

# 3E COMPANY, INC.

*Engineering • Energy • Exploration*

P. O. Box 190      —:—      505/327-4020

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401

October 27, 1977

U.S. Department of Interior  
Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 959  
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Attention: Mr. Phil T. McGrath  
District Engineer

RE: Development Plan for Surface Use  
Merland Resources, Inc.  
Merland Renaissance Navajo #1  
1600' FSL & 1540' FWL  
Sec 29, T31N, R18W  
Wildcat  
San Juan County, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

Attached for your approval is the "Application for Permit to Drill" (form #9-331C) for the subject well. Also enclosed as support data are the following reports and plats: archaeological report, surveyor's plat, drill site plat and vicinity map. The location site has been inspected by Ms. Sally T. Greiser of the Agency of Conservation Archaeology, Mr. Ray Foster of the U.S.G.S., and Mr. Leonard Feller of the BIA.

The development plan for surface use is as follows:

Points 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9 Vicinity map and drill site plat attached.

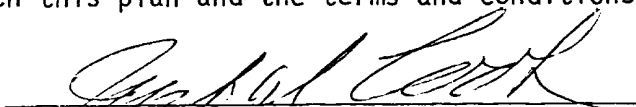
Point 5. Water for drilling will be trucked and/or pumped from the San Juan River approximately 1 3/4 miles to the south.

Point 7. A waste disposal pit will be provided for the garbage and trash. Location shown on drill site plat. Drilling fluids will be contained in the reserve pit until such time as evaporation occurs and then the pits will be covered. During this dry out time the pit will be fenced to eliminate livestock entry.

Point 8. No camps or airstrip.

- Point 10. Should the subject well be a commercial producer, it will be equipped to facilitate producing operations, with all drilling pits filled, the location leveled, with the reseeding of the area not used for day to day operations. In the event the well is a dry hole, all pits will be filled, location leveled and reseeded. All reseeding will be done between July 1 and September 15, with equipment specified by the U.S.G.S. The seed mixture will be that specified for Area III of the Farmington Resource Area.
- Point 11. Topography is rolling hills with deep gullies traversing the lease on the east and to the south. Some erosion in gully form has occurred likewise to the west. The location is in an open semi flat area being the most logical and accessible for a drill site. Vegetation is very sparse with no trees present.
- Point 12. Jack D. Cook  
3E Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 190  
Farmington, New Mexico 87401  
505-327-4020
- Point 13. I hereby certify that I, or persons under my direct supervision, have inspected the proposed drillsite and access route; that I am familiar with the conditions which presently exist; that the statements made in this plan are, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct; and, that the work associated with the operations proposed herein will be performed by Merland Resources, Inc. and its contractors and sub-contractors in conformity with this plan and the terms and conditions under which it is approved.

October 27, 1977

  
Jack D. Cook, Agent

Should further information be required, please advise.

Yours very truly,

  
Jack D. Cook

JDC:st

Attachments

Operator has changed to Merland Resources, Inc.

Well name has been changed from Navajo #1 to Merland Renaissance Navafo #1

Archaeological Clearance Survey Report  
for  
3E Company, Inc.

Locations

#1 Navajo  
#1 Navajo 4  
#1 Navajo 6

Prepared by  
Sally T. Greiser

Submitted by  
Dr. J. Loring Haskell  
Operations Director and  
Principal Investigator  
Agency of Conservation Archaeology

October 21, 1977

## Introduction

The Agency of Conservation Archaeology of the San Juan County Museum Association and Eastern New Mexico University recently completed archaeological surveys on lands south of Farmington, New Mexico to be impacted by the proposed construction of 2 well pads and associated access roads by Oklahoma Oil Company represented by 3E Company of Farmington. Also completed was a survey of a single well location northwest of Shiprock, New Mexico proposed by Renaissance Resources Inc. and also represented by 3E Company.

The survey project was initiated at the request of Mr. Bill Jones of 3E Company on October 18, 1977. It was administered by Mr. Jones and Dr. J. Loring Haskell of the Agency of Conservation Archaeology in Portales.

The field work was conducted by Sally T. Greiser of the Agency of Conservation Archaeology (ACA) on October 19, 1977 under provisions of Federal Antiquities Permit No. 77-NM-030 which expires December 31, 1977. Representing 3E Company in the field was Bill Jones. Also present in the field were Ray Foster of the U.S. Geological Survey, Jim Hill of Allen Construction, and Bill Sims and Leonard Feller of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (#1 Navajo only).

