

## INTRODUCTION

On August 3, 2000, archaeologists with Geo-Marine performed an intensive archaeological survey of a proposed 400 feet by 400 feet well pad (Oxy USA Rocky Road #1) and 127 foot access road for Basin Surveys. Chris Lowry conducted a cultural resource survey in order to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project and to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

The archaeologist from Geo-Marine, Inc., surveyed the proposed project area and revisited and updated an adjacent archaeological site (LA 83680). No additional archaeological sites or isolated manifestations were discovered during this survey. A fairly large prehistoric site (LA 83680) intrudes into the southwestern corner of the proposed well pad. Site LA 83680 was first recorded by Archaeological Survey Consultants in 1990 (Sciscenti and Griffiths 1990) and was then reassessed and recorded by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department in 1992 (Marshall and Evans 1992). The first documentation of this site recorded only the portion within the well pad area. This area was extensively shovel tested to determine if any subsurface deposits were present; none were located. Two stains were noted by Sciscenti and Griffiths, but their potential was unassessed. Because no subsurface remains were located and the features located within the well pad area had no potential, clearance was recommended and the site was deemed ineligible for the NRHP. The NMSHTD updated and enlarged the site during a survey of the Highway 82 ROW. Marshall and Evans indicated that the site was much larger than originally recorded, extending to the east approximately 260 meters, and extending across Highway 82 to the south. Marshall and Evans recorded many more FCR and BC features, as well as, brownware pottery, possible Chupadero B/w, an unknown ceramic type, along with chipped stone debris and ground stone fragments. Marshall and Evans noted one charcoal stain feature during their updating of LA 83680; this stain was located approximately 60 meters to the east of the existing well pad. No recommendations were made by Marshall and Evans as to the potential of this site to yield data. After revisiting and assessing LA 83680, the archaeologist during this project came to the conclusion that this site may still yield additional information and is eligible for the NRHP (see description below).

Previously recorded site LA 83680, which intrudes into to the southwestern side of the proposed well pad, is a Category II site and eligible for inclusion into the NHRP. Some cultural materials from this site occur within the Oxy Rocky Road #1 well pad locale. Due to the proximity of the