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REPORTS

DATE: 7-23-1980



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WATER RESOURCES DIVISION WESTERN BANK BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR 505 MARQUETTE N.W., ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87102

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 26659, ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87125

WALTER A. MOURANT GEOLOGIST/HYDROLOGIST

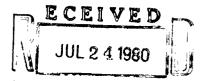
TELEPHONE: 766. 2810

why 23, 1980

Tom Parkhill

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PSNJy 2088 Sont 1, NM P250'



OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION SANTA FE

Den Ton, Eclosed are Copies /

SF 9-260d that you repeted.

Best regards,

Walt Mowing

Ground Water Study in and around Section 13, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, and Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East, Lea County, New Mexico

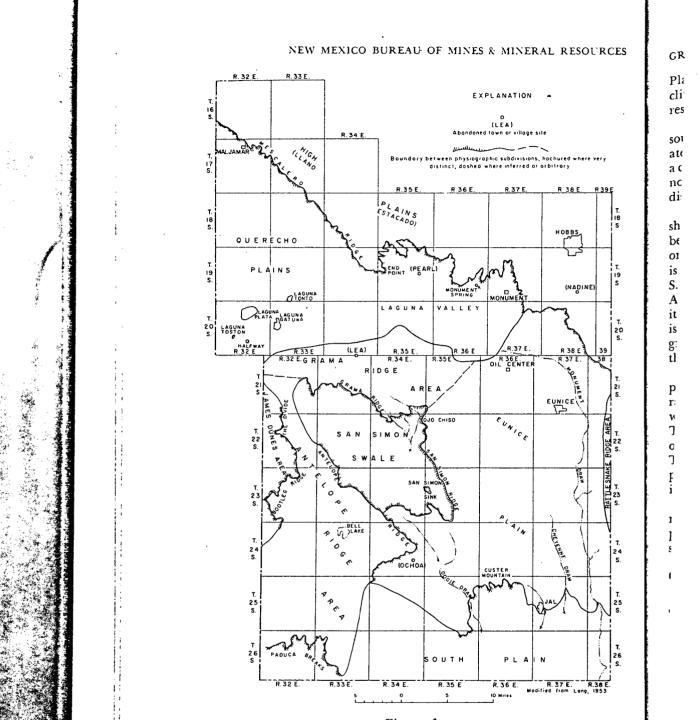
> Thomas A. Parkhill Oil Conservation Division July 15, 1980

CONTENTS

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	Page
Introduction	- 2
Physiography	- 2
Geology	- 2
Ground water resources	- 5
Ground-water chemical analyses	- 14
Information from State Engineer's Office	- 17
Seepage losses from brine pit	- 19
Field work conducted in study area	- 20
Geophysical well log study	- 21
Oil and gas production	- 23
Review of Hudson & Hudson Case 3892 (R-3554)	- 27
Recommendations	- 28
References	- 29
Appendix - State Engineers Letter	- 30



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Figure **1** Physiographic subdivisions of southern Lea County, N. Mex.

From Nicholson and Clebsch, 1961

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INTRODUCTION

A ground water study was done to determine whether or not the surface disposal of oil field brines should be continued in and around Section 13, Township 19 South, Range 32 East, and Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East, Western Lea County, New Mexico. This area is currently given an exemption from the provisions of Order R-3221 which allows for surface disposal of oil field brines. The land owners who have water wells in this area are Mr. Larry Squires and Mr. Mark Smith.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

The topography of this area is dominated by the Querecho Plains (fig. 1) which is a vast area of stable or semi-stable sand dunes covering approximately 400 square miles. A very irregular surface exists here with no drainage features except at the edges of several playa lakes. The four playa lakes which form the prominent features of this area are Laguna Plata, Laguna Gutuna, Laguna Tonto, and Laguna Toston.

GEOLOGY

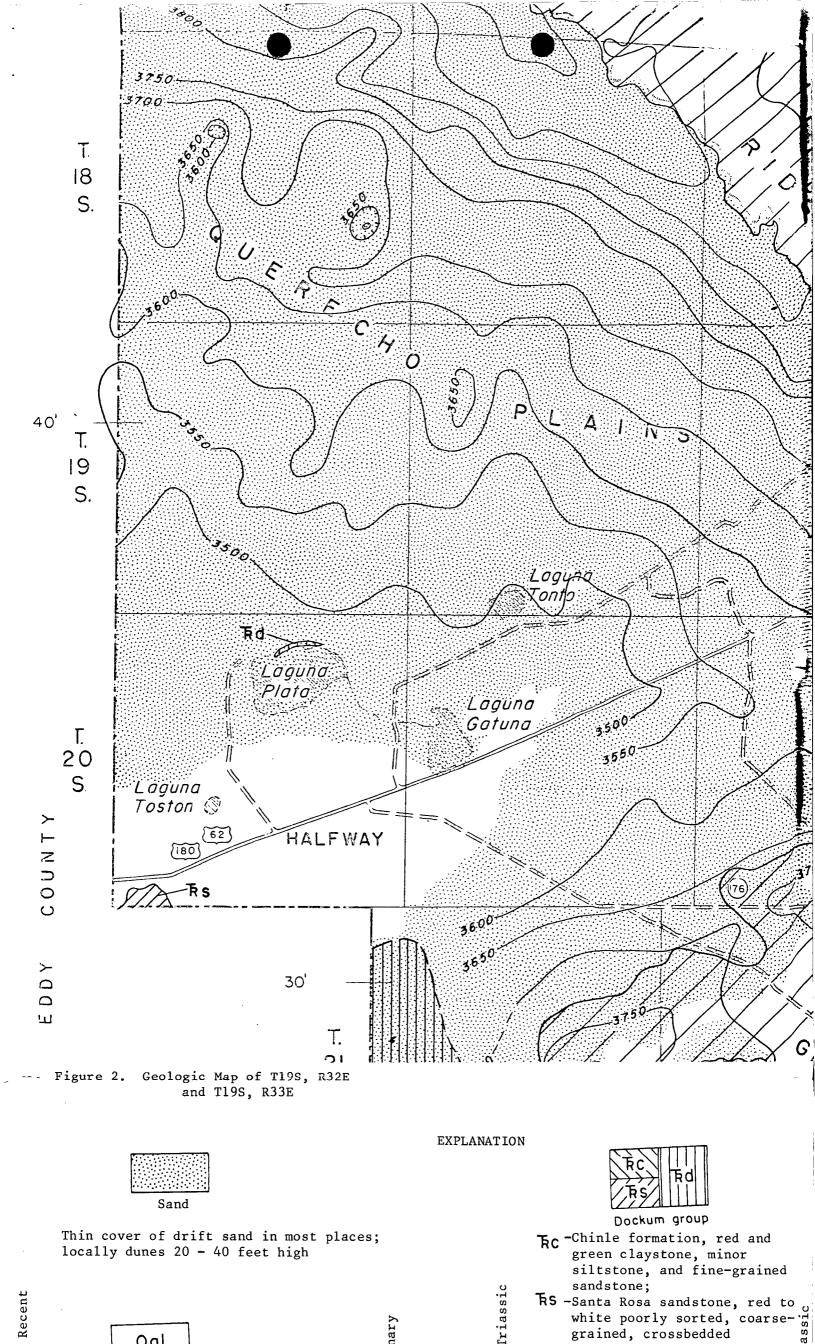
The surface geology of the study area is dominated by sediments of Quaternary and Triassic age which relate directly to useable ground water. The subsurface geology of the area includes the large, highly complex structure known as the Permian basin. Rocks here range from Precambrian to Permian in age. They are not significant to useable ground water, but they are the source of the highly mineralized water produced with oil. Rocks of these ages will not be described here.

Triassic age rocks of the Dockum group unconformably overlie rocks of Permian age and range in thickness from 0 to 1570 feet in southern Lea County. The Triassic formations have a gentle dip in a south to southeast direction. The Dockum group can be divided into the Santa Rosa sandstone and the Chinle formation, but the distinction is not made in this area because of lithologic similarities and poor exposures. The Santa Rosa is a fine to coarsegrained sandstone with a thickness which varies from 140 to more than 400 feet. In places it contains minor shale layers. The sand grains approach silt size in some places and conglomeratic rock can be found elsewhere. Its color is generally red but it contains sands colored white, gray, and greenish-gray. The Santa Rosa is exposed in the southwestern parts of T20S, R32E.

