Release Date · Aug 17, 1987

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HOME PHONE 746-9056

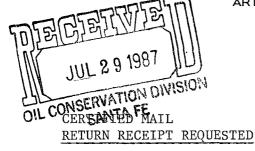
ROBERT E. BOLING

EXPLORATION CONSULTANT 305 SOUTH FIFTH STREET

ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO - 88210

July 27, 1987

· St-238A RUKE-184F(E) "BB" Federal Well No. 1



P. O. Box 2088

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

Attention: Mr. David R. Catanach

OFFICE PHONE 746-9336

Undersynated Mosth Square Lake Queen Gewyburg San Arden Fool 40 Acres declicated Unit O, Section 4

Re: Request for Administrative Approval of Unorthorox Location

Gentlemen:

On behalf of Metex Pipe & Supply, P. O. Box 1037, Artesia, New Mexico, I respectfully request approval of an unorthodox location for their No. 1 "BB" Federal, 2810' FSL & 2470' FEL of Section 4, T16S R31E, Eddy County, New Mexico. This is a 3650 foot Grayburg test well.

After staking the No. 1 "BB" Federal at three different locations, Metex has received verbal approval for the requested location. The reason for the problems in connection with locating this well were mostly archeological and to a lesser extent topographic.

In order to get verbal approval, (Metex has now filed for final approval), it was necessary to agree to fence the north and east sides of the location prior to doing any dirt work and to hire an archeologist to be on the location at all times while the location is being built.

In connection with this request, please find enclosed the following:

1. Land plat showing lease ownership, wells in the area and location of the No. 1 "BB" Federal.

2. Survey plat showing the location of the No. 1 "BB" Federal.

3. Federal form 9-331C, Application for Permit to Drill.

A copy of this application has been sent this date by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to the following: New Mexico Oil Conservation Division July 27, 1987 Page 2

> Mobil Producing Texas & New Mexico, Inc. P. O. Box 633 Midland, Texas 79702

Attention: Mr. Fred E. Schantz

- 2. Yates Petroleum Corporation 105 South Fourth Street Artesia, New Mexico 88210
- 3. O'Neill Properties, Ltd. P. O. Box 2840 Midland, Texas 79702

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 505/746-9336.

METEX PIPE & SUPPLY

Robert E. Boling, Agent By:

REB:scp

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NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT

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Form C-102 Supersedes C-128 Effective 1-1-65

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*See Instructions On Reverse Side

ROBERT E. BOLING XPLORATION CONSULTANT **305 SOUTH FIFTH STREET** TESIA, NEW MEXICO-88210 OIL CONSERVATION DI VISION July 29, 1987 SANTA FE

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division P. O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2088

Attention: Mr. David R. Catanach

Request by Metex Pipe and Supply Re: for an unorthodox location for its No. 1 "BB" Federal well, 2810' FSL & 2470' FEL of Section 4, T16S R31E, Eddy County, New Mexico

Gentlemen:

In connection with the captioned request, it was advised that the reason for the request was mostly archeological.

Please find enclosed for your information and file a copy of the report by the Pecos Archeological Consultant which sets out the problem.

Their reasons seem pretty anemic to me, but there seems little we can do about it.

Yours very truly,

METEX PIPE & SUPPLY

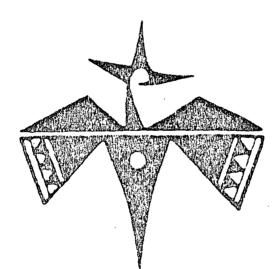
Βv Agent Boling,

REB:scp

ccw/report: Mobil Producing Texas & New Mexico, Inc. P. O. Box 633 Midland, Texas 79702 Attention: Mr. Fred E. Schantz

metex

PECOS ARCHEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS P.O. BOX 1771 CARLSBAD, NM 88221



Archeological Survey Report for Metex Pipe and Supply's BB Federal Well No. 1 Situated on Federal Lands in Eddy County, New Mexico PAC Report No. 87069 Archeological Survey Report for Metex Pipe and Supply's EB Federal Well No. 1 Situated on Federal Lands in Eddy County, New Mexico PAC Report No. 87069

> prepared by James E. Hunt

submitted by Pecos Archeological Consultants P.O. Box 1771, Carlsbad, N.M., 88221 July 23, 1987

Permit No. 6-2920-86-F (Expiration Date: September 30, 1988)

