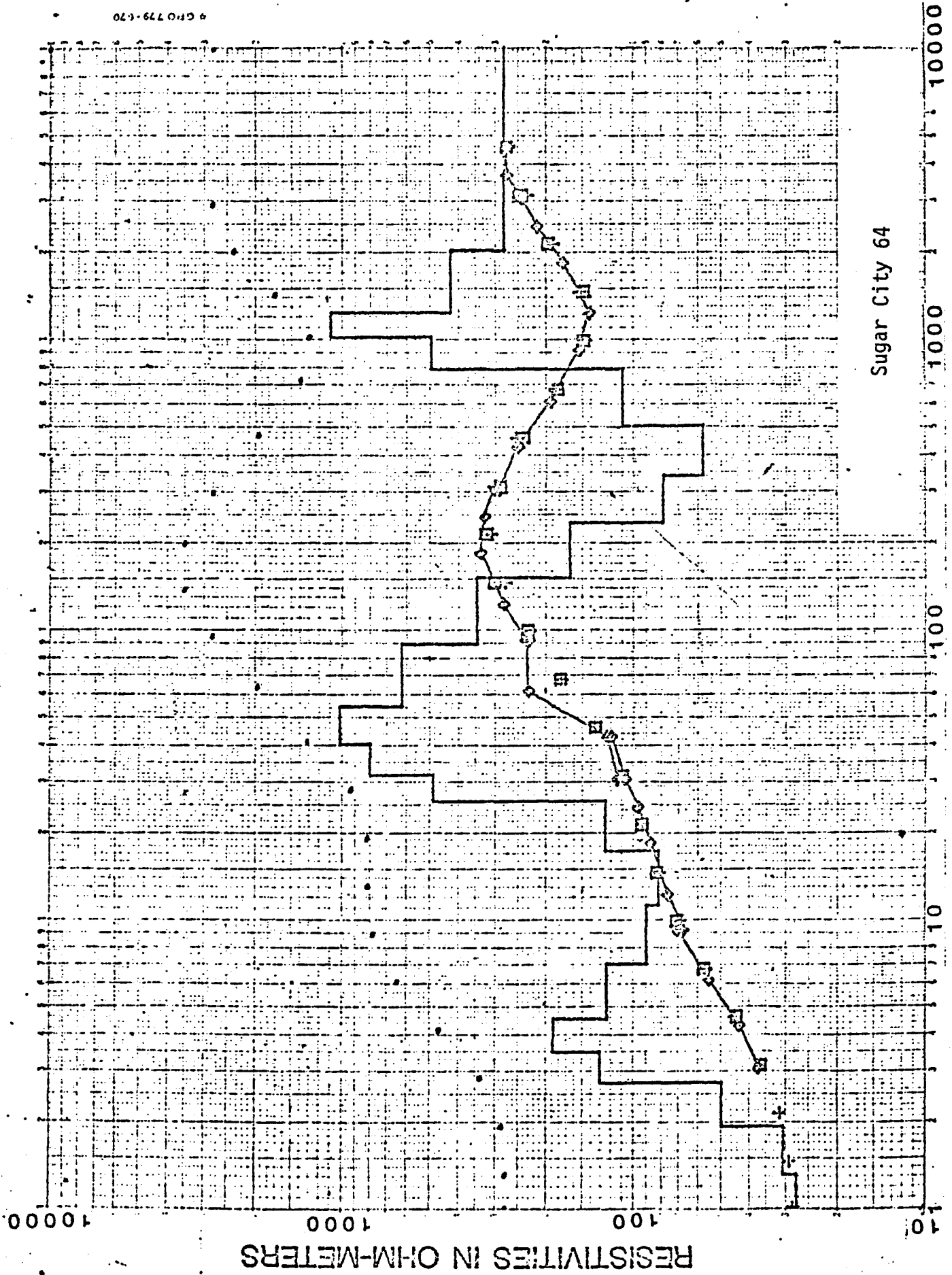
Sugar City 61 SMTH