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Geologic Age	Geologic Unit	Thickness (ft.)	General Character	Water-Bearing Properties
Recent and	Sand	0-30±	Dune sand, unconsolidated, sta- bilized to drifting, semiconsoli- dated at depth; fine to medium- grained.	Above the zone of saturation, hence does not yield water to wells. Aids recharge to under- lying formations by permitting rapid infiltration of rain water.
Pleistocene	Alluvium	0-400±	Channel and lake deposits; alter- nating thick bedded calcareous silt, fine sand, and clay; thickest in San Simon Swale; less than 100 feet thick in most places.	Saturated and highly permeable in places in east end of Laguna Valley. Forms continuous aquifer with Ogallala formation. Will usually yield less than 30 gpm. Locally above the water table.
ssic group	Chinle formation	0-1,270±	Claystone, red and green, minor fine-grained sandstones and silt- stones; underlines all of eastern part of southern Lea County area; thins westward; absent in extreme west.	Yields small quantities of water from sandstone beds. Yields are rarely over 10 gpm. Water has high sulfate content.
Dockum grou	Santa Rosa sandstone	140-300 <u>+</u>	Sandstone, chiefly red but locally white, gray, or greenish-gray; fine- to coarse-grained; exposed in extreme west; underlies Cenozoic rocks in western part of area, and is present at depth in eastern part.	Yields small quantities of water over most of the area. Some wells are reported to yield as much as 100 gpm. Water has high sulfate content.
raleozold Permian Triassic	Undiffer- entiated	90-400+	Siltstone, red, shale, and sand- stone; present at depth under all of southern Lea County.	No wells are known to be bottomed in the red beds. Probably can yield very small quantities of high-sulfate water.
raleozoic Ordovician Fermian		6,500-17,000 <u>+</u>	Thick basin deposits ranging in character from evaporites to coarse clastics; thinnest on the east side of the area over the Central basin platform, thickest toward the southwest.	No presently usable water supply available from these rocks. Source of highly mineralized oil-field waters.
			Granite, granodioritic and other igneous and metamorphic rocks; complex structure.	Not hydrologically significant.
Frecambrian *			Modified from Nich o lson	and Clebsch, 1961

Table 1. Stratigraphic Units in and around T19S, R32E and T19S, R33E



The Chinle is the uppermost formation of the Dockum group and ranges in thickness from 0 to 1270 feet. It is thickest in eastern Lea County and entirely absent in western Lea County because of post-Mesozoic erosion. The Chinle is dominantly a red and green claystone, but it contains thin beds of fine grained sandstones and siltstones.

Quaternary age rocks present in Lea County are in the form of alluvial deposits, with some channel and lake deposits which are probably both Pleistocene and Recent age. The dune sands are of Recent age. The alluvium in the study area has been deposited directly on the Triassic Dockum group erosion surface which forms a topographically low area. The thickness of the alluvium ranges from a few inches to more than 400 feet (in the San Simon Sink) but it is generally less than 100 feet thick. The alluvium is composed of a poorly consolidated calcareous silt, fine sand and clays.

The red dune sands (called "Mescalero Sands") are the extensive Quaternary unit, which covers about 80% of southern Lea County. Much of this sand has probably been derived from rocks of Permian and Triassic age in the Pecos Valley in Eddy County. This sand is generally fine to medium grained, with a uniformly reddish brown color.

GROUND WATER RESOURCES

All useable ground water in this study area comes from two (2) principal geologic units, the Dockum group and Quaternary alluvium. No potable water is found below the Permian-Triassic unconformity.

The water wells of the Quaternary alluvium is generally a better chemical quality than that from rocks of Triassic age. The younger rocks are more permeable, therefore producing wells with better yields.

The Santa Rosa sandstone is the principal aquifer present in the western third of southern Lea County. The unit is recharged by precipitation on the Quaternary sand dunes; by precipitation and runoff directly on the outcrops; and probably by ground water flow from the overlying Quaternary alluvium. The study area is probably being recharged by the ground water mound located in T22S, R32E, which represents recharge from the outcrop and infiltration through the dune-sand cover (Nicholson and Clebsch, 1961).

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The study area's water table contour map indicates that water discharges from the Triassic rocks are in the vicinity of the four (4) playa lakes. The ground water flow is in a generally southwestward direction. No water discharges into the atmosphere because the lake surfaces are 200 feet higher than the pressure surface in the Santa Rosa aquifer. Nicholson and Clebsch, 1961, concluded that the Santa Rosa discharges downward into the Permian rocks, inasmuch

-5-

as the lakes appear to be collapse structures, which probably has greatly increased the vertical permeability.

Information about the Quaternary alluvium indicates that it acts as both an aquifer and a means of recharge for the Triassic rocks. Quoting from Nicholson and Clebsch, 1961, "Some water apparently spills over the buried red-bed ridge and moves southwestward; however, on the basis of the limited data available, there does not seem to be a continuous saturated zone in the thin cover of alluvium in the Querecho Plains. This probably results partly from the fact that precipitation is significantly lower in the Querecho Plains and partly from the fact that the Santa Rosa sandstone, which underlies much of the area, is sufficiently permeable to accept most of the water that infiltrates through the alluvium." The ground water movement in the Quaternary sediments in this area appears to be the same southwesterly direction as the Triassic rocks.

The following list of data on aquifers that have produced fresh water was obtained from J. Runyan's April, 1970 report.

- 1. Upper water sand/aquifer
 - a) Windmill, Mr. Smith's house Unit H, Section 26, T19S, R33E - household and domestic use. TD 98 feet, water level 91 feet, chlorides 298 PPM, specific conductance 2560.
 - b) Windmill Unit B, Section 31, T19S, R34E TD 120 feet, chlorides 289 PPM, specific conductance 2290.
 - c) Windmill Unit E, Section 31, T19S, R34E TD 66 feet, water level 58 feet, chlorides 717 PPM, specific conductance 4420. This mill is abandoned due to rods and pump in hole, due to broken rod.
 - d) Windmill Unit P, Section 4, T20S, R34E used for cattle, shallow well, chlorides 1450 PPM, specific conductance 9890.
- 2. Middle water sand/aquifer
 - a) Fresh water well drilled for rig water, Unit M, Section 16, T19S, R34E - TD 408 feet, water level 360 feet, reported by Gulf Oil to be fresh.
 - b) Water sand encountered in P & A well, when drilled, Unit O, Section 33, T19S, R34E. Water sand at 280 - 290 feet. Reported on C-105.

3. Lower water sand - Santa Rosa:

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- a) Encountered in P & A well, when drilled, Unit F, Section 28, T19S, R34E. Depth 808 - 860 feet. Reported on C-105.
- b) Encountered in P & A well, when drilled, Unit N, Section 28, T19S, R34E. Depth 830 to 850 feet. Reported on C-105.
- c) Encountered in P & A well, when drilled, Unit L, Section 30, T19S, R34E. Depth 785 to 810 feet. Reported on C-105.

The saturated thickness of the Quaternary aquifer is thin, ranging from a thickness of 6 to 10 feet thick. Triassic rocks contain aquifers with saturated thickness which range from 10 to 52 feet thick.