ABSTRACT

On June 21, 1987, Percos Archeological Consultants (BLM Cultural Use Permit No. 6-2920-86-F) undertook the archeological survey of a drill location and access road scheduled to be impacted by Metex Pipe and Supply. This project will be situated on federal lands in Eddy County, New Mexico. These public lands occur in section 4, T16S, R31E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico. A total of 4.74 acres were investigated during this project in 10 man-hours by James E. Hunt and Robert J. Martin. One archeological site, PAC Field No. PAC/ED-117, was encountered during this survey. Due to the close proximity of this site to the impact zone which will result from this project, Percos Archeological Consultants is recommending clearance for this project only if certain special stipulations are observed. These include a reduced well pad, limited to a 220 X 220 ft area, monitoring of construction and erection of a barrier fence between the site and well pad.

INTRODUCTION

On July 17, 1987, Pecos Archeological Consultants was requested by Mr. Martin Muncie, Metex Pipe and Suppy, to perform an archeological survey for a drill location situated on public lands in Eddy County, New Mexico. This land is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and federal Law stipulates that an intensive archeological survey of the project area be accomplished to determine what cultural resources might be impacted by the planned construction. Therefore, on July 21, 1987, Pecos Archeological Consultants undertook this survey in accordance with federal requirements. Fieldwork was accomplished by James E. Hunt and Robert J. Martin. The following is a report of the findings resulting from the survey.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Pecos Archeological Consultants this . performed survey by physically examining the entire impact zone which will result from this project as planned. A pedestrian inspection along transects spaced 15 meters apart was made across the 400 X 400 ft area encompassed by the projected location. Additionally, a buffer zone extending 20 m surrounding the location was included to determine if any secondary impact could occur to cultural resources outside the staked location. Further, the access road easement was surveyed in two parallel transects spaced 5 m apart. This inspection was made on one sunny day. Surface visibility, which was 35-75% vegetation-free in the region, made this methodology the most practical for effectively sampling the impact zone as it will result from this planned construction.

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ENVIRONMENT

Metex Pipe and Supply's drill location and access road will be situated on the Mescalero Sands, west of the Llano Estacado, which is deliniated by Mescalero Ridge (The Caprock, approximately 1.5 miles east of the project area. This area is characterized by stabilized sand dunes and hummocks ranging between 1 and 2 m in height, which are interspersed with large deflation basins. Drainage of this landform, which is trending to the northeast, is primarily accomplished internally. Local soils consist of loamy sands which belong to the Kermit-Berino association. Occasional inclusions of chert and quartzite gravels occur in the soils of this association, and these gravels are associated with the Ogallala formation which has weathered from the Mescalero Pediment. Some of this material is suitable for chipped stone tool manufacture.

This area, which occurs at an elevation of between 4100 and 4150 ft above sea level, possesses a biotic community typical of the region as a whole. A number of plants are included in the floral inventory, with shin oak (<u>Quercus havardi</u>) and mesquite (<u>Prosopis juliflora</u>) the most common local varieties. In addition, prickly-pear cactus (<u>Opuntia macrocentra</u>), javalina bush (<u>Condalia ericoides</u>) and broom-snakeweed (<u>Gutierrezia sarothrae</u>) are, also present.

Animal inhabitants of this region include numerous reptiles, birds and mammals. Some of the more common species are coyote (<u>Canis latrans</u>), jackrabbit (<u>Lepus</u> sp.), cottontail rabbit (<u>Sylvilagus</u> sp.), pronghorn antelope (<u>Antilocapra americana</u>), mule deer (<u>Odocoileus hemionus</u>), badger (<u>Taxidea taxus</u>), at least two varieties of rattlesnake (<u>Crotaleus</u> ssp.), bobwhite quail (<u>Colinus virginianus</u>) and red-tailed hawk (<u>Buteo</u> <u>jamaicensis</u>).

