

# SUNDOWN ENERGY, LP

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## INITIAL C-141 AND WORK PLAN FOSTER RANCH #1 WELL/BATTERY RELEASE

PROJECT REF: SUN-05-001

UL-A (NE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) OF SECTION 6 T19S R39E  
LATITUDE: N32° 41.697'      LONGITUDE: 103° 04.622'  
~3.0 MILES EAST (BEARING 92°) OF HOBBS  
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

September 28, 2005

AP # 30025 272600000

PREPARED FOR SUNDOWN ENERGY, LP BY:

Ocotillo  
ENVIRONMENTAL

414 N. Turner, P.O. Box 1816, Hobbs, New Mexico 88241

(505) 393-6371; Fax (505) 393-6374

AP # 1341

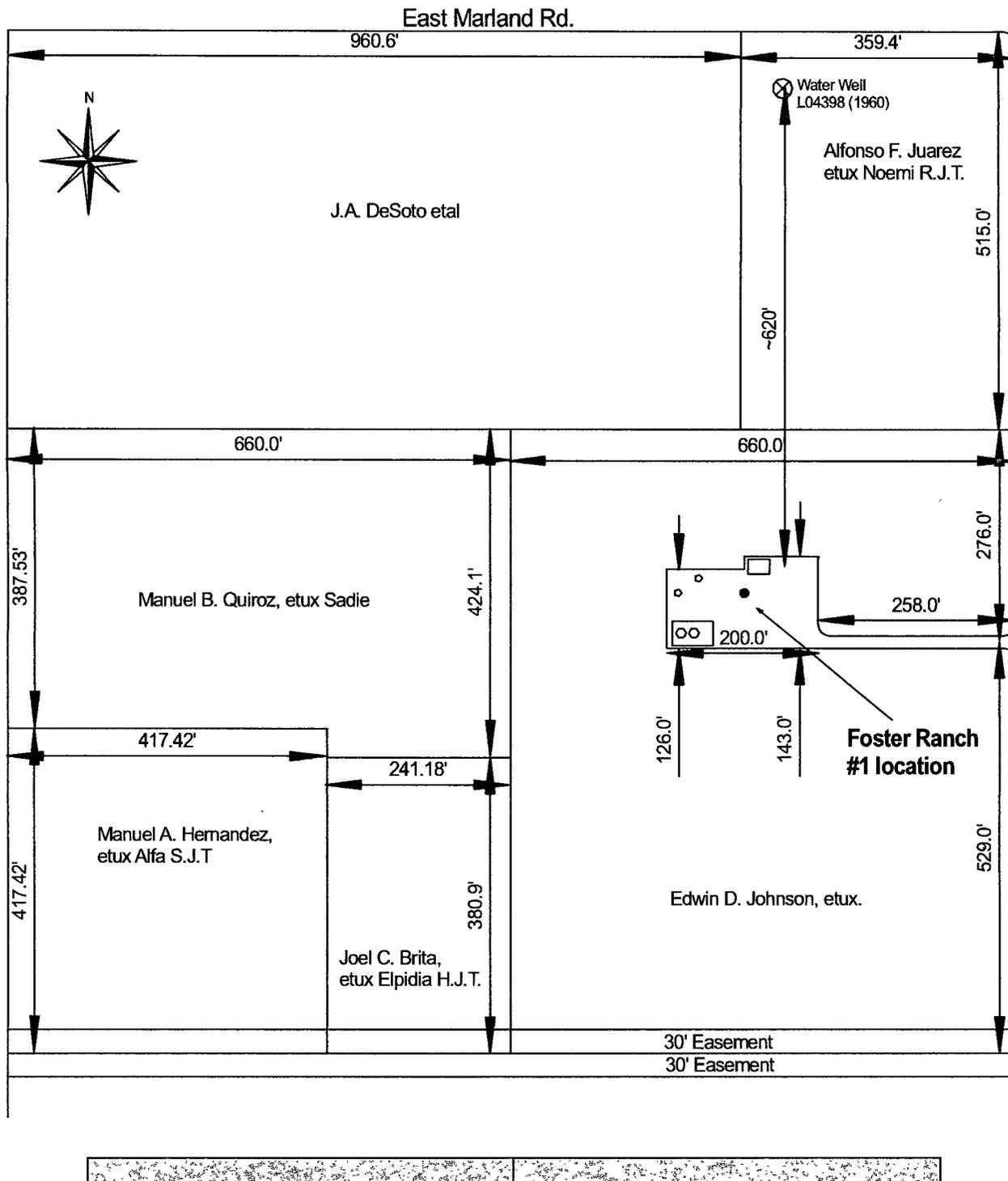
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<p>Plate 2 Release Area Ownership Plat Sundown Energy LP Foster Ranch #1 Release Site</p>	<p>Lea County, New Mexico UL-A SECTION 6 T19S R39E 32° 41.697' N, 103° 04.644' W Elevation: ~3600-ft amsl</p>
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Drawing by: John Good September - 2005