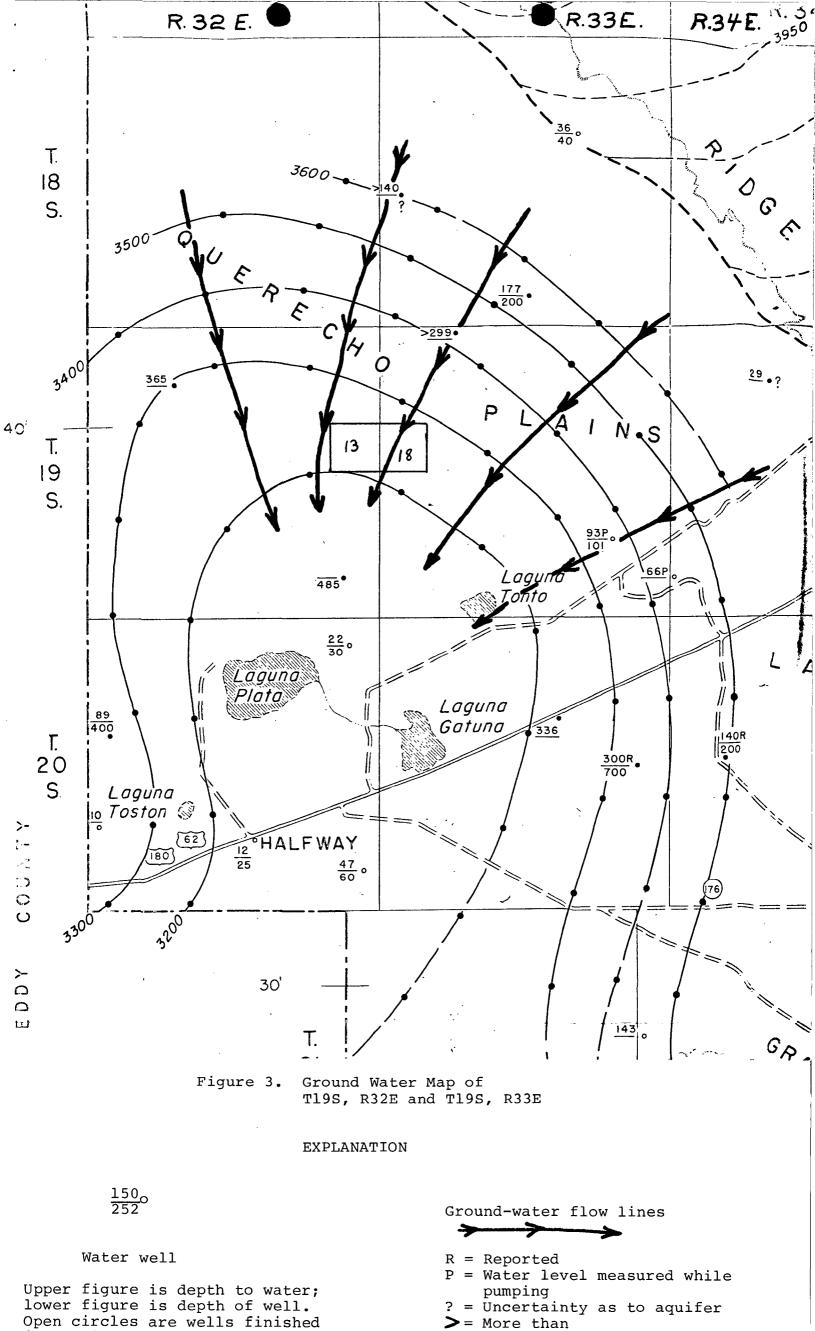
Hydrologic cross sections developed from available information were drawn on N-S and E-W lines. They indicate that the Quaternary and Triassic aquifer have their own distinct water tables which dip in a southerly direction.

Ground water flow lines were added to figure 3. The direction of flow of ground water was determined to be a south to southwesterly direction. This is true for both the Quaternary and Triassic aquifers.

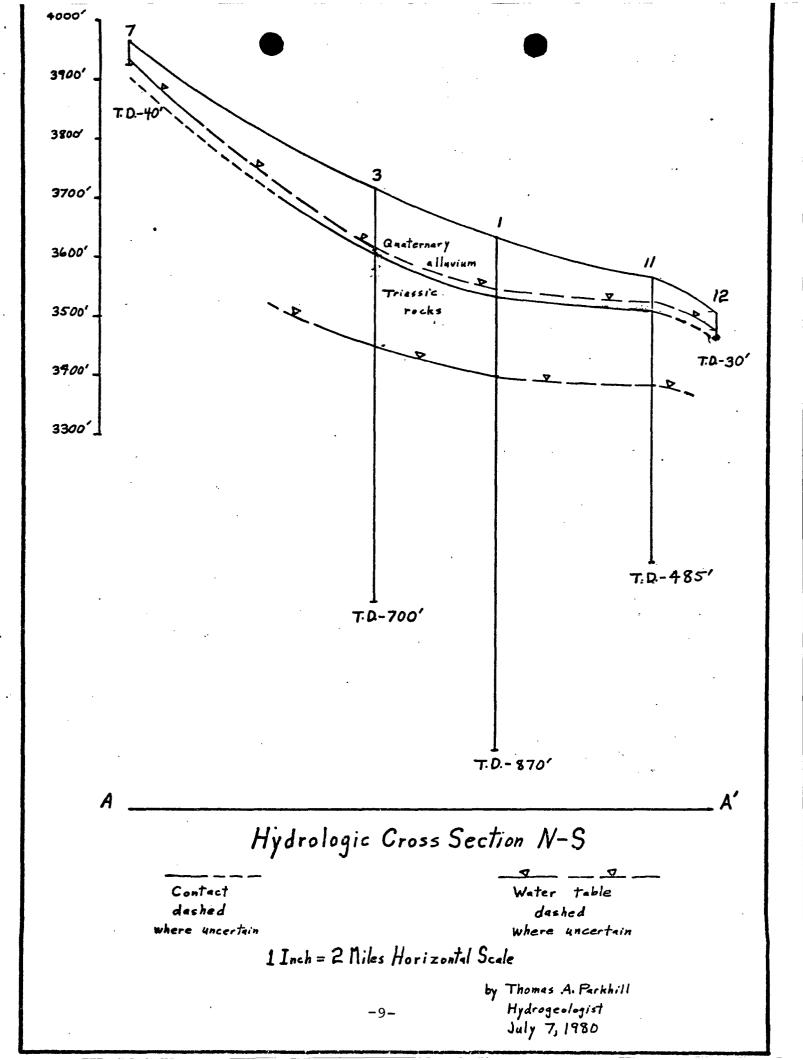
The brine pit (Unit E, Section 18, T19S, R33E) could, with time, contaminate the Snyder Ranch's East and West well.

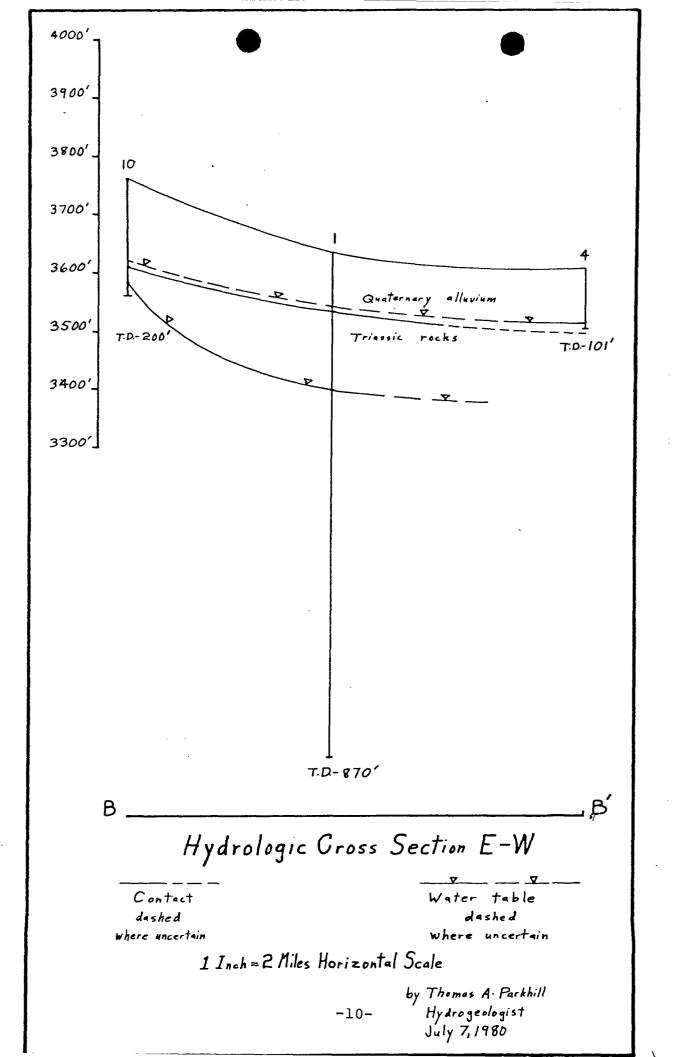
The water contamination plume would travel in a southwest direction and is apt to pollute any fresh water well in its path. The period of time for pollution to occur may vary from about 10 to 30 years from the time the pit was first used.