LOCATIONAL DATA

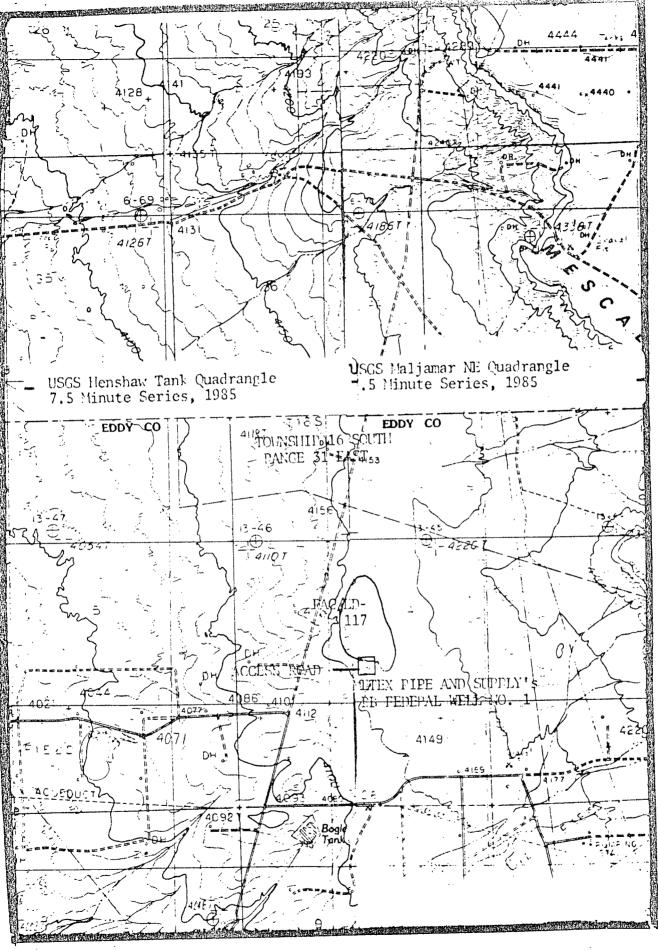
The drill location which Metex Pipe and Suppy plans to construct, designated the BB Federal Well No. 1, will measure 400 X 400 ft, or an area of 3.6 acres. It will be located 2810 ft from the south line and 2470 ft from the east line, or in Lots 14 and 15, section 4, T16S, R31E, NMPM, Eddy County, N.M.

In addition, an access road will be constructed to the location which will measure 50 ft by 500 ft, or an area of 1.14 acres. It will be situated in the:

Lot 14, section 4, T16S, R31E, NMPM, Eddy County, N.M.

Map Reference: USGS Maljamar NE Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1985. USGS Henshaw Tank Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1985.

UTM Coordinates: Zone 13, N 3,646,220 ; E 605,240



ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Prior to initiating fieldwork, Pecos Archeological Consultants performed a literature search to determine if any archeological sites had already been recorded in the project area. Current BLM files and the National Register of Historic Places were consulted in this endeavor. One previously-reported archeological site was found to have been recorded in the vicinity of the project area. This is BLM No. NM-06-4118, a surface scatter of artifacts with one firehearth "Yeature in association. No diagnostic remains were recorded at this site, which is located 0.5 mile from the project area. The site was not encountered during this survey.

Observed Archeological Manifestations:

One archeologlical site, PAC Field No. PAC/ED-117, was recorded as a result of this survey.

FIELD SITE NO.: PAC/ED-117

Location: Lots 10, 11, 14 and 15, section 4, T165, R31E, NMPM, Eddy County, N.M. UTM Coordinates: Zone 13, N 3,646,470 ; E 605,240 (center), Zone 13, N 3,646,200 ; E 605,370, Zone 13, N 3,646,510 ; E 605,350, Zone 13, N 3,646,780 ; E 605,200, Zone 13, N 3,646,490 ; E 605,080 (parimeter) Dimensions: 325 X 600m

Temporality: Jornada Mogollon Period, Querecho or Maljamar Phase, A.D. 650-3200

Map Reference: USGS Henshaw Tank Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1985. USGS Maljamar NE Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1985.

Observations:

PAC/ED-117 is situated in the region just west of the Llano Estacado, in the Mescalero Sands. In the project area, the terrain consists of an eroded plain, trending to the east. This plain is characterized by stabilized sand dunes and mesquite-anchored hummocks interspersed with deflation basins and denuded areas. Local vegetation is dominated by shin oak (<u>Quercus havardi</u>) and mesquite (<u>Prosopis juliflora</u>). The soils at the site consist of loamy sands and sandy loams which occur in the Kermit-Berino association. Taylor Draw is the nearest named drainage to the site, occurring in excess of 5 miles away. The nearest possible source of potable water is also some distance from the site, probably one of the springs that were associated with Mescalero Ridge (1.5 mile east) in prehistoric times, before over-grazing lowered the water table in the region.