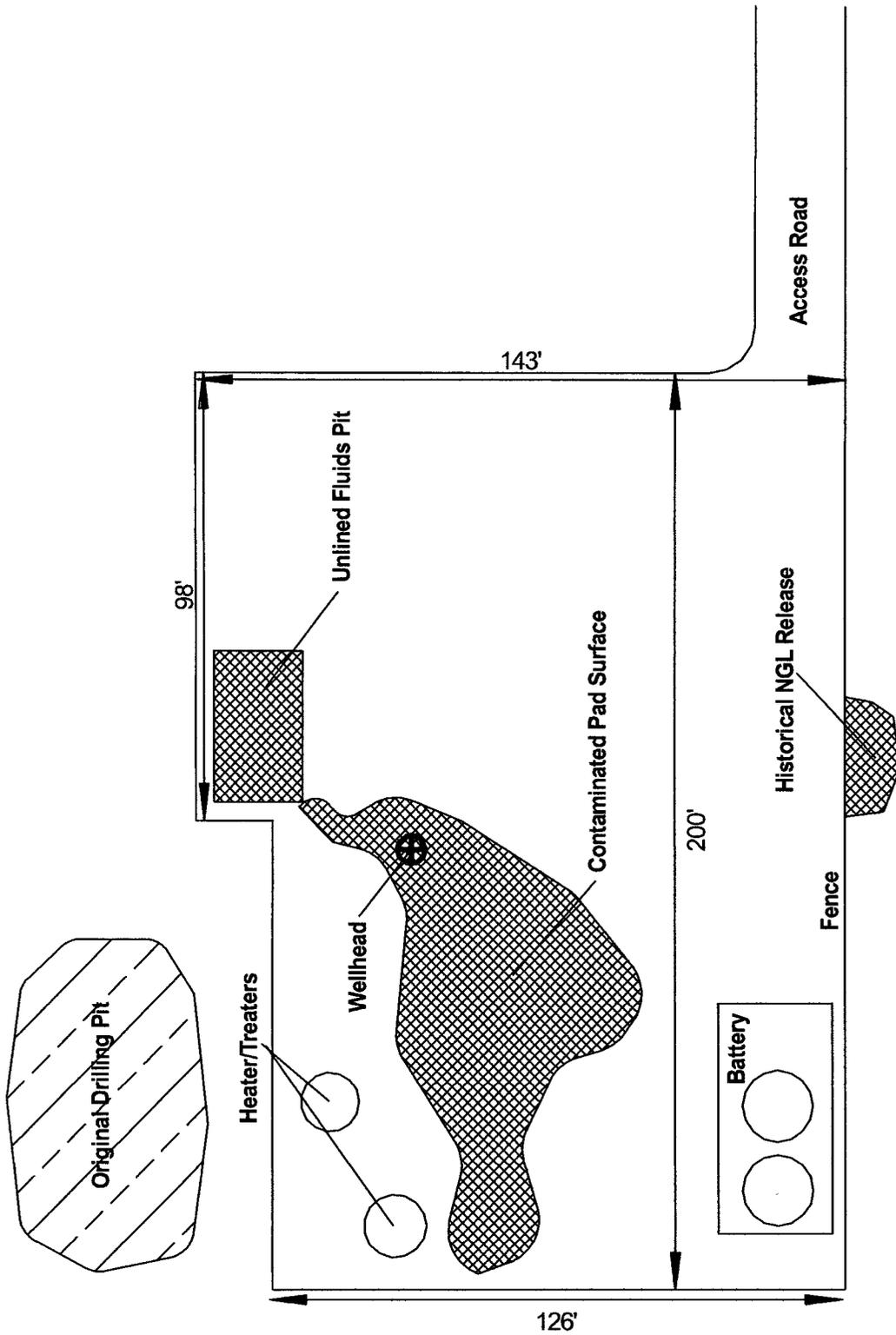
