

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Francis Dr. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Subject: WaterBridge Stateline LLC – Reticle Fed SWD # 1
Application for Authorization to Inject

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of WaterBridge Stateline LLC (Waterbridge), ALL Consulting, LLC (ALL) is submitting the enclosed amendments to the Reticle Fed SWD #1 application, originally submitted on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (application number: pMSG2325244165). These amendments include a Cisco production analysis and a seismic analysis letter.

Should you have any questions regarding the enclosed application, please contact Oliver Seekins at (918) 382-7581 or oseekins@all-llc.com.

Sincerely,

**ALL Consulting** 

Oliver Seekins

Consultant / Project Manager

# **Cisco Production Analysis:**



## ALL CONSULTING ASSESSMENTS AND ANALYIS OF THE CISCO FORMATION IN THE DAGGER DRAW AREA

ALL Consulting (ALL) has analyzed and assessed the Cisco Formation in the Dagger Draw area in Eddy County, New Mexico, for the potential for commercial hydrocarbon production. There are a total of 20 wells that penetrate into and/or through the Cisco Formation in this area, that have either been perforated and tested the Cisco Formation, conducted drill stem tests (DSTs) on the Cisco Formation, or attempted to commercially produce hydrocarbons from the Cisco Formation after completion.

The Cisco Formation is Pennsylvanian in age and is composed of carbonate rocks typically deposited in a reef-type environment. In the area of the Dagger Draw, the Cisco Formation ranges from approximately 500 to 700 feet in thickness. The Cisco Formation is typically non-productive due to its unfavorable diagenetic history, and out of the 20 wells that were tested for hydrocarbon potential, only two of these wells have attempted to be produced. The first well (API No. 015-23090) is located far north and outside the boundary of the Dagger Draw property. This well was drilled and completed in May of 1980, and in 1982, this well was assigned a "New Pool" designation of McMillian Upper Penn Gas Pool by OCD. No production records are available for this well; it was plugged and abandoned in 1983. The second well (API No. 015-31365), was drilled and completed in December 2000 in the Atoka Formation. This well was plugged back and perforated in the Cisco Formation in April of 2007 and was subsequently plugged and abandoned in 2009. In the two years of production, the total production was 1,363 Mcf of gas and 48,618 barrels of brine water, indicating that this well was non-commercially viable.

This assessment and analysis of the Cisco Formation by ALL clearly demonstrates the lack of historically commercially viable hydrocarbons in the Dagger Draw area. However, Waterbridge Stateline LLC understands the limited potential for encountering commercially viable hydrocarbons and the subsequent impacts on their proposed Salt Water Disposal Wells if commercial production is encountered.

Attached are a series of maps, cross-sections, and Cisco Formation Isopach and Structure Maps depicting some of the data analyzed in this review.