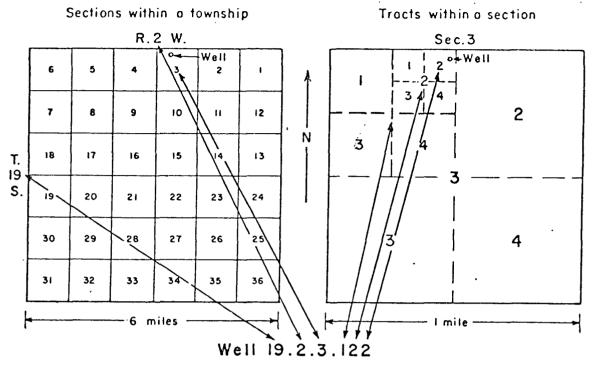
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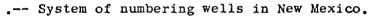


Open circles are wells finished in Tertiary or Ouaternary rocks:







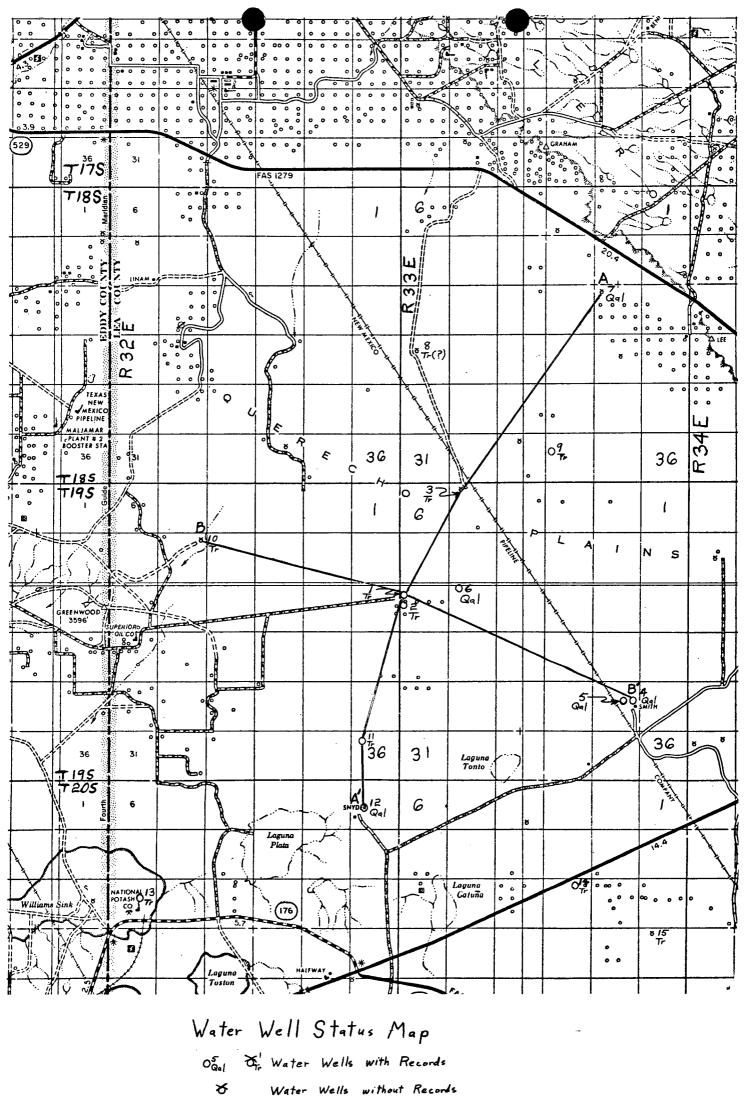


- LOCATION NUMBER: Explanation in section on well-numbering system.
- AQUIFER: Tr, Triassic rocks; Qal, Quaternary alluvium.
- DEPTH OF WELL: M, measured, all other depths are reported.
- ALTITUDE: Altitudes interpolated from topographic maps. Probable error less than 10 feet.
- WATER LEVEL: Measured depths are given to nearest tenth of a foot; reported depths are given to nearest foot. All are non-pumping water levels.

- SURFACE DIAMETER OF WELLS: Expressed in inches unless otherwise indicated. Diameters of cased, drilled wells are given in inches.
- METHOD OF LIFT: Lw, lift pump, windmill powered; Li, lift pump, internal-combustion-engine powered; Le, lift pump electrically driven; N, unequipped or partly equipped.
- USE OF WATER: D, domestic; L, domestic use other than drinking, such as watering lawns and gardens; In, industrial; S, stock; N, none.

				Depth	Water level Altitude	Depth below	Dete	Year	Surface	Mathad	Use of	
No.	Location	Owner	Aquifer	of well (feet)	of well (feet)	land surface (feet)	Date measured	com- pleted	diameter of wells	Method of lift	water	
7	18.33.14.111		Qal	40M	3,965	35.8	6- 3-54		5	N	N	
8	19.142		Tr(?)		3,820	140	12- 9-58		4	Lw	S	
9	34.133		Tr	200M	3,760	177.4	12- 9-58		8 ¹ 2	N	N	
10	19.32.8.200		Tr		3,650	365.3	12- 9-58		7불	Lw	S	
11	36.100	W. M. Snyder	Tr	485	3,565					Li	D, S	
3	19.33.5.123		Tr	700	3,713	433.7	11-18-65		8 5/8	Lw	S	
6	17.112		Qal	131	3,650	121.1	12- 8-65		7	N	N	
2	18.133	Pan Amer. Pet.	Tr	850	3,635				8 5/8	Le	In	
1	18.133	do	Tr	870	3,635	232.5	11-18-65	10-27-5	59 7	Le	In	
4	26.422	Mark Smith	Qal	101	3,600	92.9	7- 1-54		-	Lw	D, S	
5	26.422	do	Qal	100	3,608	90.5	11-17-63		-	Lw	S	
12	20.32.1.322	W. M. Snyder	Qa1	30	3,510	21.8	7- 1-54		6	Li	S	
13	18.233	Freeport	Tr	400	3,450	89.2	3-24-54	1954	8	Li	In	
14	20.33.15.221		Tr		3,570	336.1	4-20-55		4	Li	N	
15	24.122	D. C. Berry	Tr	700±	3,630	300±			10	Lw	S	

Modified from Nicholson and Clebsch, 1961



- Oil & Gas Wells
- Tr Triassic rocks
- Qal Queternery alluvium

1"=2 Miles

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by Thomas A. Parkhill Hydrogeologist July 2,1980

-13-

GROUND WATER ANALYSES

John Runyan of the Oil Conservation Division, Hobbs office, collected five water samples on June 19, 1980. They were sent to Albuquerque Analytical Lab, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for chemical analyses of the content of Chlorides (Cl), Sulfates (SO₄) and Total Dissolved Solids (T.D.S.). The results of the water analysis for the following four wells (see location on Water Well Status Map) are:

SAMP	LE ID	TDS (ppm)	Cl (ppm)	SO ₄ (ppm)
4)	Mark Smith Ranch 19-33-26-42221	1,864.0	290.0	693.1
1)	L. Squires E-18-19-33 West Well	1,264.0	138.0	428.1
2)	L. Squires E-18-19-33 East Well	3,544.0	96.0	1,455.4
10)	L. Squires 19-32-8-22411 West Mill	944.0	68.4	123.5

The results of the chemical analysis indicate that all the ground water is well below 10,000 ppm. Two of the samples are near or below the human health standards set for drinking water. The maximum amount allowed for Chlorides (Cl) is 250 ppm, Sulfates (SO₄) is 600 ppm, and Total Dissolved Solids (T.D.S.) is 1000 ppm.

Two of these wells, numbers 1 and 2, are closest to the brine pit in Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East. The distance between these two wells is 150 feet and the water is obtained from the same Triassic rock aquifer. Well number 2's T.D.S. is 2.8 times higher than well number 1's T.D.S. and well number 2's Chloride content is 3.3 times higher than well number 1's Chloride content. The high sulfate and Total Dissolved Solids content in the ground water of water well number 2 may be due to the solution of the gypsum (Ca $SO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$) present in the Triassic rocks or it may be an indication of ground water contamination. Only a long term ground water monitoring program will determine which explanation is correct.

An additional sample was taken from the brine water line at the point where it pours into the battery pit located in Unit E, Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East (see Oil & Gas Status Map). The results of the chemical analyses are:

TDS (ppm)	Cl (ppm)	SO $_4$ (ppm)
20,444.0	9,480.0	2,634.2

A brine water sample was taken and analyzed on February 22, 1968, by Hudson & Hudson for Case No. 3892 (see Exhibit #6). No Total Dissolved Solids analysis was run, but Chlorides present ran 9,950 ppm and Sulfates ran 2,400 ppm. This compares very closely with the recent Oil Conservation Division water chemical analysis. The results indicate that the water chemistry has remained stable during the period of brine water production.