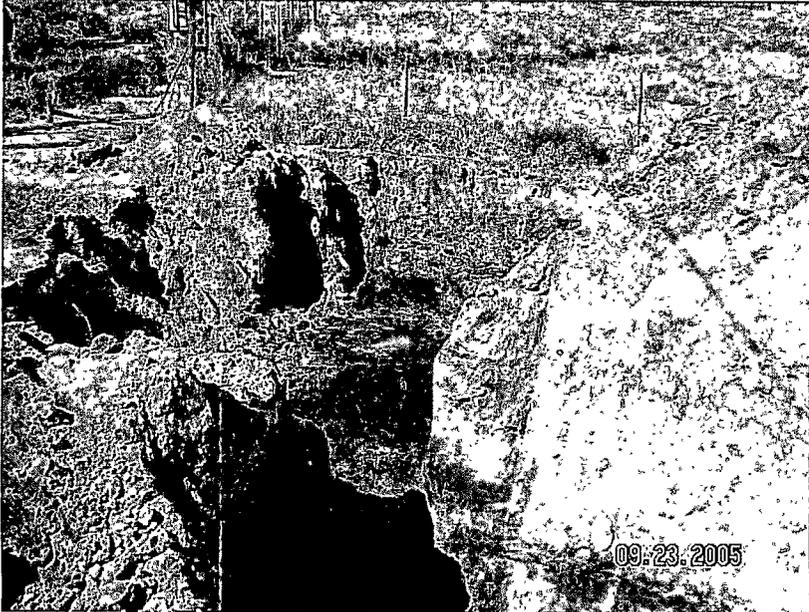