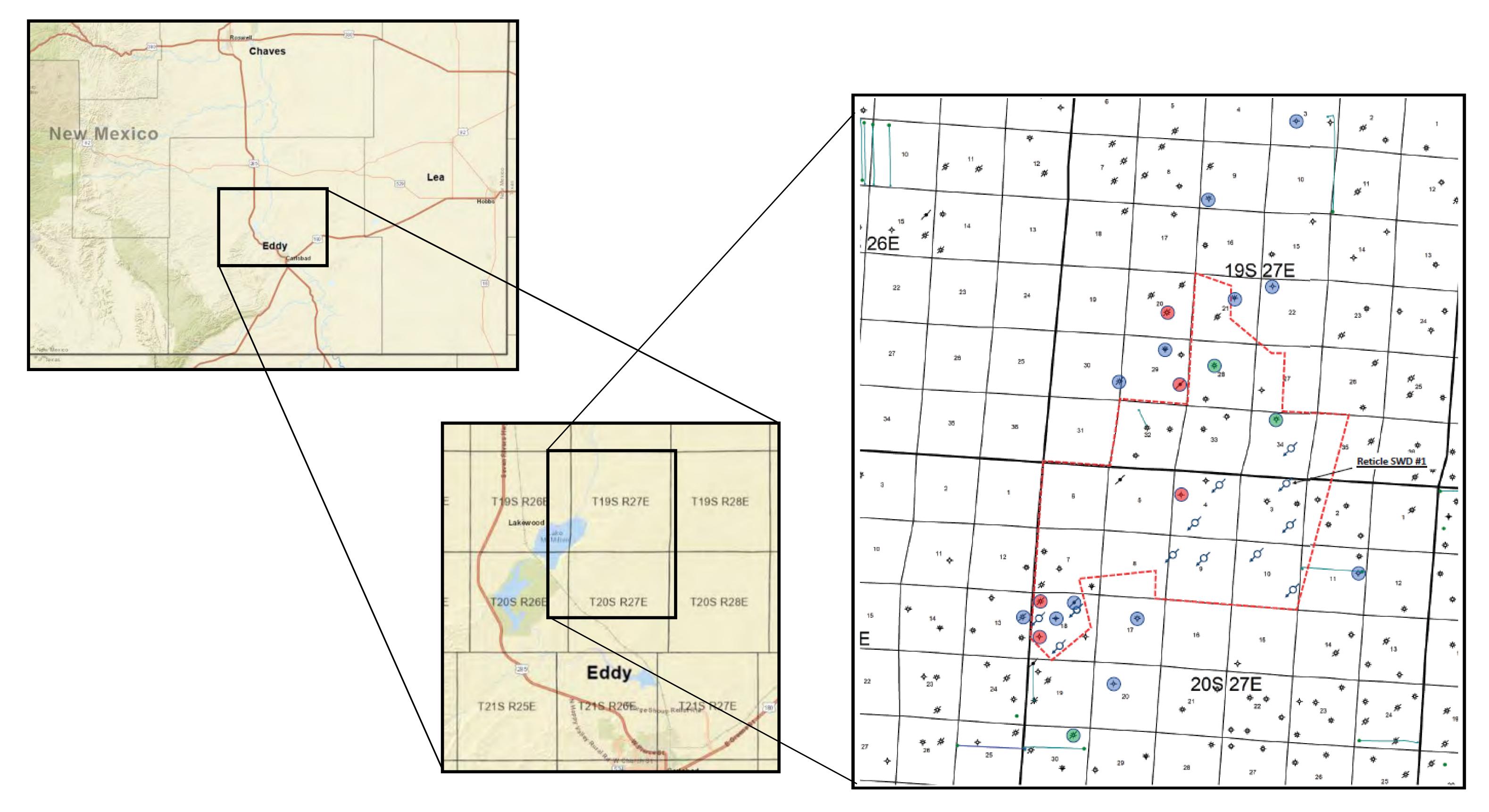
Thomas E. Tomastik

Thomas E. Tomatet

February 5, 2024

Date

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WaterBridge Stateline LLC (OGRID # 330129)

Reticle Fed SWD #1: Application Number - pMSG2325244165

Perf'd Cisco – No Production (5 Wells)

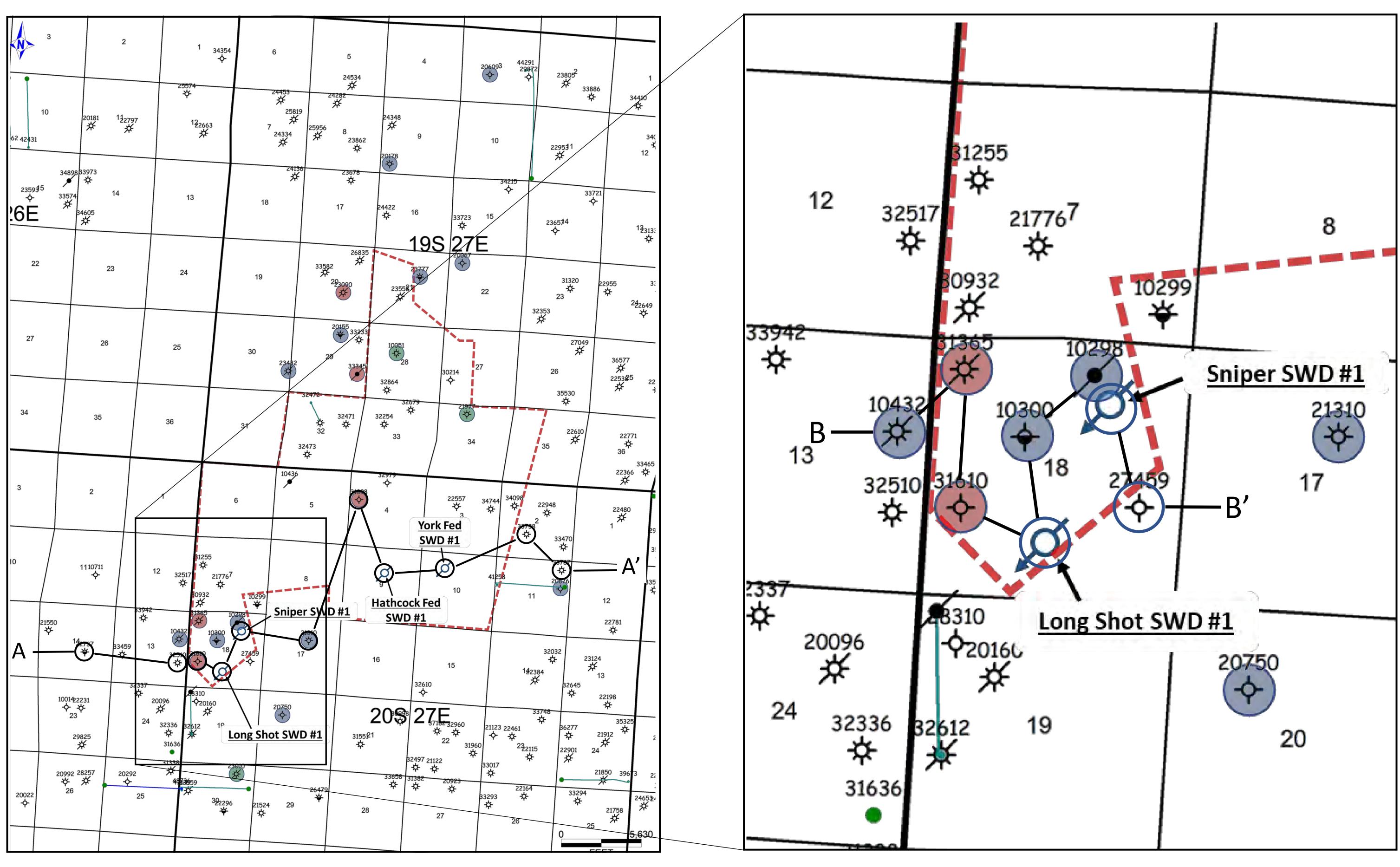
DST Cisco (12 Wells)

IHS reported perfs or DST's – Not present or illegible @ NMOCD

Pending WaterBridge Cisco Disposal Permits

Representative Cross-Section Depicting the Cisco Formation in the Dagger Draw Region.