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For: X. A. and 200 Pooks Artesis,		eom In	bruery 22, 1968 Mand, Tesas	1 62 0	(14)) - macharach
Attn: Mr. Ralp	h Gray		WORK TOALO	Yatas	- ·· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Tank Battery			Federal #18	1.CJ2	71
CONSTRUCTION 13		en en franceseure Nacional de la companya de la company Nacional de la companya de la company			····
Socium Celcium	<u>6,110</u> 	<u> 266 </u>) Otiente)) Bicarbouete	9,950	280
Magnesium	366	30			
fron	Not dece	mined	Carbraole	0	19 49
		STHEF (com	DIAGRAM 1/D		
C 5	4 3 2				C)/1001
Ca/100					HCO_//O
Mg/100					50,/30
Fe/10					C05/10
Remerius: Nydrogen Sul	fida - pres	sent			
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			BEFORE THE	WISSION	
George N. Greer Jr Crenshaw - 2 Tulsa Lab	•	C	Sonta Fe, New Mexin Sonta Fe, New Mexin Case No. 3292	6	

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AMILIASIS BASED ON ALL RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE

EXHIBIT #6.

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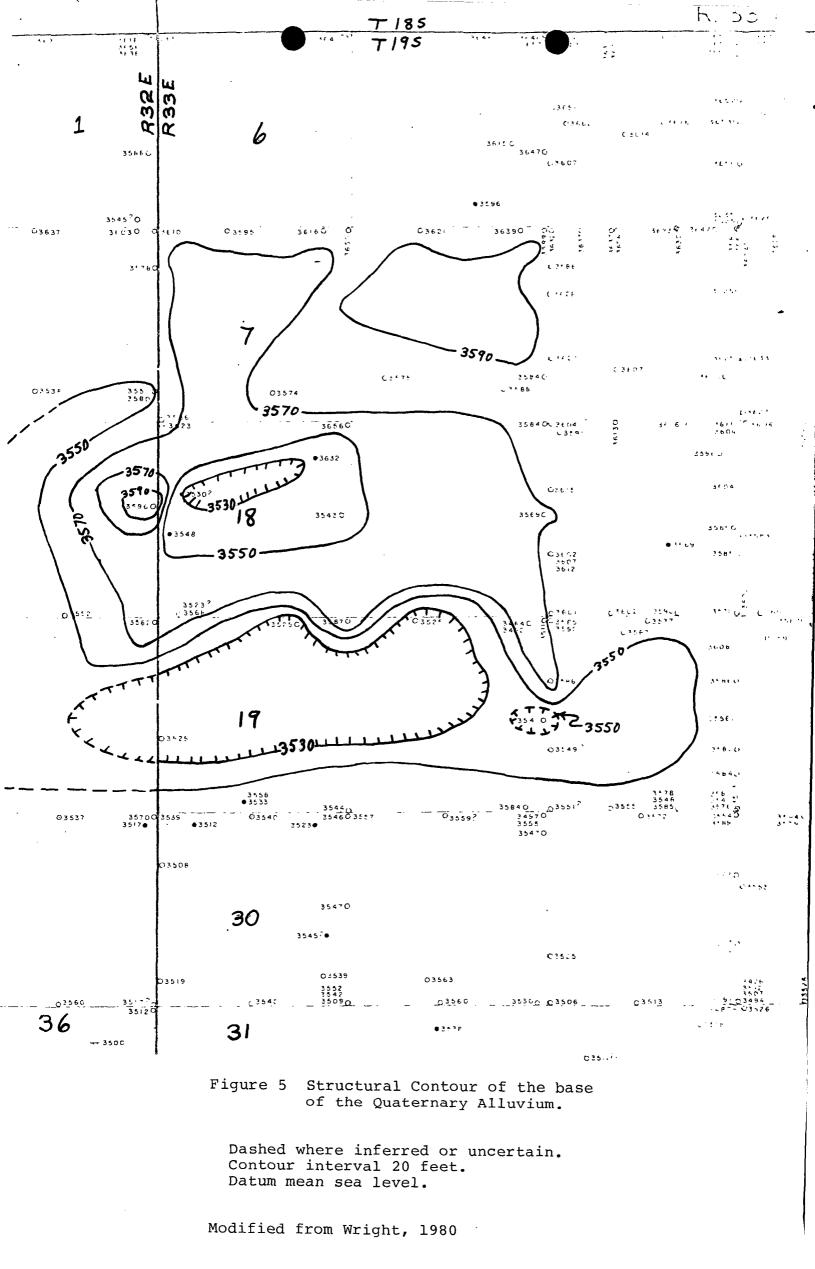
INFORMATION FROM STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE

The Roswell branch of the State Engineer's Office has been very concerned about the possible contamination of ground water from the disposal of brine in unlined pits in Township 19 South, Range 33 East. In a letter to the O.C.D. Hobbs office dated February 8, 1980, James I. Wright stated that the water present in the alluvium is of fairly good quality with most samples having a chloride content less than 300 ppm. He also enclosed well records of six (6) water wells in the area which are being used for domestic, stock and oil well drilling. Three wells produced water from Quaternary Alluvium and three produced water from Triassic Santa Rosa sandstone. Mr. Wright confirmed that the two (2) principal aquifers in this area have ground water flow to the southwest.

The State Engineer's Office conducted a ground water contamination study (Wright, April, 1979) which indicates that the chloride content for both the alluvium and Santa Rosa sandstone is less than The average conductance of the Triassic Santa Rosa sand-.mqg 006 stone from a well with two (2) analyses was 691 micromhos. Α conversion factor of 0.65 (Nicholson and Clebsch, 1971) was multiplied by 691 micromhos to obtain a figure of 449.1 ppm Total Dissolved Solids (T.D.S.) The average conductance of the Quaternary Alluvium from a well with four (4) analyses was 2,616.7 micromhos. A conversion factor of 0.69 (Nicholson and Clebsch, 1971) was multiplied by 2,616.7 micromhos to obtain a figure of 1,805.5 ppm T.D.S. This figure for T.D.S. seems to be anomalously high for the alluvium in the western part of southern Lea County.

A structural contour map was drawn on the elevation of the base of the alluvium (Wright, 1980) in the immediate area of the location of the brine pit. This map (figure 5) indicates that the pit (Section 18, T19S, R33E) is located in a structural depression. Another depression is located in northern two-thirds of Section 19, T19S, R33E. The whole area of the "Mescalero Sand" appears to be a series of small highs and small depressions. The hydrological significance of these depressions is to provide a suitable place for water to collect for recharge of both the Quaternary and Triassic aquifers.

-17-



SEEPAGE LOSSES FROM BRINE PIT

Quantitative estimates of the seepage losses from the brine pit (Unit E, Section 18, T19S, R33E) were studied to assess the potential impact on the major ground water aquifers. Unfortunately, many of the perimeters needed for the calculations were missing, which made a quantitative analysis of the vertical migration to ground water impossible to complete.

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Vertical migration was determined in a qualitative manner by reviewing the description of the aquifer's sediments found in Nicholson and Clebsch, 1961. Both the Quaternary and Triassic age sediments were deposited in a wide range of depositional environments, causing a large variation of grain sizes. The data from this farea indicates that no major or minor impermeable clays or caliche are present in the geologic section to prevent any downward vertical migration of fluids into the water table.

When the pit was first put into service, the seepage rate was probably quite rapid because it occurred under partially saturated conditions. When the brine water reached the water table, it created a rising ground-water mound under the brine pit. When a ground-water mound establishes contact with the brine pit, saturated seepage occurs through a mound whose height is defined by the elevation of the impoundment.

This brine pit has been in use since 1968 and it is possible that the brine has reached the water table. Evidence of this comes from Mr. Larry Squires' statement of June 25, 1980, which was that the brine pit was never empty.

FIELD WORK CONDUCTED IN STUDY AREA

On May 20, 1980, John Runyan (O.C.D. - Hobbs) and I interviewed Mrs. Mark Smith about ground water quality and use. She told us that they still used well water for household uses, but not for drinking water due to its high sulfate content. The source of their drinking water is the nearby Potash Mine water line. Mrs. Smith was highly concerned about the economic hardship that could be brought about if their wells were contaminated by the oil field brine water.

John Runyan and I also visited the area of this report to study the geology of the area, the brine pits and locate the areas of the water, gas and oil wells.