Plate 3 Release Site Detail Sundown Energy LP Foster Ranch #1 Release Site	Lea County, New Mexico UL-A SECTION 6 T.19S R.39E 32° 41.697' N, 103° 04.644' W Elevation: ~3600-ft. amsl	Drawing by: John Good September, 2005 Rev 1	
SCALE: 			

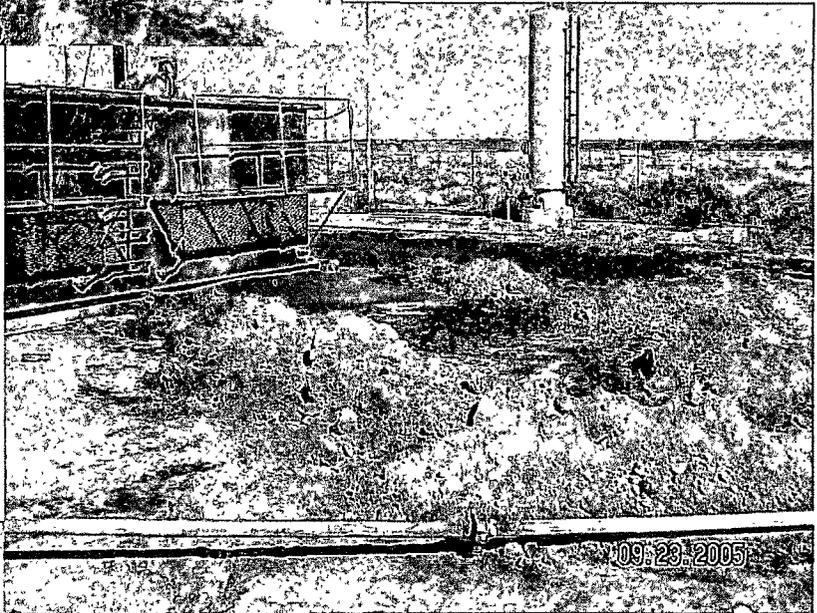
<b>SUNDOWN ENERGY LP</b>		Incident Date: NA NMOCD Notified: NA	
SITE: Foster Ranch #1		Assigned Site Reference: SUN-05-001	
Company: Sundown Energy LP			
Street Address:			
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 277			
City, State, Zip: Wickett, TX 79788			
Representative: Don Heald, Production Foreman			
Representative Telephone: 432-208-7254			
Telephone: 432-943-8770			
Fluid Volume Released (bbl): > 5		Volume Recovered (bbl): ~ 0	
Net Release: > 5			
<i>&gt;25 bbl: Notify NMOCD verbally within 24 hours and submit C-141 within 15 days.  5-25 bbl: Submit Form C-141 within 15 days. (Also applies to unauthorized release of &gt;50 mcf Natural Gas).</i>			
Leak, Spill, or Pit (LSP) Name:		Foster Ranch #1	
Source of Contamination:		Produced fluids from well workover	
Land Owner, i.e. BLM, ST, Fee, Other:		Edwin D. Johnson	
LSP Dimensions:		(see Site Diagram)	
LSP Area		~ 2000 -ft <sup>2</sup>	
Location of Reference Point (RP):			
Location distance and direction from RP:			
Latitude: North		32deg 41.697'	
Longitude: West		103deg 04.622'	
Elevation above mean sea level (amsl):		3600 feet 1097 meters	
Distance from North Section Line (feet):		665	
Distance from East Section Line (feet):		340	
Location - Unit Letter and 1/4 1/4:		UL- A NE - 1/4 of NE - 1/4	
Location - Section		6	
Location - Township		19S	
Location - Range		39E	
Surface water body within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Surface water body within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Domestic water wells within 1000' radius of site:		1	
Domestic water wells within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Agricultural water wells within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Agricultural water wells within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Public water supply wells within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Public water supply wells within 1000' radius of site:		0	
Depth (feet) from land surface to Ground Water (DG): >		116	
Depth (feet) of lowest contamination (DC):		15	
Depth (feet) to Ground Water (DG - DC = DtGW): >		101	
<b>1. Ground Water</b>		<b>2. Wellhead Protection Area</b>	
If Depth to GW <50-feet: 20 points		If <1000' from water source, or, <200' from private domestic water source: 20 points	
If Depth to GW 50 to 100-feet: 10 points		If >1000' from water source, or, >200' from private domestic water source: 0 points	
If Depth to GW >100-feet: 0 points		Wellhead Protection Score: 20	
Ground Water Score: 0		Surface Water Score: 0	
Site Ranking (1 + 2 + 3): 20			
<b>Total Site Ranking Score and Acceptable Concentrations</b>			
Parameter	20 or >	10	0
Benzene <sup>1</sup>	10-ppm	10-ppm	10-ppm
BTEX <sup>1</sup>	50-ppm	50-ppm	50-ppm
TPH	100-ppm	1000-ppm	5000-ppm

<sup>1</sup> 100-ppm field VOC headspace measurement may be substituted for lab analysis