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Perf'd Cisco – No Production

DST Cisco

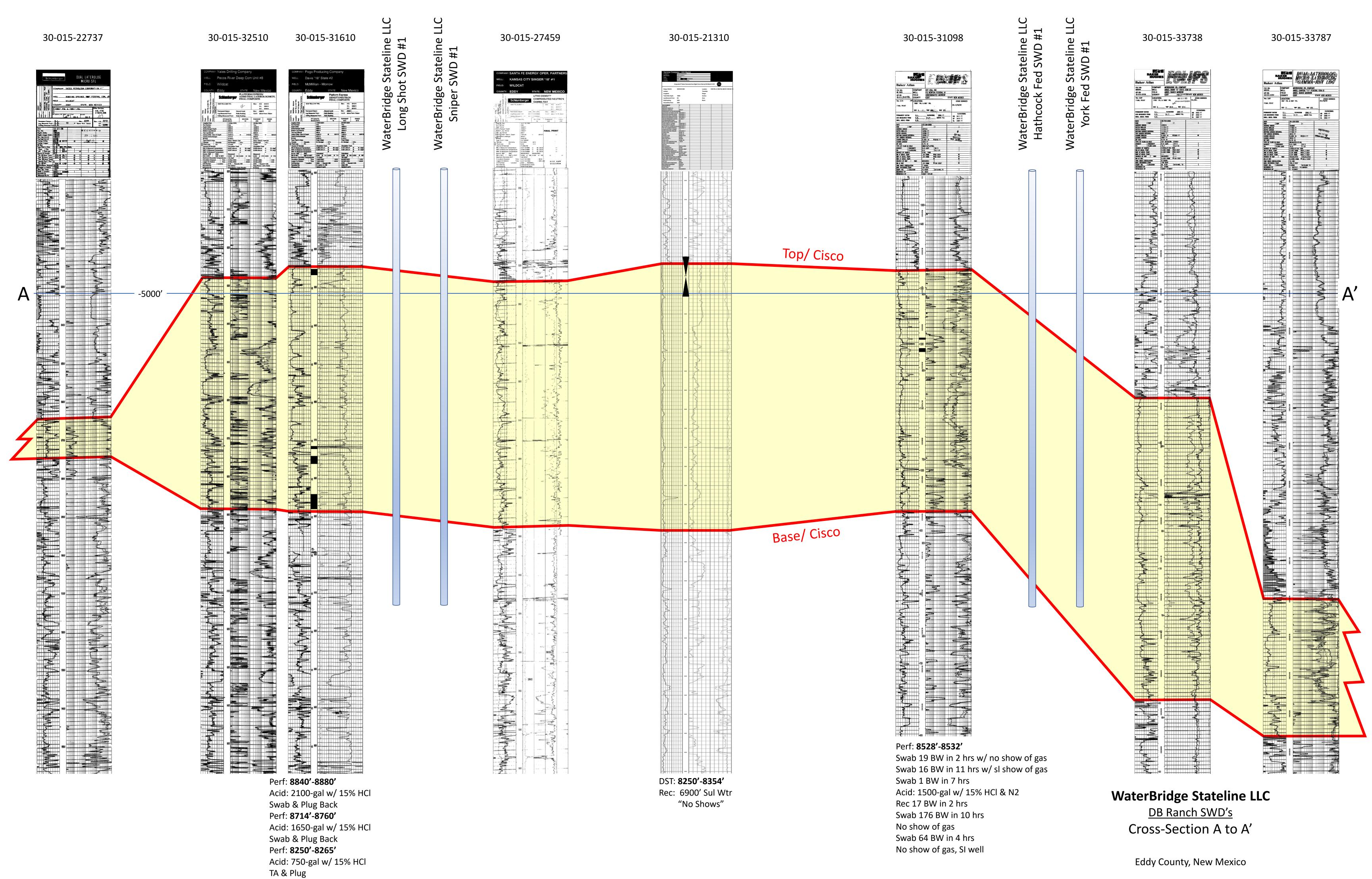
IHS reported perfs or DST's – Not present or illegible @ NMOCD

