

Category II site, an archaeological monitor should be present during all construction activities. Although there are no surface indications outside of the site area, there is a possibility that subsurface cultural materials could be exposed during construction.

DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

The proposed undertaking is the placement of a 400 foot by 400 foot square well pad, the Oxy USA Rocky Road #1, and a 127 foot long access road. Total area surveyed and size of the area of "potential effect" is 3.70 acres. The proposed well pad is located approximately 30 miles east of Artesia, New Mexico just north of Highway 82. Pits and other ground disturbing activities will follow the well site plans provided to the Bureau of Land Management.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Oxy USA Rocky Road #1 is located within Eddy County, New Mexico on federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (Figure 1). The USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map used for this survey was Loco Hills, New Mexico, 1985 provisional edition (32103-G8). The 400 feet by 400 feet well pad is located within Township 17 South, Range 31 East, Section 20, in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. Well footages for the center stake of this proposed pad are 1335 feet from the south line and 760 feet from the east line.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located in the middle Pecos Valley, a region bordered by the Guadalupe Mountains to the west and the Llano Estacado to the east. It is characterized by extensive drainages coming west from the Guadalupe Mountains and smaller draws and arroyos draining from the Llano Estacado to the east. These drainages provide seasonal, intermittent water supplies to the Pecos Valley. The project area is situated on the Mescalero Plain, an extensive plain running from Fort Sumner, New Mexico south to just past the Texas border (Sebastian and Larralde 1989). Much of the surface area is covered by dunes considered not to be older than late Pleistocene (Sebastian and Larralde 1989) and generally indicative of eolian and surface instability. Lithic sources in these areas are largely determined by the presence or absence of gravels emanating from the underlying Permian limestone bedrock or drainages in which these gravels accumulate.