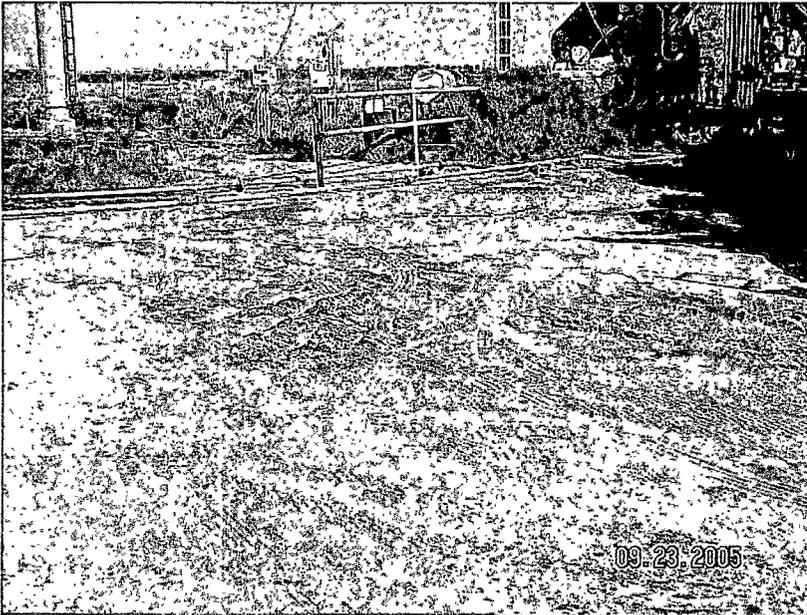


Unlined pit north of well head

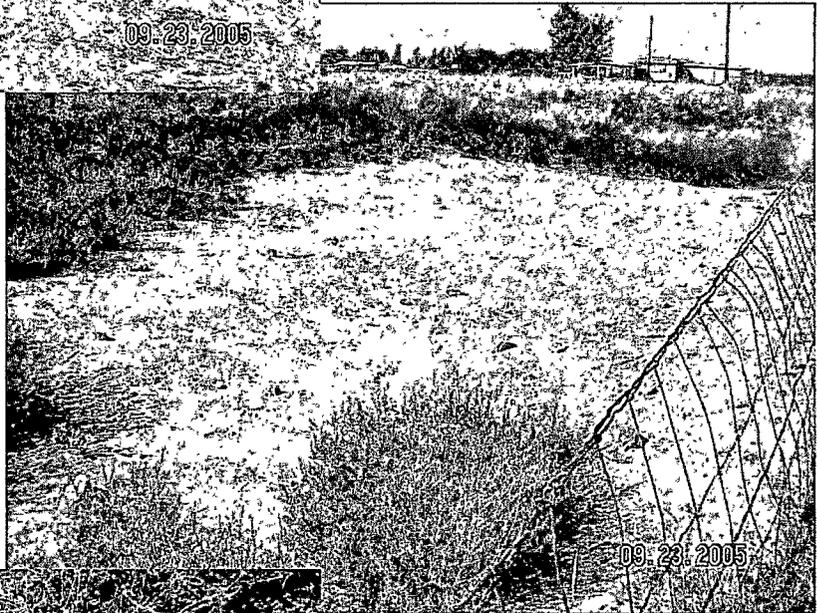
Pad surface contamination



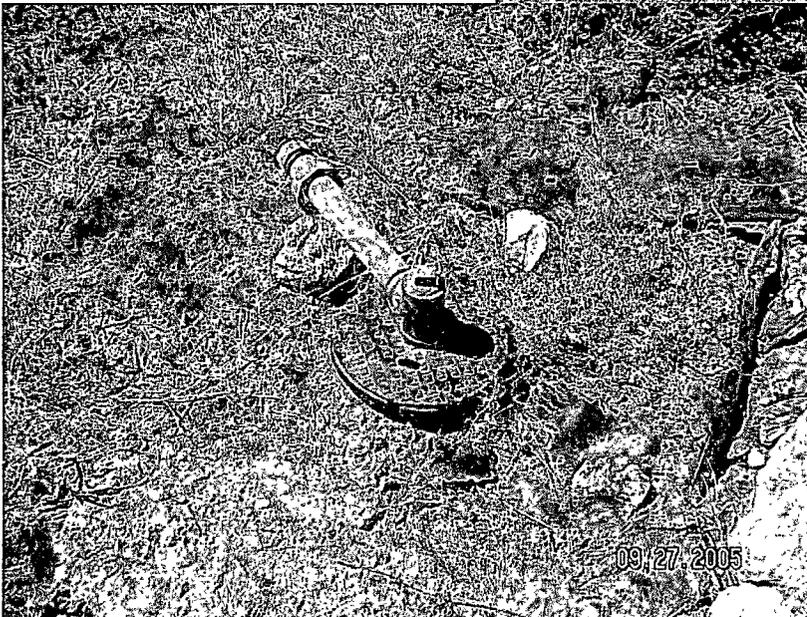
NW corner of location --  
surface contamination