WaterBridge Stateline LLC

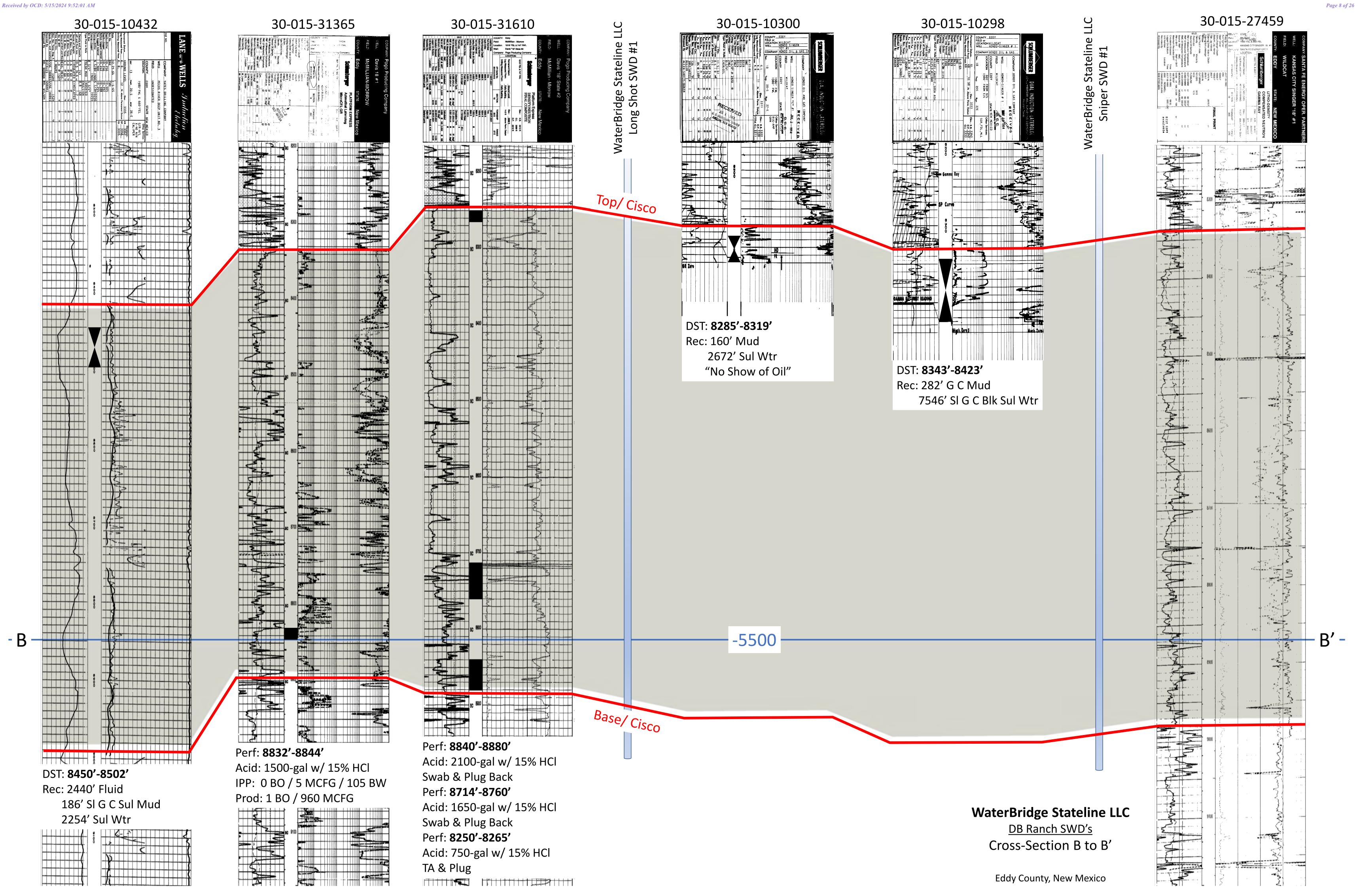
DB Ranch SWD's
Cross-Section Maps

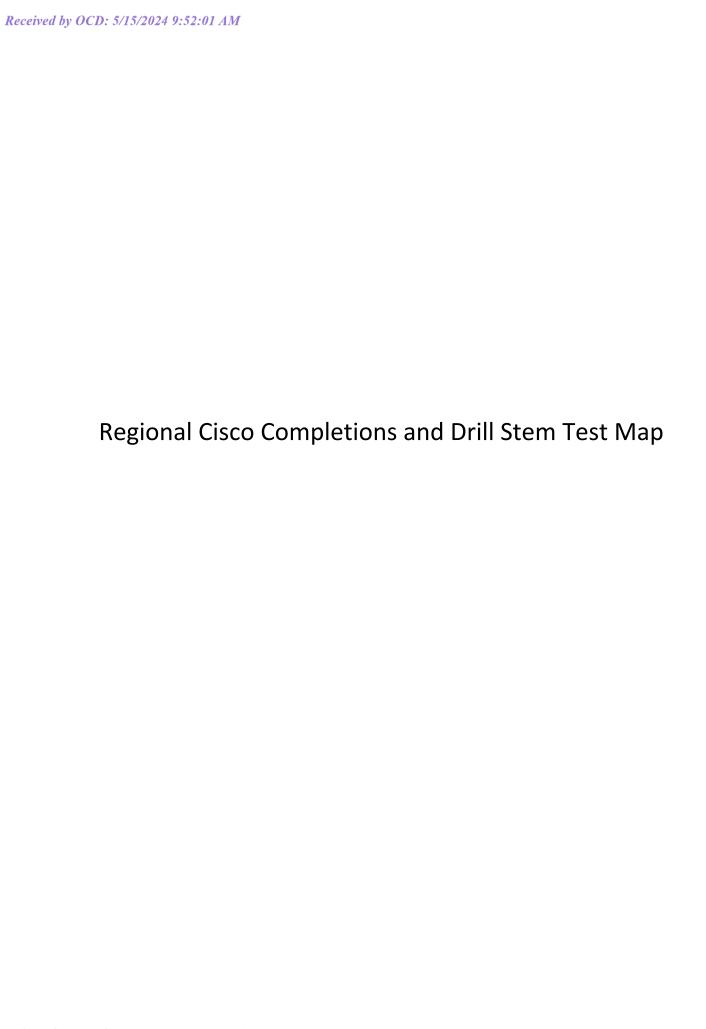
Eddy County, New Mexico

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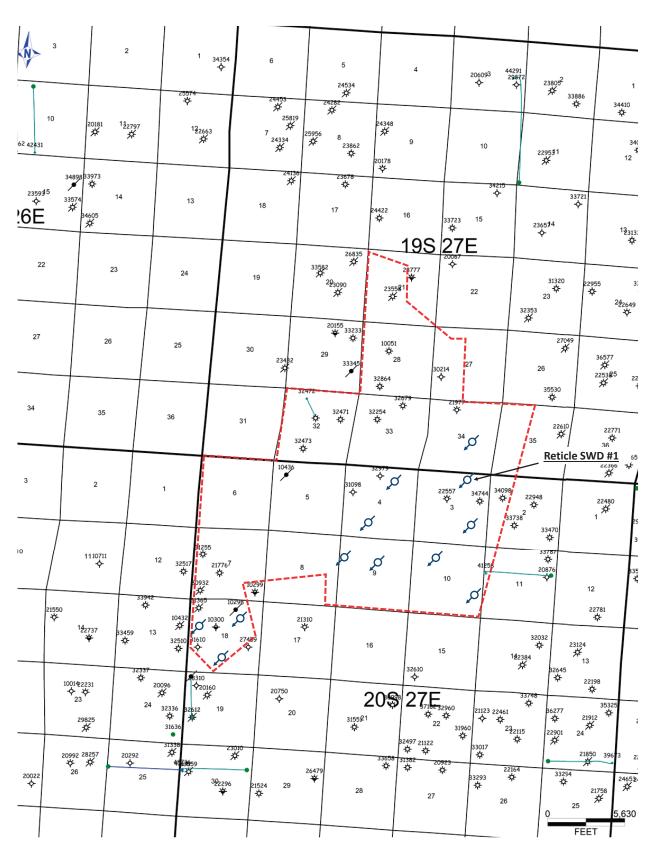