GEOPHYSICAL WELL LOG STUDY

A borehole geophysical log search revealed that only six wells had some of the information needed for a ground water study. To be fully useful for a ground water study, geophysical logs must be run for the first 2000 feet of uncased hole, log suite must include gamma, resistivity and S.P. logs, and a copy of a detailed lithologic well must be present. Five of the holes had a suite of gamma and resistivity logs run and the sixth had a suite of gamma and neutron logs. Most of the holes have the top 350 feet missing and could not be used for this study. A study of the logs was conducted from 350 feet to about 1200 feet. There appears to be one (1) and sometimes two (2) low yield sandstone aquifers present, which are clayey and have T.D.S.'s which run from 4000 to 7500 ppm (see table 2).

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Table 2. Geophysical Well Log Study of Parts of T18S, R33E and T19S, R33E

Nellis A Federal - Sec. 8, T19S, R33E 1980 FNL & 660 FWL Elev. 3668 ft. 500'to 530' - water sand about 1000 ppm - clayey

Amoco Bondurant - Sec. 13, T19S, R32E 2310 FSL & 1980 FEL Elev. 3629 ft. 350' to 380' water sand about 5000 ppm - clayey Rest of hole very saline water

Inexco Fed. Com. #1-7 - Sec. 7, T19S, R33E 1980 FNL & 660 FEL Elev. 3665 ft. 760' to 870' water sand about 5000 ppm - clayey 885' to 945' poor water sand about 7500 ppm - very clayey

Amoco Bondurant Federal 1 - Sec. 12, T19S, R32E 1980 FSL & 1980 FEL Elev. 3649.5 ft. 730' to 785' water sand about 5000 ppm - clayey 1030' to 1045' water sand about 6000 ppm

Amoco Federal "AC" 1 - Sec. 18, T19S, R33E 660 FNL & 1980 FEL Elev. 3749.5 ft. 562' to 588' water sand about 4000 ppm - clayey

W. A. & E. R. Hudson Fed. 19 No. 1 - Sec. 19, T19S, R33E 330 FSL & 2310 FWL Elev. 3601 ft. 542' to 552' water sand (?) No information about water quality. U.S.G.S. Log Report of well indicates important water sand from 548 to 560 ft.

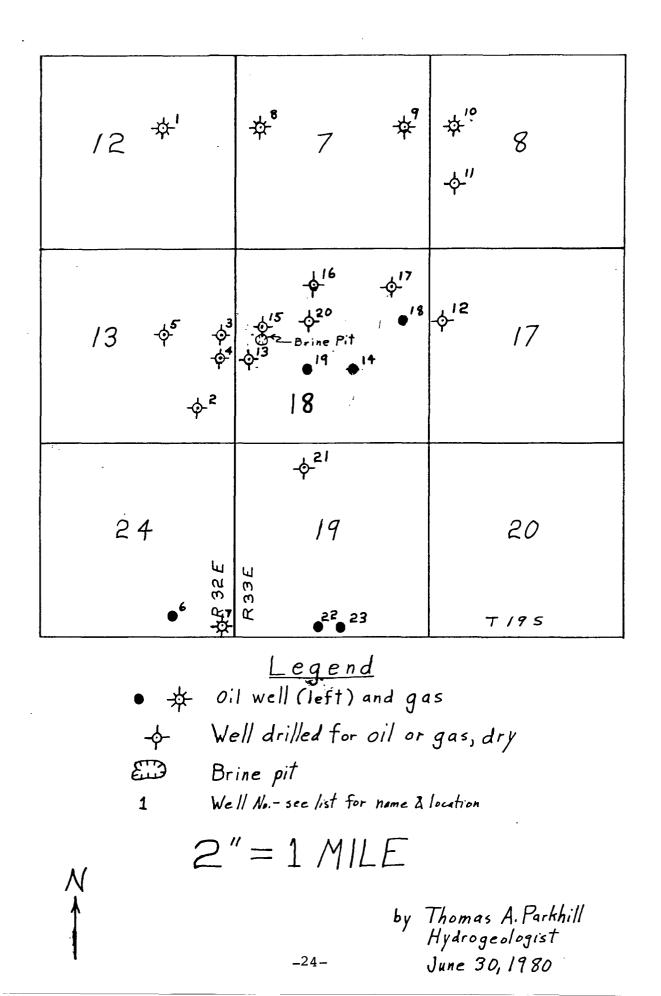
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION

The petroleum production of Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East, and the immediate surrounding area is dominated by the West Tonto-Yates Pool.

Oil Conservation Division records indicate that twenty-three oil and gas test holes have been drilled in a nine square mile area (see Oil & Gas Well Status Map). Most of the test holes were drilled to about 3500 feet, but a few were drilled to about 13,700 feet.

Of the twenty-three wells, six are currently producing oil, five are producing gas, and the rest have been plugged and abandoned. Records of the Oil Conservation Division indicate that no salt water disposal wells exist in this area.

Brine water from the production of oil is disposed of into unlined pits at a battery located in Unit E of Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East. The pit has not been monitored to determine if any ground water pollution has taken place as the result of brine water disposal practices. OIL & GAS WELL STATUS MAP



Oil & Gas Well Status Map Name and Location Index

Section 12, Township 19 South, Range 32 East

(1) Bondurant Federal 1980' FSL & 1980' FEL

Section 13, Township 19 South, Range 32 East

W. E. Bondurant No. 3 990' FSL & 990' FEL (2)Bondurant Federal No. 8 2310' FNL & 330' FEL (3) W. E. Bondurant No. 1 2310' FSL & 330' FEL (4) (5) Bondurant Federal No. 4 2310' FSL & 1980' FEL Section 24, Township 19 South, Range 32 East Big Circle No. 3 660' FSL & 1650' FEL (6) Big Circle No. 2 (7) 330' FSL & 330' FEL Section 7, Township 19 South, Range 33 East Federal Com. 7 No. 2 1980' FNL & 660' FWL (8) 1980' FNL & 660' FEL (9) Federal No. 1 Section 8, Township 19 South, Range 33 East Nellis A Federal No. 1 1980' FNL & 660' FWL (10)USA Culbertson-Irwin No. 1 1980' FSL & 660' FWL (11)Section 17, Township 19 South, Range 33 East (12)Walton Federal No. 1 1980' FSL & 330' FWL Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East Fed. 18 No. 7 (13)2310' FSL & 330' FWL (14)Fed. 18 No. 3 1980' FNL & 1980' FEL (15) Fed. 18 No. 1 2180' FNL & 690' FWL Fed. 18 No. 6 990' FNL & 2045' FWL (16)Fed. 18 No. 8 990' FNL & 990' FEL (17)1980' FNL & 660' FEL (18)Fed. 18 No. 4 Fed. 18 No. 5 1980' FSL & 2039' FWL (19)Fed. 18 No. 2 (20)1980' FNL & 2039' FWL

Section 19, Township 19 South, Range 33 East

(21)	Saunders "A" No. 1	660' FNL & 1980' FWL
(22)	Federal 19 No. l	330' FSL & 2310' FWL
(23)	Federal 19 No. 1	330' FSL & 2310' FEL

Section 20, Township 19 South, Range 33 East No oil and gas tests found for this section

REVIEW OF HUDSON & HUDSON CASE 3892 (R-3554)

On November 18, 1968, Hudson & Hudson was granted an exception from the "No Pit Order" No. R-3221.

From the transcripts of the hearing the following facts were obtained. Mr. Ralph Gray stated that water in area was very spotty and unsuitable for domestic use. He also stated that water had only limited stock use and many of these wells were abandoned. Other testimony from Mr. Kellahin stated deep water sources were not widely used in this area.

A disturbing aspect of this case was the lack of testimony from the land owners in the area, lack of water well chemical quality data, and no information from the State Engineer's Office on the area's water uses.