## Survey

The requested archaeological clearance survey involved three gas well pads and three access roads described below and located on lands under the jurisdiction of the Navajo Tribe. For specific details of location, please see the attached topographic maps.

The general survey procedure employed was to walk the area of the proposed construction in 15 meter transects. Visual inspection was made of the ground surface for evidence of any artifactual remains of historic or prehistoric origin. Erosional gullies were checked for accumulations of cultural materials as a result of slope wash activity. Floral, faunal and geological observations were made to briefly describe the environmental situation.

### #1 Navajo (Renaissance Resources)

Legal description: 1600' F/SL 1540' F/WL NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29 T31N R18W N.M.P.M. San Juan County, New Mexico.

Map source: U.S.G.S. 15' series, Rattlesnake Quadrangle

Area surveyed: (road) approx. 500' (pad) 150' x 300'

Description: The well location is situated on a gravel terrace approximately one mile northeast of the San Juan River. The area has been disturbed by vehicles driving across the terrace presumably to gain access to the extensive gravel/cobble deposits to the north and east of the well location. The area has also been used for sheep grazing. The light tan sandy loam on the terrace supports minimal vegetation including the following species: fourwing saltbush (Atriplex canescens); tumbleweed (Salsola kali); desert saltgrass (Distichlis stricta); and mesa dropseed grass (Sporobolus flexuosus). Rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus) occurs along the proposed access road which cuts down through

the gravel and onto a lower terrace which supports a very light tan loess and more abundant vegetation (same species as listed above).

It is hoped that access will be granted to an existing road associated with an abandoned house located to the south of the proposed well location. In the event that access is not granted, an alternate route was checked by walking a 20 meter transect paralleling an existing fenceline south of the well location.

Cultural resources: No cultural resources were located other than recent trash associated with the abandoned house.

Clearance status: Recommended

#1 Navajo 4 (Oklahoma Oil Company)

Legal description: 1730' F/NL 975' F/WL NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4 T25N R12W N.M.P.M. San Juan County, New Mexico.

Map source: U.S.G.S. 7.5' series, Carson Trading Post Quadrangle

Area surveyed: (road) 200' (pad) 100' x 150'

Description: This well will be located on a semi-stabilized dune ridge on the floodplain just north of the West Fork of Gallegos Wash. The proposed access road is northeast of the pad location and runs for approximately 200' to an existing road north of the well site. The sandy soil supports the following floral species: rabbitbrush; snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothae); Mormon tea (Ephedra viridis); prickly pear (Opuntia sp.); narrow leaf yucca (Yucca angustissima); and various grasses.

Cultural resources: One exhausted core of local chert was located just west of the well pad location. The core measured approximately 5 cm. x 3 cm. and displayed 6 flake scars. This was the only cultural material located.

Clearance status: Recommended. The proximity of the single isolated core to the West Fork of Gallegos Wash indicates that this lithic artifact has been removed from its original context and therefore should not deter construction.

#1 Navajo 6 (Oklahoma Oil Company)

Legal description: 1190' F/NL 790' F/WL SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6 T25N R11W N.M.P.M. San Juan County, New Mexico.

Map source: U.S.G.S. 7.5' series, Carson Trading Post Quadrangle

Area surveyed: (road) 2000' (pad) 100' x 150'

Description: The location first surveyed was located 200' east of the noted legal description (1190' F/NL 990' F/WL). Due to its situation directly in a wash which is a tributary of Gallegos Canyon, it was decided to relocate to higher ground to the west. This location is marked by Badlands with no

vegetation. Just east of the well location the sandy soil supports rabbitbrush, snakeweed, mesa dropseed grass, prickly pear, and big sagebrush (Artemesia tridentata).