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Eddy County, New Mexico

Cisco Formation Isopach & Structure Maps



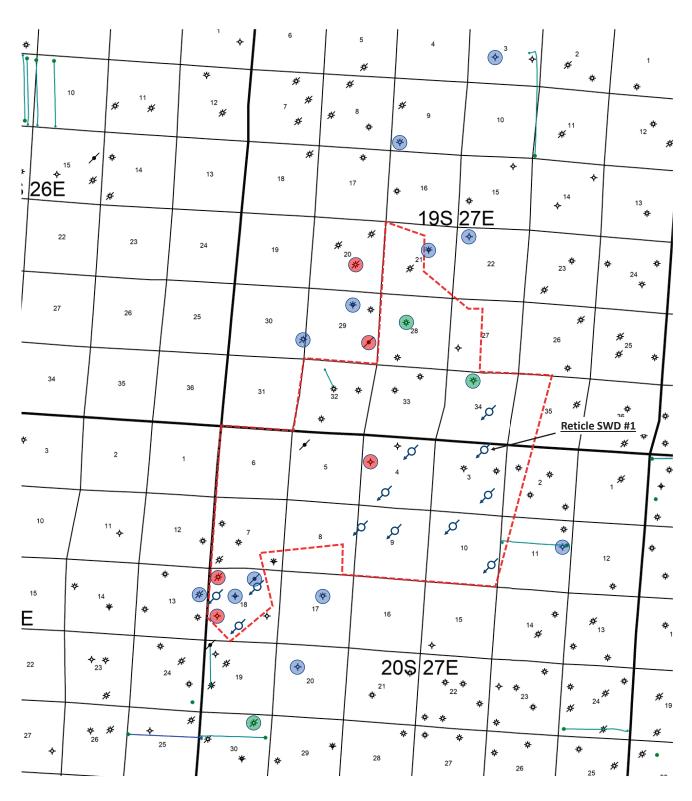
Wells posted are 5000' and deeper

— — — - Property Outline

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WaterBridge Stateline LLC

Reticle SWD #1
Well ID Map (API last five)
Eddy County, New Mexico



Perf'd Cisco – No Production

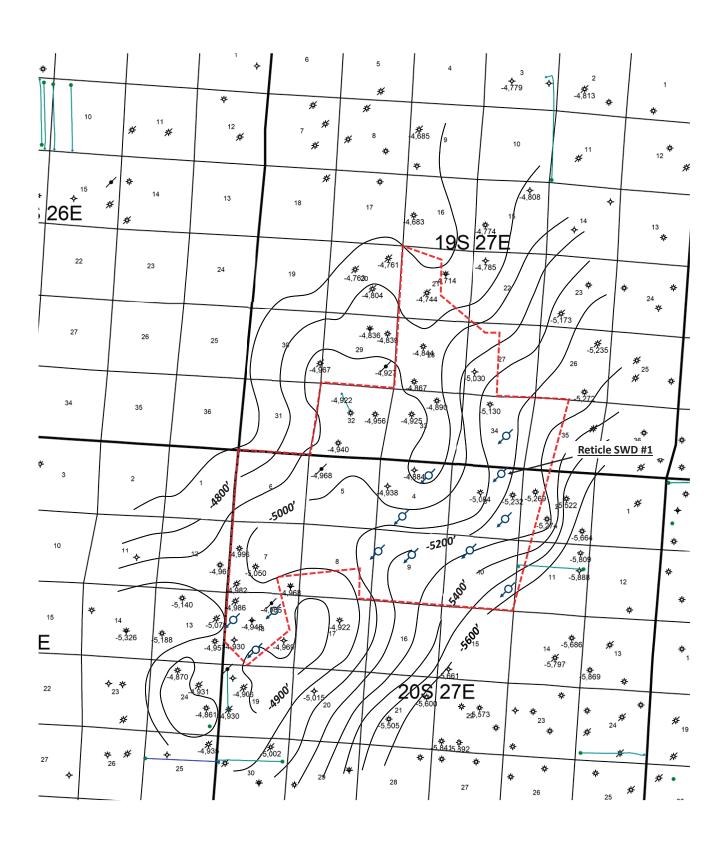
DST Cisco

IHS reported perfs or DST's – Not present or illegible @ NMOCD

Pending WaterBridge Cisco Disposal Permits

WaterBridge Stateline LLC

Reticle SWD #1
Cisco DSTs and Perfs
Eddy County, New Mexico



- - - - Property Outline

Pending WaterBridge Cisco Disposal Permits

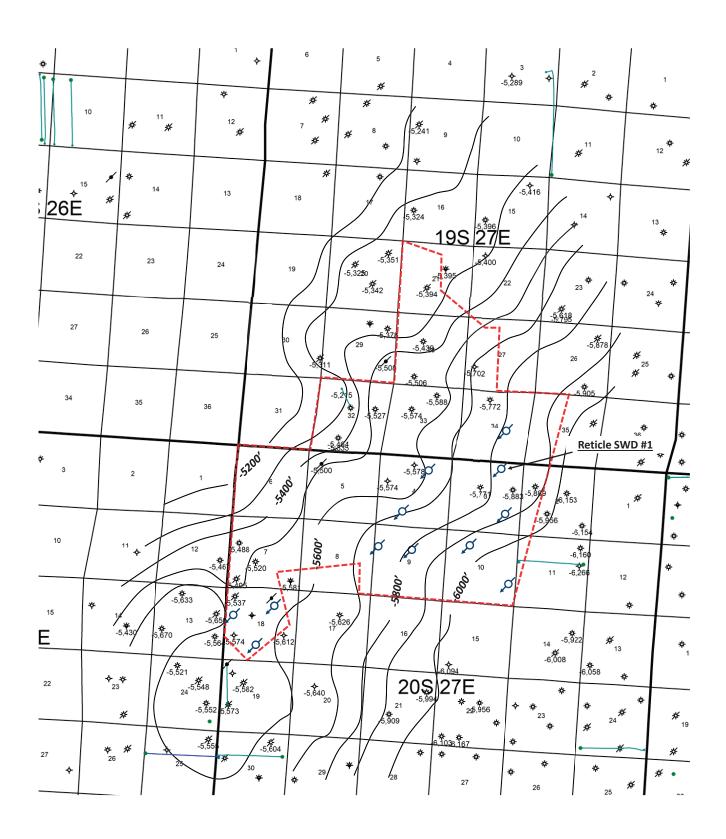
Reticle SWD #1

Structure Map – Top/ Cisco

Contour Interval = 100'

Eddy County, New Mexico

WaterBridge Stateline LLC



**- - - -** Property Outline

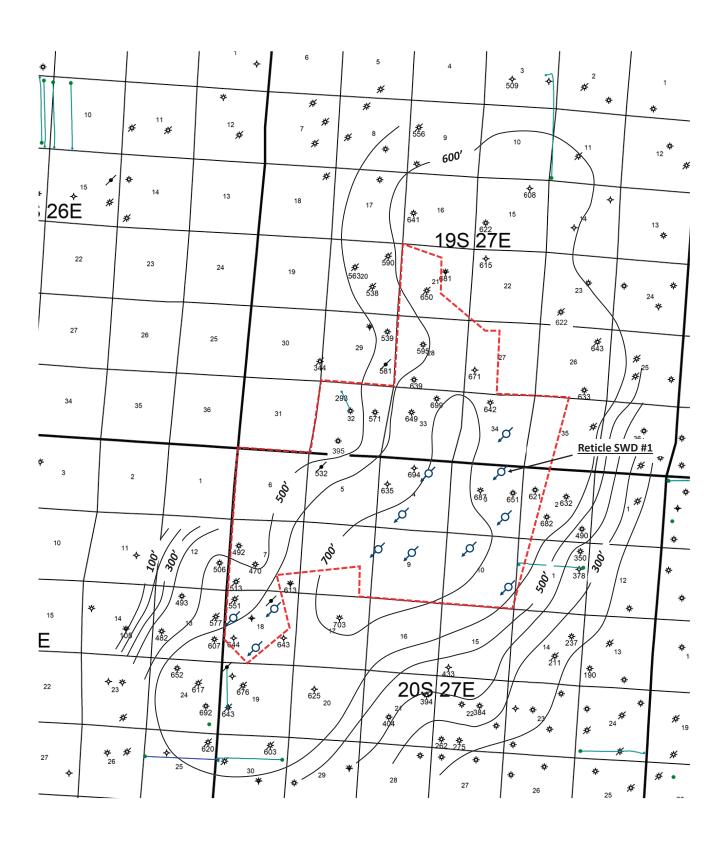
Pending WaterBridge Cisco Disposal Permits

Reticle SWD #1

Structure Map — Base/ Cisco
Contour Interval = 100'

Eddy County, New Mexico

WaterBridge Stateline LLC



**— — — -** Property Outline

Pending WaterBridge Cisco Disposal Permits

WaterBridge Stateline LLC

Reticle SWD #1
Isopach Map — Cisco Formation
Contour Interval = 100'
Eddy County, New Mexico

Seismic Analysis Letter:



February 5, 2024

PN 1703.SWD.06

Mr. Phillip Goetze, P.G. NM EMNRD – Oil Conservation Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: WaterBridge Stateline, LLC