The research done on this area indicates that this testimony was not correct or complete. Therefore, the brine water pit exemption should not have been granted in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

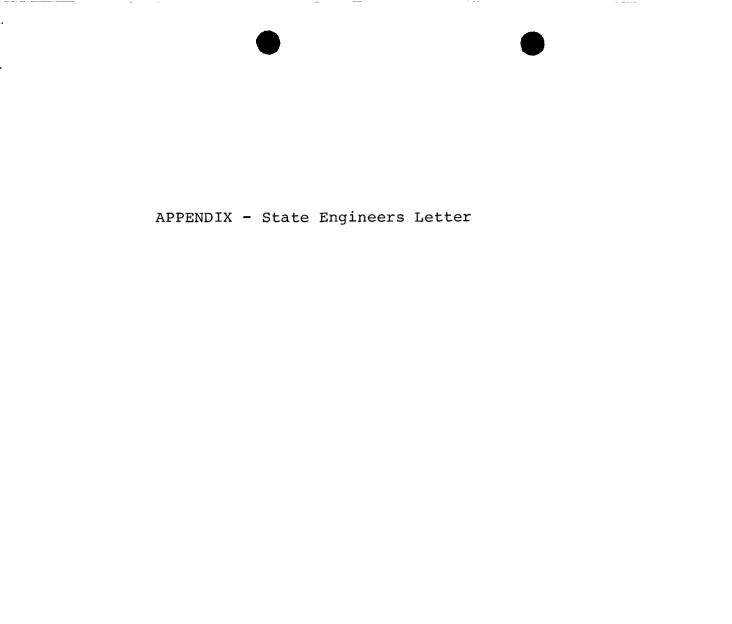
The area around and including Section 13, Township 19 South, Range 32 East and Section 18, Township 19 South, Range 33 East, apparently does contain ground water of useable quality. The Water Quality Control Commission is charged with the protection of all ground water which has a Total Dissolved Solids of 10,000 ppm or less. Well water from this area has chlorides that range from 68.4 to 290.0 ppm, sulfates range of 123.5 to 2,634.2 ppm, and Total Dissolved Solids range of 944.0 to 3,544.0 ppm. The depth of the water wells in this area range from 100 to 870 feet (J. Wright, 1980).

My research indicates that the disposal of oil field brine water in unlined pits will eventually contaminate the fresh water present in this area. I recommend that any exception to Order R-3221 be cancelled as soon as possible. All existing pits should be drained of brine and safely disposed of elsewhere. Then the pits should be filled with sand to conform to the topography of the area.

Write and capit is phanked of Dear in the the City?

References

- Fetter, C. W., (1980), Applied Hydrogeology, Columbus, Ohio, Charles E. Merril Publishing Co., 488p.
- McWhorter, D. B. and Nelson, J. D., (1980), Seepage in the Partially Saturated Zone Beneath Tailing Impoundments, Mining Engineer, p. 432-439.
- Nicholson, A., and Clebsch, A., (1961), Geology and ground-water conditions in southern Lea County, New Mexico, N. Mex. Bur. of Mines Ground-Water Report 6, 123p.
- Todd, D. K., (1959), Ground-Water Hydrology, New York, J. Wiley and Sons, 336p.
- Wright, J. I., (February 8, 1980), Personal communication. Hobbs O.C.D. District Office.



i.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE ENGINEER OFFICE

ROSWELL

S. E. REYNOLDS

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO: P. O. BOX 1717 ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO 88201

February 8, 1980

Mr. A. Jerry Sexton Oil Conservation Comm. P. O. Box 1980 Hobbs, N.M. 88240

Dear Jerry:

In response to your telephone call regarding data on groundwater in Township 19 South, Range 33 East I am sending you copies of the schedules for wells which we have scheduled and a map showing the elevation of the base of the alluvium which has not been contoured. The direction of groundwater movement is from the northeast to the southwest in this township and the gradient on the top of the Triassic appears to be about the same direction.

The quality of water in the alluvium is fairly good. Samples which we have data on indicate a chloride content of less than 300 PPM.

It is my opinion that disposal of brine in unlined pits in this area will eventually contaminate the fresh water. If I can be of further assistance in this matter please advise.

Very truly yours,

James I. Wright Field Engineer

JIW:ffc cc: Santa Fe

P.S. There is a report on southern Lea County by Nicholson which might be helpful. I think John has a copy, but if he doesn't you can probably obtain one from the School of Mines at Socorro.

FE-1 State of New Mexico State Engineer WELL SCHEDULE Source of data: Obser Owner Other_ Date 11/18 1965 Record by Marson / _ Map 107.4.0 Ien/ LOCATION: County_ OWNER Nan american Pet. DRILLER Munel abbott. Completed ____ 10/27 1959 USUST ELEV 3635 TOPO SITUATION DEPTH <u>870</u> ft Rept Meas Use <u>OWD</u> CASING ______ ft Log ______ PUMP: Type _____ Make _____ ____ Size of dischg ______ in. Ser, no. /model ____ hone / PRIME MOVER: Make ____ _____ HP ____ _____ Power/Fuel Ser.no. PUMP DRIVE: Gear Head Belt Head Pump Jack VHS Make_ Ser.no 1968 above TC WATER LEVEL: 23.2.54 ft rept measurements which is ______ ft above LS PERMANENT RP is _ which is _____ft above described MP and _____ft above LS REMARKS Will is located 522 FWL and 2120'FNL AQUIFER(S): RS -Well No. ____ on Photo _____ DPN _____ DPN _____ 25-12193 / File No <u>CP-71</u> Loc. No. <u>19.33.18.133.2234</u>

Remarks cont. A section 18. This is the cast well of 2 wells which are about 150 grant. a 100 band storage tank in located 30' west A well will in located about 175' west and 30' north of Hudson oil will which is 2180 FML and 690FWL Section 18. 1

SKETCH:

N

INITIAL WATER-		DEPTH TO WATER											
LEVEL MEASUREMENT		Below MP		Below									
	lst	2nd	3rd	LS									
Date <u>Man 15</u> , 1965 Hour <u>11:45 AM</u> Obs ¹³⁴⁻¹⁹	240.00	241.00		232.54									
Hour 1.45 PM Obs BE-HD	7.45	8.46		1.50									
Not POA (χ) POA ()	232,55.	23.2.54,	1	231.04									
W L meas after pump shut Remarks	t off	min.	Pumpin	gWL()									

FE-1 State of New Mexico State Engineer WELL SCHEDULE Source of data: Obser X Owner X Other. Date 11/18 19 55 Record by Marson / _ Map ____ 107.4.0 LOCATION: County ______ OWNER Van aminian Pet, ____ Completed. _ 19. DRILLER _ 21545T Elev 2633 TOPO SITUATION ___ DEPTH <u>850</u> ft Rept Meas Use <u>OWD</u> CASING_ PUMP: Type _____ Make ____ _____ Size of dischg_____ in. Ser.no./model ____ PRIME MOVER: Make _______ НР_____ _____ Power/Fuel__ Ser.no._ PUMP DRIVE: Gear Head Belt Head Pump Jack Make Fufkin' ____ Ser.no ______ VHS above WATER LEVEL: _____ ft rept _____ 19 ___ above below _____ which is _____ ft above LS PERMANENT RP is _____ which is _____ft above described MP and _____ft above LS REMARKS This is the west will of 2 wells where AQUIFER(S): 下、/ Well No. ____ on Photo _____ DPN _____ File No <u>CP</u>_____ Loc. No. <u>19.33.18.133.213</u>.

are about 150 aport. Wellin located Remarks cor 100 . . . SKETCH: Ν DEPTH TO WATER INITIAL WATER-Below MP Below LEVEL MEASUREMENT lst 2nd 3rd LSDate ____ _ ,19 _ Hour ______ AM Obs _ Not POA () POA () W L meas after pump shut off _____ min. Pumping W L () Remarks_

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State of New Mexico FE-1 State Engineer WELL SCHEDULE Source of data: Obser Owner Obser. 19 65 Record by. Date_ Lin LOCATION: County____ Map_ OWNER _ _____ Completed_ DRILLER _ _____ 19____ SPOT 715\$57_ 5POT 3713 TOPO SITUATION sand duner DEPTH 700 ft Rept I Meas Use Stock CASING ______ ft Log_____ ft Log_____ PUMP: Type _____ Make ____ 2 in. Ser.no./model _____ Size of dischg____ PRIME MOVER: Make _____ Alimotor HP ____ Ser. no. Wooden Town _ Power/Fuel Wisich !! PUMP DRIVE: Gear Head Belt Head Pump Jack VHS Make ____ ____ Ser.no WATER LEVEL: 433.69 ft rept meas 1968 above Top _____ which is 2.5 ft above LS PERMANENT RP is . which is _____ ft above described MP and _____ ft above LS REMARKS Thue lorge stul storage tanks are AQUIFER(S):1 下5 ~ Well No. ____ On Photo _____ DPN _____ DPN _____ 25-12/9/ * File No <u>CP</u>- Loc. No. <u>19.33.5.12322</u>

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SKETCH:

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INITIAL WATER-	DEPTH TO WATER											
LEVEL MEASUREMENT	1	Below										
	lst	2nd	3rd	LS								
Date Mai 15, 1968	4.41.00	440.00	441.00	433.69								
Hour 2:00 AM Obs BH-14P	6.13	,6.11	7.21	, 2.50								
Not POA () POA (χ)	434.871	433.89	433.69	431.19								
W L meas after pump shut	t off	2 min.	Pumping	gWL(
Remarks												

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FE-1 State of New Mexico State Engineer WELL SCHEDULE Owner Other, <u>21.5.4.5</u> Source of data: Obser 1954 Record by_ Date. Lens Man____ LOCATION: County. mi (Hendquarter) Dul. OWNER _ _ 19 DRILLER. Completed. USUST_ Elev 3608 TOPO SITUATION __ DEPTH 101 ft Rept Meas Use Dom-5TK _ in to _____ ft Log_ CAS ING ____ PUMP: Type pearson _____ Make_ Ser.no./model______ Size of dischg______ in. PRIME MOVER: Make_ HP_ _ Power/Fuel_*Usid* Ser. no. Worden Tower PUMP DRIVE: Gear Head Belt Head Pump Jack VHS Make_ Ser.no. WATER LEVEL: <u>94.2/</u> ft rept <u>7/1</u> 1954 above <u>TC</u> _____ which is _____ ft above LS PERMANENT RP is _ ____ft above described MP and _____ft below LS which is_ This is the east well of 2 windmilled. REMARKS . AQUIFER(8) AQUIFER Well No. ____ on Photo _____ DPN 25-12/95 File No. <u>CP</u>____ Loc. No. <u>19.33.26.42222</u>

Corate about 200' Zillii, atto A Remarks, cont. Aanch house to Well scharges into a 500 1 tank on west side of 11. noder we 11/17/15 CHM - Water pample cell 1/25/72 FPL - Water sample co rollicted.

SKETCH:

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INITIAL WATER-	DEPTH TO WATER										
LEVEL MEASUREMENT	I	Below									
	lst	2nd	3rd	LS							
Date $\frac{1}{1954}$ Hour $\frac{1}{PM}$ Obs $\frac{1}{PN}$	100.00			94.21							
Hour PM Obs	5.79			1.40							
Not POA () POA (χ)	94.21	/		92.81							
W L meas after pump shut Remarks <u>Will pumpin</u>	t off	min.	Pumpir	ng W L (Ҳ)							

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State of New Mexico FE-1 State Engineer WELL SCHEDULE Source of data: Obser Owner Other. marson Date _____//17 _1965 Record by ____ Map 107.4.0 LOCATION: County marke Int. (Headquarter)) OWNER. _____ Completed__ ____ 19 ___ DRILLER _ 715#57 Elev 3608 TOPO SITUATION ____ DEPTH 100 ft Rept Meas Use CASING_____ in to _____ ft Log _____ PUMP: Type _____ Make _____ _ Size of dischg_____ in. Ser.no./model_ PRIME MOVER: Make _ alimotic HP .____ _ Power/Fuel _____ Ser.no. PUMP DRIVE: Gear Head Belt Head Pump Jack Ser.no. VHS Make_ 14 19 45 above WATER LEVEL: 90.48 ft rept 3, which is <u>O.O.</u> ft above LS PERMANENT RP is _____ which is _____ ft above described MP and _____ ft above below LS REMARKS This is the west well of 2 wells. Will AQUIFER(S): Gal Well No. ____ on Photo _____ DPN _____ DPN _____ 25-/2/94 File No. <u>CP</u> Loc. No. <u>1933</u>, 26. 42221 5

Remarks 1.n SKETCH: N DEPTH TO WATER INITIAL WATER-Below MP Below LEVEL MEASUREMENT lst 2nd 3rd LS Date <u>Man 14</u>, 19<u>68</u> Hour<u>10, 15</u> <u>AM</u> Obs <u>BH-HP</u> 96.00 92.00 90.48 1.50 0 5.52 Not POA (χ) POA () 90.4 90.50 90.4 W L meas after pump shut off _____ min. Pumping W L () Remarks_

State of New Mexico FE-1 State Engineer WELL SCHEDULE Source of data: Obser Owner _____Other__ Date _____12/8 mason _19 15 Record by ____ LOCATION: County Tea Map 107. OWNER __ _____ Completed _____ 19 ___ DRILLER TOPO SITUATION sand duren USUST Elev 3650 DEPTH 131 ft Rept Meas Use not -CASING ______ in to _____ ft Log _____ PUMP: Type ______ Make _____ Ser.no./model______ Size of dischg______ in. PRIME MOVER: Make _____ _____ HP _____ _____ Power/Fuel _____ Ser.no. PIMP DRIVE: Gear Head Belt Head Pump Jack VHS Make_ _ Ser.no. 12/8 1965 above (below) WATER LEVEL: <u>121.10</u> ft rept meas amo which is <u>2,70</u> ft above LS TC PERMANENT RP is _____ which is 0.28 ft above described MP and 2.42 ft above below LS REMARKS Will in shown on USUS tapp map AQUIFER(S): Qal Well No. ____ on Photo _____ DPN _25-12/92 File No <u>CP</u> Loc. No. <u>19.33.17.11224</u>

Remarks con il. 7. To ıll SKETCH: N DEPTH TO WATER INITIAL WATER-Below MP Below LEVEL MEASUREMENT lst 2nd 3rd LS Date Alec , 19 <u>63</u> 131.00 121.10 AM PM Obs CHM Hour ___ 9.90 2.70 Not POA (χ) POA () 21.10 W L meas after pump shut off _____ min. Pumping W L () Remarks _

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MINERAL RESOURCES	GROUND WATER	LEA COUNTY ·•	75
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Sulfate ' (SO4)	25 .52	40 .83	74 <u>1.54</u>	1,680 34.98	212 4.41	225 4.68	54 1.12	62 1.29	54 1.12	1,840 38.30	2,250 46.84	67 1.39	78 1.62	108 2.25		90 1.87	87 <u>1.69</u>	1	23 .48	95 1.98
Car- bon- ate (CO ₃)	0	c	0	0	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	o	o		0	¢	0	0	¢
Bicar- bonate (HCO _a)	194 3.18	177 2.90	306 5.02	189 3.10	I	261 4.28	307 5.03	296 4.85	215 3.52	304 4.98	292 4.79	423 6.93	438 7.18	318 5.21		269 4.41	255 4.18	227 3.72	104	336 5.51
Magne- Sodium sium plus potas- (Mg) (Na+K)	34 1.46	27 1.18	131 5.71	675 29.33	I	158 <u>6.86</u>	71 3.09	52 2.27	ł	I	ł	I	I	I		1	I	i	ł	ţ
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	- 2.72	3.20	10 50	430 <u>21.46</u>	I	84 <u>4.44</u>	68 <u>3.96</u>	- 6.44	5.04	I	- 34.40	ł	- 13.40	9.20		5,56	4.92	ł	- 1.36	ا 4
Silica C (SiO ₂)	1	i	19	41	I	I	I	ł	I	I	I	1	ł	1			I	I	ı	ł
cpth† ; (ft) (ł	220	1	33	43	32	29	30±	30±	50	50	40	40 40	40		45	45	115	115	1,150
cologic I ourcet	To	To	Tr	Tr(?)	To	To	To	Qal	Qal	Qai	Qal	Qal	Qal	Qal		Qal	Qal	Qal	Qal	Tr 1,1
Date of Geologic Depth† Silica Calcium collection source† ([1]) (SiO ₂) (Ca)	7-21-54	7-19-54	12. 9-58	12-9-58	4-9-38	11-20-29	9.19.29	7-15-54	9-9-58	3.30-54	9-9-58	4-2-54	4.22.55	9.9-58		4.22-55	9-9-58	4-2-54	9-9-58	9- 4-58
Sample Location	17.32.3.140	17.33,18.322	19.32.8.200	19.34.9.114	19.36.35.123	19.36.32.110	19.37.4.110	19.37.29.344a	do.	20.36.15.421	20.56.15.421	20.37.4.111	20.37.4.111	20.37.4.111		20.37.4.221	20.37.4.221	20.38.19.320	20.38.19.320	21.33.2.231
Sample	_	1	er)	*	<u>ہ</u>	9	~	8	б	10	11 2	12	13	Ŧ		15 2	16 2	17 20	18 20	19 2

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