Pad surface contamination



Historical NGL release outside of fence on south boundary of location.



Abandoned water well on Alfonso Juarez property north of location (within 1000-ft)

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

This report addresses a production well work-over release into an unlined fluid receiving pit at the Sundown Energy's Foster Ranch #1 Production Well/Battery site. Fluids were released into the pit prior to notification by NMOCD that this practice was unacceptable. The total release volume is unknown, however, assumed to be >5-bbl. *RELEASE INTO AN UNLINED, PIT* *UNAUTHO RIZE*

This release site is located on deeded land (Edwin D. Johnson) in Unit Letter A, (NE¼ of the NE¼), Section 6, T19S, R39E. . The GPS coordinates are: Latitude: N32° 41.697'; Longitude: 103° 04.622'. A location map, plat reproduction of UL-A (showing ownership) and a site detail drawing are included as Plates 1-3 in the Attachments.

## 2.0 Site Description

### 2.1 Geological Description

*The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Ground-Water Report 6, "Geology and Ground-Water Conditions in Southern Lea County, New Mexico," A. Nicholson and A. Clebsch, 1961,* describes the near surface geology of southern Lea County as "an intergrade of the Quaternary Alluvium (QA) sediments, i.e., fine to medium sand, with the mostly eroded Cenozoic Ogallala (CO) formation. Typically, the QA and CO formations in the area are capped by a thick interbed of caliche and generally overlain by sandy soil." The release site is located in the High Plains (Llano Estacado) physiographic subdivision, described by Nicholson & Clebsch as a predominantly flat area (with gradual slope to the southeast) underlain by a hard caliche surface that is generally covered by sandy topsoil. The thickness of the topsoil ranges from 2-15 feet in most areas of the High Plains subdivision.

### 2.2 Ecological Description

The area is typical of the Upper Chihuahuan Desert Biome consisting primarily of hummocky sand hills covered with Harvard Shin Oak (*Quercus harvardi*) interspersed with Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) along with typical desert grasses, flowering annuals and flowering perennials. Mammals represented, include Orrd's and Merriam's Kangaroo Rat, Deer Mouse, White Throated Wood Rat, Cottontail Rabbit, Black Tailed Jackrabbit, Mule Deer, Bobcat, Red Fox and Coyote. Reptiles, Amphibians, and Birds are numerous and typical of area. A survey of Listed, Threatened, or Endangered species was not conducted.

### 2.3 Area Ground Water

Based on information obtained from the New Mexico State Engineer online database, the average depth to water (26 recorded wells) in Section 6, T19S, R39E is 75-ft below ground surface (bgs). The minimum recorded depth to ground water (51-ft bgs) is for Well # L04398, located in the NE quadrant of UL-A of Section 6 (~620-ft north of the release pit based on GPS demarcation). The records of this well indicate that it was drilled in 1960 and completed to a total depth of 70-ft bgs.

This abandoned water well was measured for water depth on 9-27-05, yielding a total well depth of 115-ft bgs and it was dry to the bottom.