Reticle Fed SWD #1 - Seismic Potential Letter

Dear Mr. Goetze,

At the request of Water Bridge Stateline, LLC (WaterBridge), ALL Consulting, LLC (ALL) has assessed the potential injection-induced seismicity risks in the vicinity of WaterBridge's Reticle Fed SWD #1 (Subject SWD), a proposed saltwater disposal (SWD) facility in Eddy County, New Mexico, and summarized the findings in this letter. This assessment used publicly available data to identify the proximity and characteristics of seismic events and known faults to evaluate the potential for operation of the Reticle Fed SWD #1 to contribute to seismic activity in the area.

## **Geologic Evaluation**

The Subject SWD is requesting a permit to inject into the Pennsylvanian Cisco Formation at a depth of 8,610-9,500 feet below ground surface (bgs). The Cisco consists of various Pennsylvanian-age carbonates and is overlain by approximately 40 feet of shale beds with low porosity and permeability development that prevent the upward migration of injection fluid and serve as the upper confining layer (see **Attachment 1**). Additionally, approximately 80 feet of interbedded low porosity and low permeability shales and other carbonate rocks lie in the lower Cisco Formation and upper Strawn Formation and act as a lower confining zone by prohibiting downward migration of injected fluids into the underlying Strawn Formation (see **Attachment 1**). A stratigraphic chart depicting the geologic setting is included as **Figure 1**.