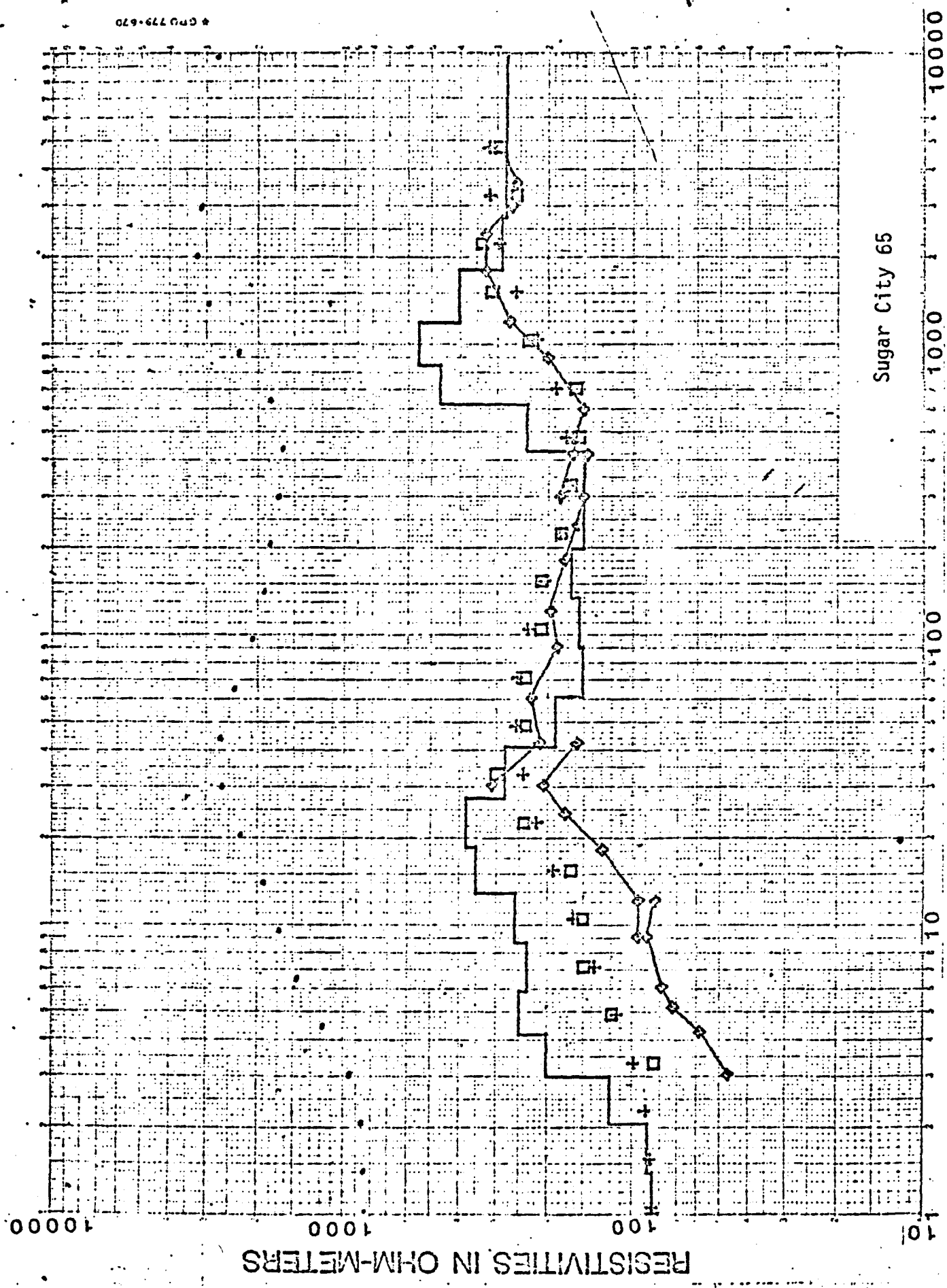
RESISTIVITIES IN OHM-METERS

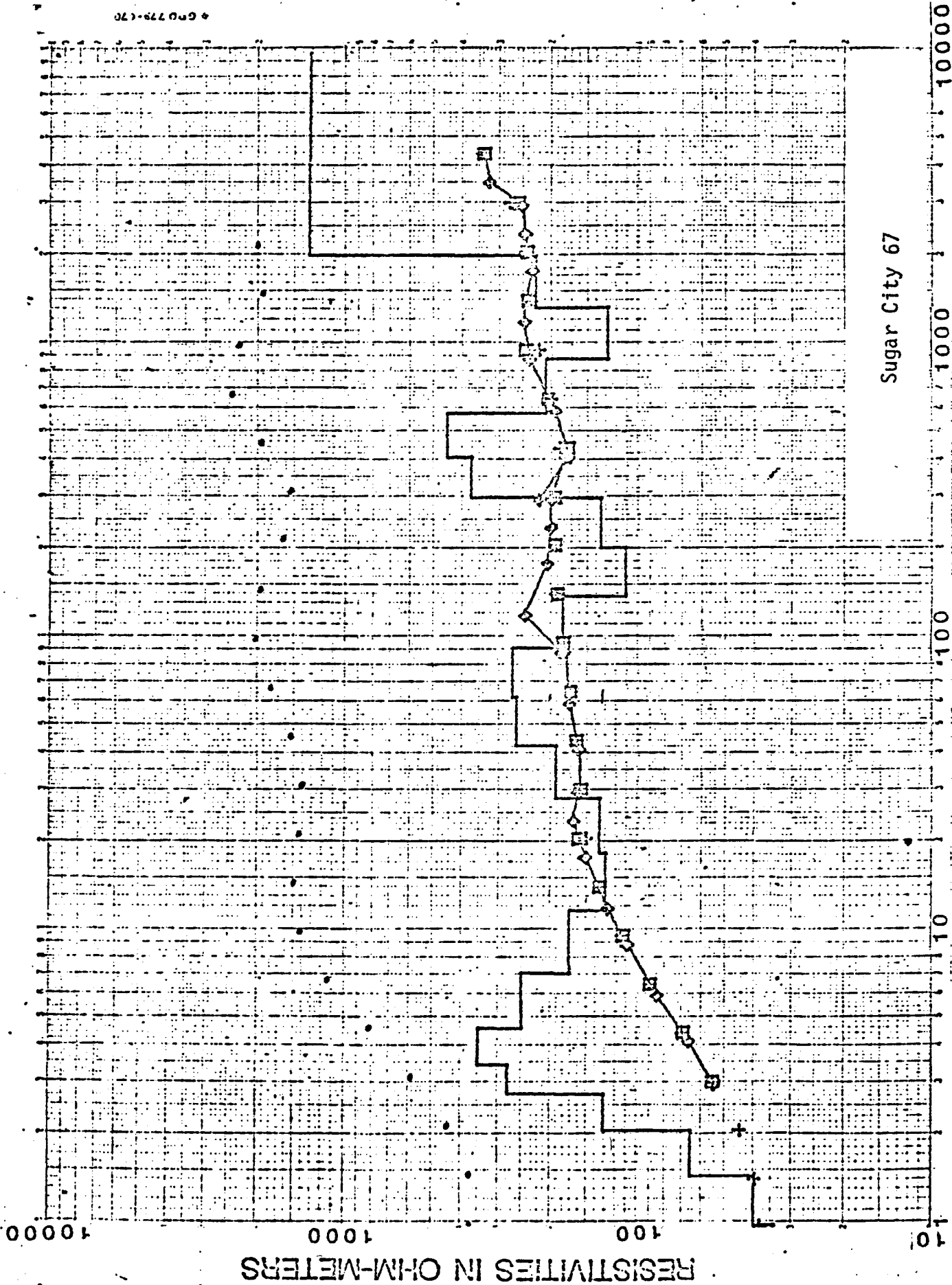
AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