## **2.4 Area Water Wells**

The New Mexico State Engineer online database indicates only the L04398 water well on the Juarez property north of the release site. As stated in 2.3, this well is abandoned with a dry depth of 115-ft bgs. An investigation of the property indicates that there must be an operating water well on this property. A new pressure tank and control unit was installed in October-2004, and all outside faucets were functioning. The location of the recently installed water well was not ascertained, however, the horizontal distance to the release location must be less than 1000-ft.

## **2.5 Area Surface Water Features**

No surface water bodies exist within 1000 horizontal feet of the site.

## **3.0 Contaminant and Size of Area**

The primary contaminant is produced water with some associated crude oil. The release is the result of produced fluids from the work-over project running from the wellhead to an un-lined pit ~50-ft north of the wellhead. Runoff to the unlined pit ceased after the company was notified by NMOCD that this was an illegal practice in New Mexico. The unlined pit is approximately 20' X 30' X 10' deep. Exact measurements of the affected surface areas were not obtained due to the ongoing work of the pulling unit. Some produced fluids have been spilled on the pad surface in and around the working area. These areas will be remediated in conjunction with the pit. The estimated total surface area of the affected area(s) is approximately 2000-ft<sup>2</sup> (See Plate 3).

The produced water and minor portion of associated crude oil with this release are considered RCRA Exempt oilfield waste. No evidence of other contaminants was observed.

## **4.0 Vertical Extent of Contamination**

The vertical contamination (TPH, BTEX and Chlorides) extent beneath the fluids pit will be determined during the excavation phase of the remediation process. Based on the sandy nature of the excavated soil onsite and the depth of the pit, the vertical contamination extent is projected to be 15-ft to 20-ft bgs.

## **5.0 NMOCD Site Ranking**

Contaminant delineation and remedial work done at this site indicate that the chemical parameters of the soil and the physical parameters of the ground water were characterized consistent with the characterization and remediation/abatement goals and objectives set forth in the following New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) publications:

- *Guidelines for Remediation of Leaks, Spills and Releases (August 13, 1993)*
- *Unlined Surface Impoundment Closure Guidelines (February 1993)*

Acceptable thresholds for contaminants/constituents of concern (CoCs), i.e., TPH<sup>8015m</sup>, Benzene, and the mass sum of Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, and total Xylenes (BTEX<sup>8260</sup>), was determined based on the NMOCD Ranking Criteria as follows:

- *Depth to Ground water, i.e., distance from the lower most acceptable concentration to the ground water.*
- *Wellhead Protection Area, i.e., distance from fresh water supply wells.*
- *Distance to Surface Water Body, i.e., horizontal distance to all down gradient surface water bodies.*

Based on the proximity of the site to area water wells, surface water bodies, and depth to ground water from the lower most contamination, the NMOCD ranking score for the site is 20 points with the soil remedial goals highlighted in the Site Ranking table presented below.

NMOCD Site Ranking Table

1. GROUND WATER		2. WELLHEAD PROTECTION		3. DISTANCE TO SURFACE WATER	
DEPTH TO GW <50 FEET: 20 POINTS		IF <1000' FROM WATER SOURCE, OR; <200' FROM PRIVATE DOMESTIC WATER SOURCE: 20 POINTS		<200 HORIZONTAL FEET: 20 POINTS	
DEPTH TO GW 50 TO 99 FEET: 10 POINTS				200-1000 HORIZONTAL FEET: 10 POINTS	
DEPTH TO GW >100 FEET: 0 POINTS		IF >1000' FROM WATER SOURCE, OR; >200' FROM PRIVATE DOMESTIC WATER SOURCE: 0 POINTS		>1000 HORIZONTAL FEET: 0 POINTS	
GROUND WATER SCORE = 0		WELLHEAD PROTECTION SCORE= 20		SURFACE WATER SCORE= 0	
SITE RANK (1+2+3) = 0 + 20 + 0 = 0 POINTS					
<b>TOTAL SITE RANKING SCORE AND ACCEPTABLE REMEDIAL GOAL CONCENTRATIONS</b>					
PARAMETER	20+	10	0		
BENZENE	10 PPM	10 PPM	10 PPM		
BTEX	50 PPM	50 PPM	50 PPM		
TPH	100 PPM	1000 PPM	5000 PPM		

## 6.0 Remediation Action Plan

The contaminated pit and the affected well pad surface areas will be excavated vertically and laterally sufficient to achieve contaminant levels below the remedial action levels (100-ppm TPH; 50-ppm BTEX; 10-ppm Benzene; 250-ppm Chlorides).