#### Seismic Events and Fault Data

A review of United States Geological Survey (USGS) and New Mexico Tech Seismological Observatory (NMTSO) earthquake catalogs determined that three (3) seismic events have been recorded within a 100 square mile area [9.08-kilometer (km) radius] around the Subject SWD. The closest recorded seismic event was a M1.26 that occurred on August 21, 2023 and was located approximately 2.72 miles southeast of the Subject SWD (see **Attachment 2**).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ball, Mahlon M. 1995. "Permian Basin Province (044)." In *National Assessment of United States Oil and Gas Resources—Results, Methodology, and Supporting Data*. U.S. Geological Survey. https://certmapper.cr.usgs.gov/data/noga95/prov44/text/prov44.pdf (accessed June 18, 2018).

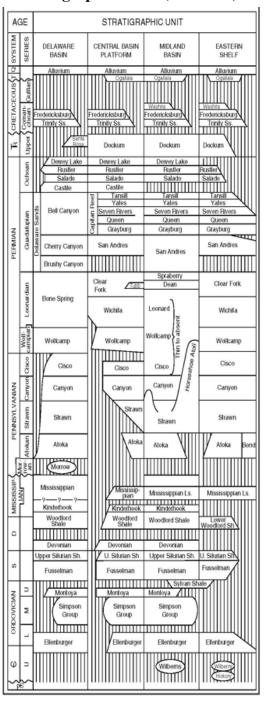
Fault data from USGS and the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG)<sup>2</sup> indicates that the closest known fault is located approximately 0.94 miles east of the Subject Well (See **Attachment 2**). This identified fault is within the Precambrian basement, which is approximately 7,000 feet below the injection interval<sup>3</sup>. A map of the seismic events and faults within 9.08 km of the Subject SWD is included as **Attachment 2**.

#### Seismic Potential Evaluation

Experience in evaluating induced seismic events indicates that most injection-induced seismicity throughout the U.S. (e.g., Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas, and Colorado) occurs as a result of injection into Precambrian basement rock or into overlying formations that are in hydraulic communication with the Precambrian basement rock, or as a result of injection near critically stressed and optimally oriented faults. Seismicity at basement depths occurs because critically stressed faults generally originate in crystalline basement rock and may also extend into overlying sedimentary formations. <sup>4</sup>

Injection into either the Precambrian basement rock or its overlying formations that are hydraulically connected to the basement rock through faulting or fracture networks can increase the pore pressure and may cause the fault to slip, resulting a seismic event.<sup>4</sup> Because of this, the vertical distance between the injection formation and Precambrian basement rock as well as the presence or lack of faulting within the injection interval are major considerations when determining the risk of injection-induced seismicity. Geophysical logs from nearby well records show at least 7,000 feet of vertical separation between the injection interval and the Precambrian basement.<sup>1</sup> Injection-induced seismicity is not typically associated with shallow disposal wells, such as the Reticle Fed SWD #1.

Figure 1 – Delaware Basin Stratigraphic Chart (Ball 1995)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Horne E. A. Hennings P. H., and Zahm C. K. 2021. Basement structure of the Delaware Basin, in The Geologic Basement of Texas: A Volume in Honor of Peter Flawn, Callahan O. A., and Eichubl P., The University of Texas at Austin, Bureau of Economic Geology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> G. Randy Keller, J. M. Hills &; Rabah Djeddi, A regional geological and geophysical study of the Delaware Basin, New Mexico and West Texas, Trans Pecos Region (West Texas) (1980).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ground Water Protection Council and Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission.

Potential Injection-Induced Seismicity Associated with Oil & Gas Development: A Primer on Technical and

For injection into the Cisco Formation to contribute to seismic activity, one of two hypothetical geologic scenarios must exist:<sup>5</sup>

- 1. Earthquake hypocenters would need to be significantly shallower (several kilometers) than initially identified by the USGS and NMTSO seismic monitoring networks, and thus placing seismic activity high in the sedimentary column, rather than in the Precambrian basement.
- 2. High permeability and transmissive conduits from fault-damaged zones would need to be present below the Cisco Formation, allowing fluid to migrate through the Strawn Formation shale and carbonate units and through significantly deeper confining intervals, and eventually into the Precambrian basement. Additionally, this hypothesis would need to assume that the injection fluids and bottom hole pressures in the Cisco Formation would need to exceed existing hydrostatic pressures within the deeper geologic formation in order for injection fluids to migrate downward.

There are no publications or data that suggest either of these scenarios to be true for the area around the Subject SWD.

#### Conclusion

As an expert on the issue of induced seismicity, seismic monitoring and mitigation, it is my opinion that the potential for the Subject SWD to cause injection-induced seismicity is expected to be minimal, at best. This conclusion is based on (1) the presence of numerous confining layers above and below the injection interval and (2) the significant vertical distance between the injection zone and Precambrian basement rock in which the nearest fault is located.