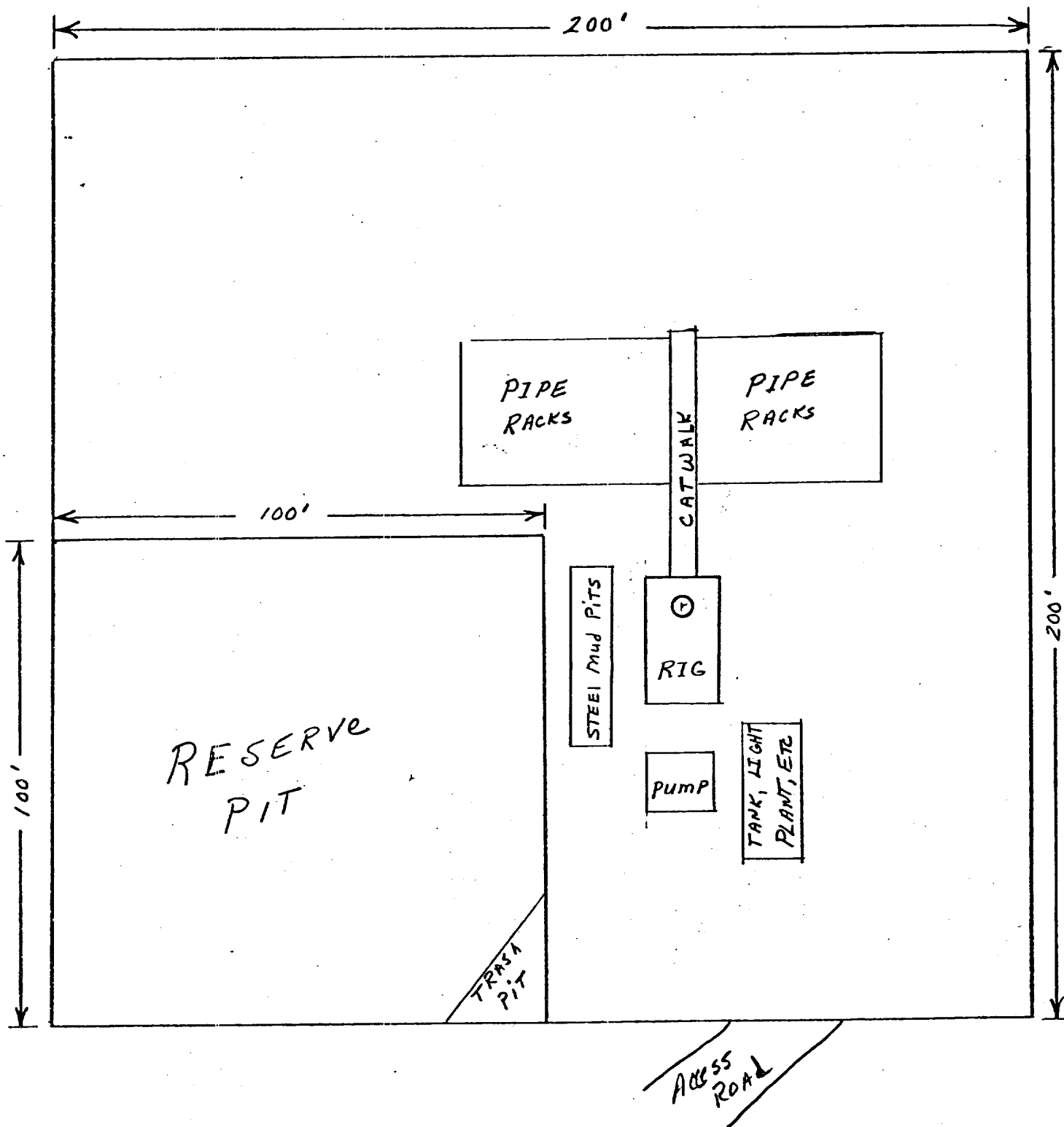
The proposed access road is currently marked by an ungraded road which is associated with an abandoned settlement approximately 1800' west of the proposed well location. A transect north of the road was checked in order to bypass the settlement. Vegetation along the roadway is mixed. In addition to species already listed, the following species were noted: Mormon tea; blue grama grass (Bouteloua gracilis); mesa dropseed; locoweed (Astragalus sp.); and a single juniper (Juniperus sp.). Two cottontail rabbits in addition to the tracks of bobcat, sheep, and cow were noted.

Cultural resources: The only cultural resources located were associated with the abandoned settlement mentioned above. This settlement is comprised of a two-room wood and stone building, a large circular hogan constructed of shaped stone with a cribbed roof, and several corrals. The settlement has been abandoned for some time as evidenced by a lack of paper trash and identifiable can labels. All metal objects are completely rusted. No datable objects were located.

Clearance status: Recommended with the stipulation that the access road bypasses the settlement.

The most recent listing of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no sites which appear on the Register and no sites which have been nominated to the Register occur in the areas surveyed. This proposal complies with the provisions of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and with Executive Order 11593. It is recommended that archaeological clearance be given for all three locations.





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