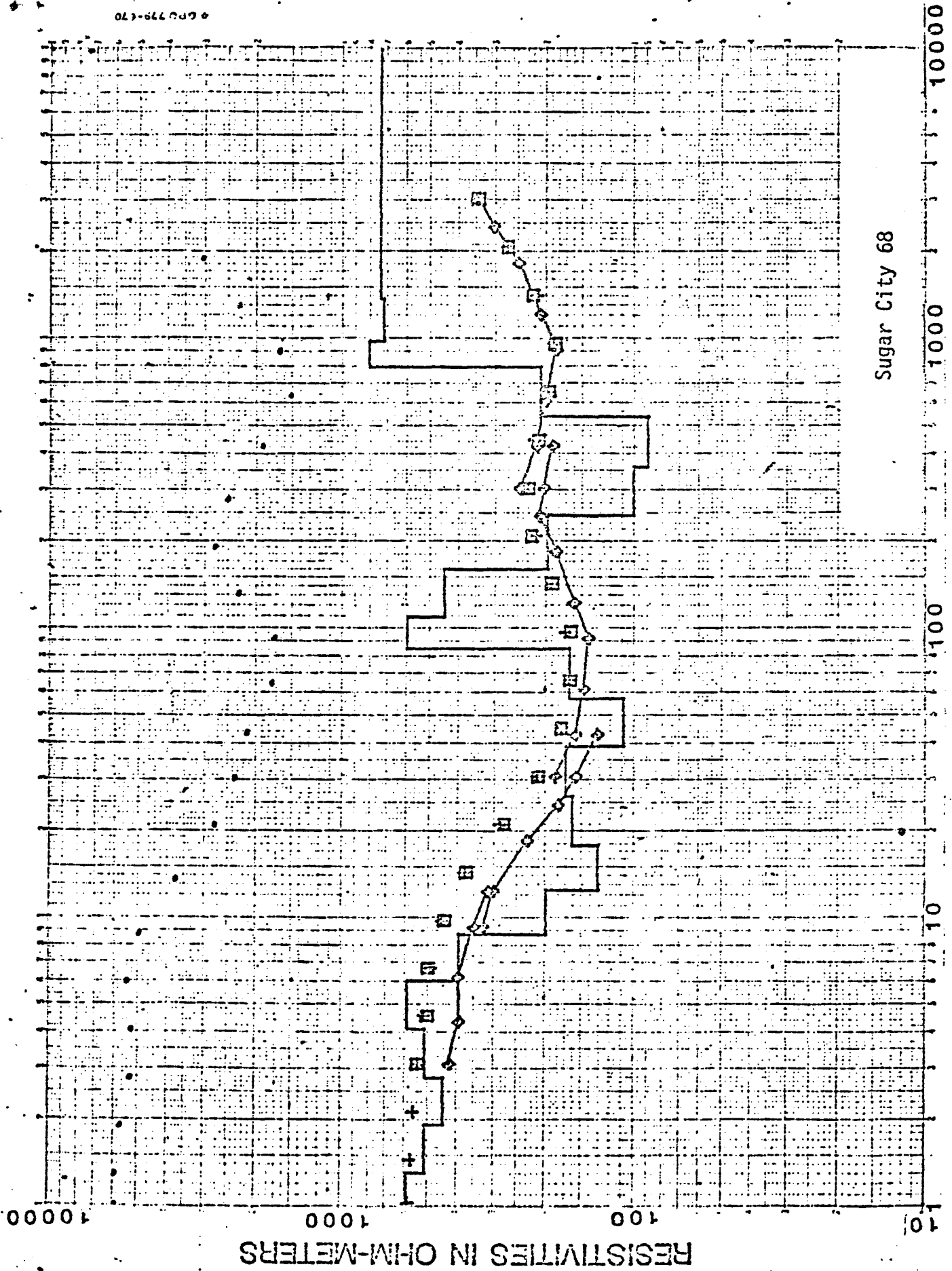






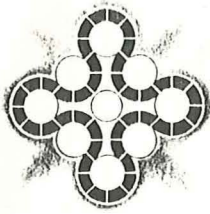






AB/2, DEPTH, DZ-DEPTH IN METERS

Sugar City 68

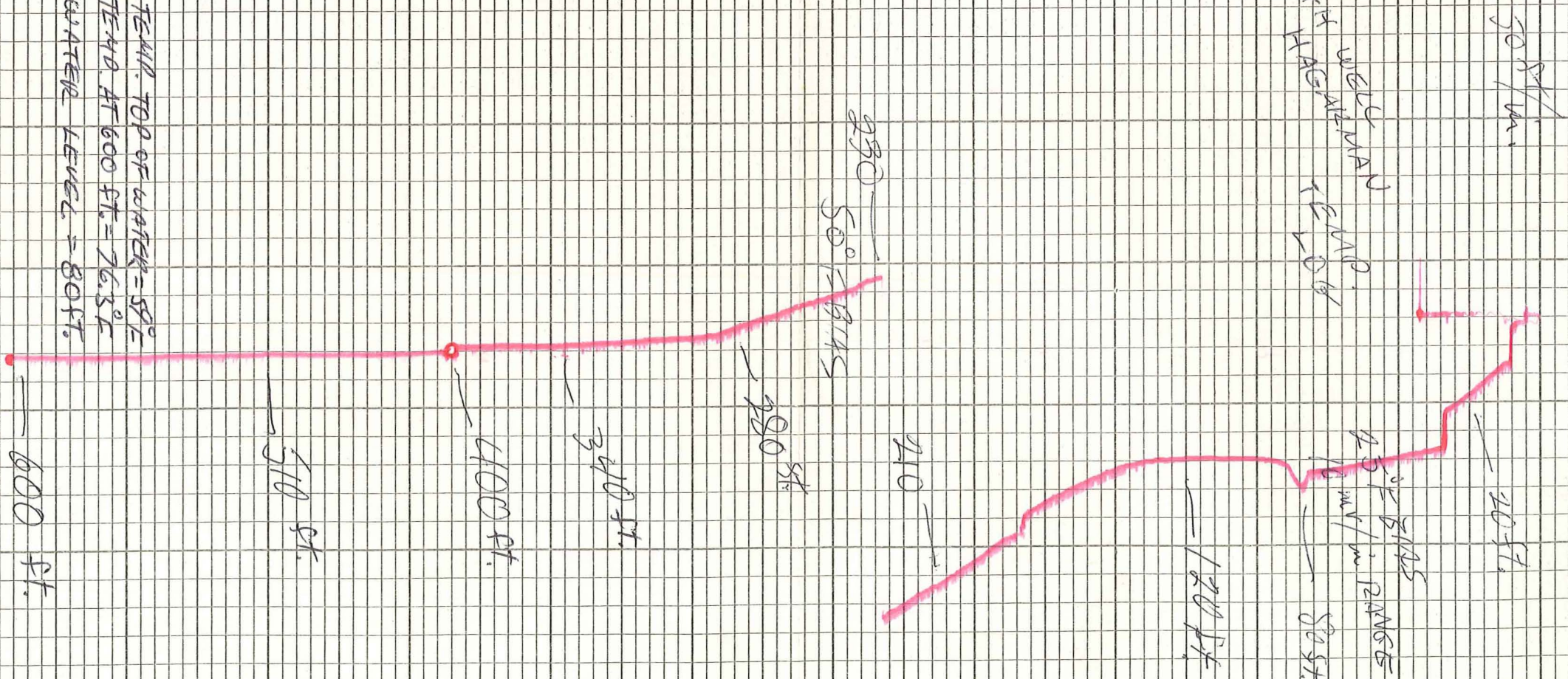


Aerojet Nuclear Company

ELECTRIC WELL LOG

COMPANY <u>HAROLD SMITH</u>		PHONE NO.	
ADDRESS <u>RT. 1</u>		CITY <u>HAGERMAN</u>	
COUNTY		STATE <u>IDAHO</u>	
WELL NAME & LOCATION <u>AT SMITH HOME 2 1/4 MILES</u> <u>S.E. OF HAGERMAN</u>			
DRILLING CONTRACTOR		PHONE NO.	
ADDRESS		CITY	
STATE		DRILLER	
DATE <u>11-19-75</u>	TIME <u>16:00</u>	RUN NO. <u>5</u>	
DEPTH, DRILLER <u>SMITH</u> <u>900' CAVED AT 630'</u>		DEPTH, LOGGER	
CASING SIZE	DEPTH	CASING SIZE,	DEPTH
		<u>8'</u>	
TYPE OF LOG <u>TEMP.</u>		DIRECTION OF LOG <u>DOWN</u>	
LOGGED INTERVAL <u>G.L. TO 600'</u>		DEPTH TO WATER <u>80'</u>	
LOG SCALES: DEPTH	LEFT, MILLIVOLTS/IN.	RIGHT, MILLIVOLTS/IN.	
<u>G.L.</u>		<u>25° F BIAS, 10 mv/in.</u>	
<u>230'</u>		<u>50° F BIAS, 10 mv/in.</u>	
REMARKS <u>59° F AT TOP OF WATER, 75° F AT</u> <u>280', AND 76.3° F AT 600'.</u>			
LOGGER <u>C. S. Cooper</u>			

16:00
11-19-15
HAROLD WELLS
SMITH REAGAN
LEDD



TEAR. TOP OF WATER = 59°
TEND. AT 600 FT. = 76.3°
WATER LEVEL = 80 FT.

WELL WAS DRILLED TO 900 FT BUT WAS
CANNED IN AT 630 FT.
WAS DRILLED ON ADVICE OF MAN WHO SAID
THERE WAS HOT ARTESIAN WATER BETWEEN
400 AND 500 FT.