Sincerely, ALL Consulting

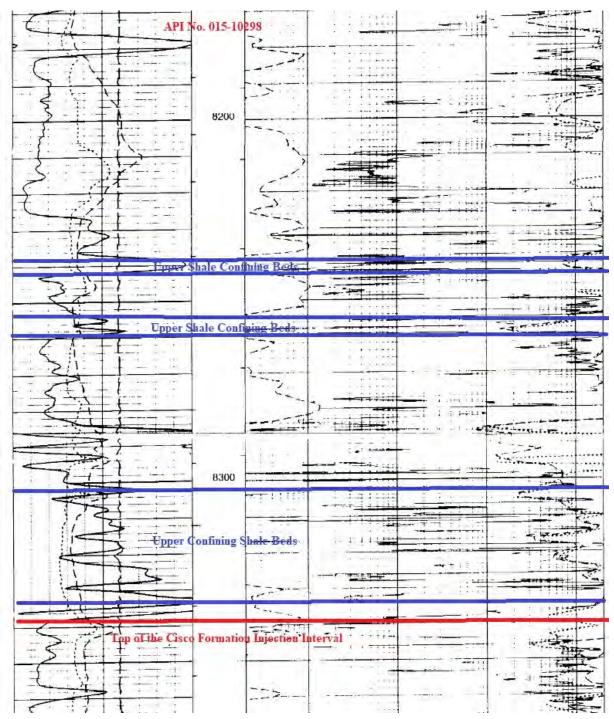
Reed Davis Geophysicist

Regulatory Considerations Informing Risk Management and Mitigation. 2015. 141 pages.

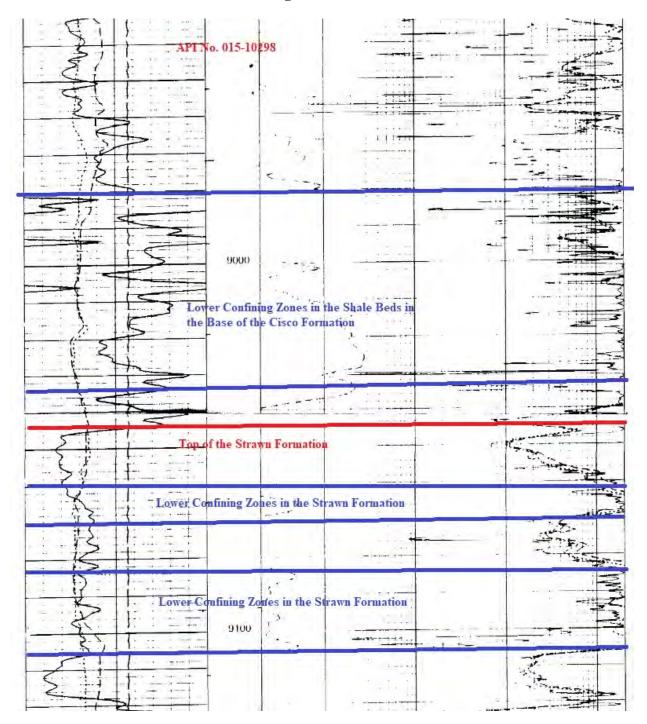
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Skoumal, Robert J., et al. "Induced Seismicity in the Delaware Basin, Texas." *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, vol. 125, no. 1, 2020, doi:10.1029/2019jb018558.

> Attachment 1 Upper and Lower Confining Zones

Upper Shale Confining Zones from API No. 015-10298

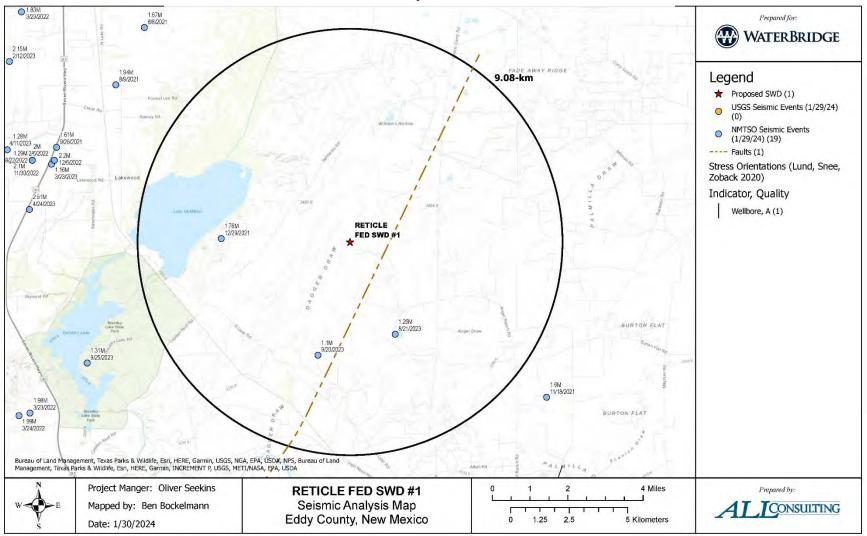


## Lower Shale Confining Zones from API No. 015-10298



> Attachment 2 Seismic Event Map

### Reticle Fed SWD #1 Nearby Seismic Events and Faults



District I
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240
Phone: (575) 393-6161 Fax: (575) 393-0720

District II 811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210 Phone:(575) 748-1283 Fax:(575) 748-9720

District III 1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410 Phone:(505) 334-6178 Fax:(505) 334-6170

1220 S. St Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505 Phone:(505) 476-3470 Fax:(505) 476-3462

**State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Oil Conservation Division** 1220 S. St Francis Dr. **Santa Fe, NM 87505** 

CONDITIONS

Action 344621

#### **CONDITIONS**

Operator:	OGRID:
WaterBridge Stateline LLC	330129
5555 San Felipe	Action Number:
Houston, TX 77056	344621
	Action Type:
	[IM-SD] Admin Order Support Doc (ENG) (IM-AAO)

#### CONDITIONS

Created By	Condition	Condition Date
mgebremichael	None	5/15/2024