In addition to the areas immediately impacted by the current well work-over project, a historical release area immediately south of the southern battery boundary fence will also be remediated. It appears that a gas line running parallel to the southern fence lost integrity sometime in the past and sprayed NGL on an approximate 200-ft<sup>2</sup> area beyond the fence line. This area will be excavated to a depth sufficient to achieve a chloride level below 250-ppm.

All excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil and covered with clean caliche where necessary. Excavated contaminated soil will be removed and transported to a licensed disposal facility approved for the acceptance of high chloride containing waste materials.

Closure confirmation samples of excavation bottoms and sidewalls will be obtained prior to backfill. All samples will be carried to Cardinal Laboratories, Hobbs, NM under Chain of Custody.

District I

1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240

District II

1301 W. Grand Avenue, Artesia, NM 88210

District III

1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410

District IV

1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

Form C-141

Revised June 10, 2003

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

Submit 2 Copies to appropriate  
District Office in accordance  
with Rule 116 on back  
side of form.

Release Notification and Corrective Action

OPERATOR

Initial Report  Final Report

Name of Company	<b>Sundown Energy LP</b>	Contact	<b>Don Heald, Production Foreman</b>
Address	<b>P.O. Box 277</b>	Telephone No.	<b>432-208-7254</b>
Facility Name	<b>Foster Ranch #1</b>	Facility Type	<b>Production Well and Battery</b>

Surface Owner	<b>Edwin D. Johnson</b>	Mineral Owner		Lease No.	
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LOCATION OF RELEASE

Unit Letter	Section	Township	Range	Feet from North Line	Feet from East Line	Longitude-W	Latitude-N	County
<b>A</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19S</b>	<b>39E</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>103deg 04.622'</b>	<b>32deg 41.697'</b>	<b>Lea</b>

NATURE OF RELEASE

Type of Release	Volume of Release	Volume Recovered
<b>Produced Water + Crude Oil component</b>	<b>greater than 5 bbl</b>	<b>0 bbl</b>

Source of Release	Date and Hour of Occurrence	Date and Hour of Discovery
<b>Produced fluids from well workover</b>		

Was Immediate Notice Given?	If YES, To Whom?
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	

By Whom?	Date and Hour

Was a Watercourse Reached?	If YES, Volume Impacting the Watercourse
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<b>NA</b>

If a Watercourse was Impacted, Describe Fully\*

Describe Cause of Problem and Remedial Action Taken. \*  
**Well workover fluids released to unlined pit. Practice was stopped, free fluids removed by vacuum truck. Portable tank was obtained for on-site fluid storage.**

Describe Area Affected and Cleanup Action Taken. \*  
**20' X 30' X 10' deep unlined pit + well pad surface around wellhead area. Ocotillo Environmental contracted for site remediation upon completion of well workover.**

I hereby certify that the information given above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and understand that pursuant to NMOCD rules and regulations all operators are required to report and/or file certain release notifications and perform corrective actions for releases which may endanger public health or the environment. The acceptance of a C-141 report by the NMOCD marked as "Final Report" does not relieve the operator of liability should their operations have failed to adequately investigate and remediate contamination that pose a threat to ground water, surface water, human health or the environment. In addition, NMOCD acceptance of a C-141 report does not relieve the operator of responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

Signature:	<b>OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION</b>		
Printed Name:	<b>Don Heald</b>	Approved by District Supervisor:	
Title:	<b>Production Foreman</b>	Approval Date:	Expiration Date:
E-Mail Address:	Conditions of Approval:		<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
Date:	<b>9/28/2005</b>	Phone:	