Cultural remains at PAC consist of a large surface scatter of

thermally-altered caliche, ground sandstone mano and metate fragments, Jornada Brownware potsherds and chipped stone debitage. This debitage consists of cores and all stages of reduction flakes (primary, secondary and tertiary decortication flakes, interior flakes and thinning flakes). The chipped stone inventory is manufactured from local materials--quartzites and the native varieties of chalcedony and chert. The density of this material over the site is light and highly variable, ranging from 1 piece per square meter to 1 piece per 100 square meters. 50% of the chipped stone remains appear to be primary or secondary flakes, the balance of the assemblage is made up of pieces representing other stages of reduction. Ceramic remains are scarce at Ed-117, except at the northern portion of the site. Here the density of potsherds reaches 2 pieces per square meter in concentrated areas. For the most part, these sherds are highly fragmented and weathered, pieces over 3 cm in diameter being the largest at the site. Vessel form for most of these sherds was impossible to determine. There are probably a maximum of 200 such small potsherd on the entire site. Ground stone implements at the site were relatively rare, occurring at the north end of PAC/ED-117 for the most part with an estimated maximum number of pieces 25.

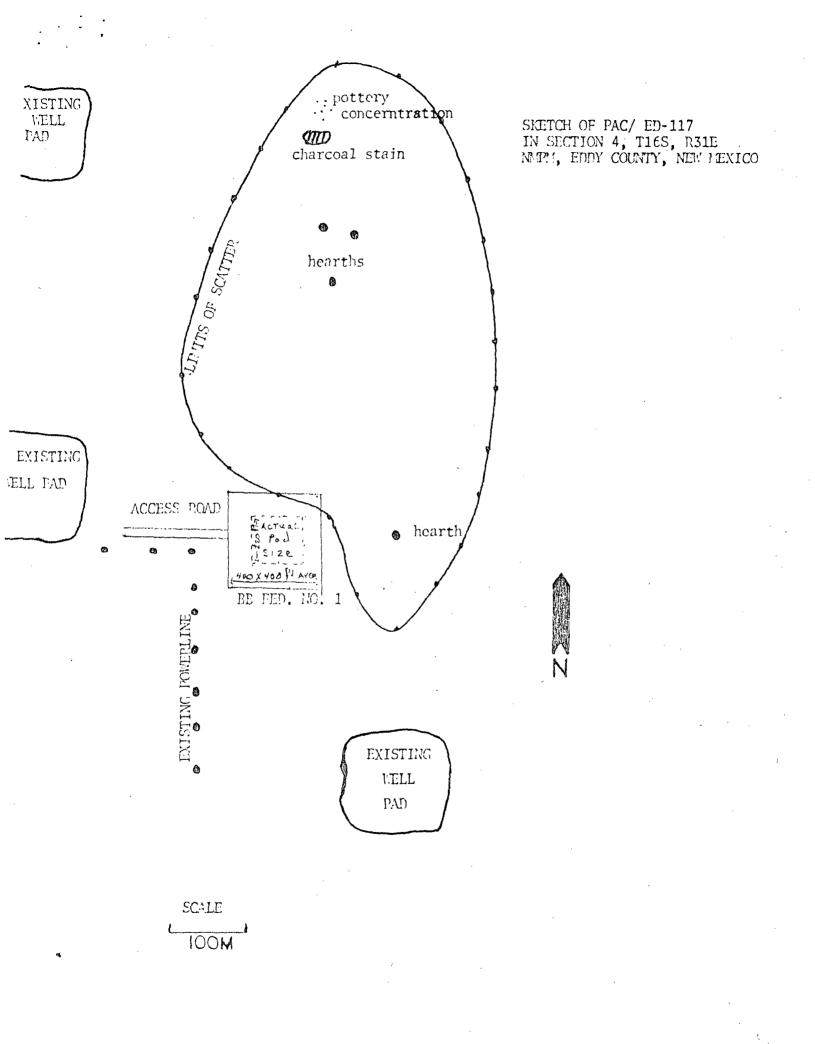
Thermally-altered caliche is the most common cultural material at PAC/ED-117. There is a general scatter of such material over the entire site area, mostly highly-weathered fragments, less than 3 cm in diameter. Some larger cobbles do occur, and several highly-enoded firehearth features formed from this material are still discernable at the site. However, features are not common, and the scatter of thermally-altered caliche is

quite variable. The density of TAC can range between 1 to 10 pieces per square meter. It is estimated that the total number of TAC fragments would be in the 10,000s.

In addition to this scatter, a 5 X 10 m area on the northern portion of the site displays charcoal staining, and indication of possible subsurface firehearth or firepit features is present. As it was not possible to test this stain under current survey regulations, the existence of <u>in situ</u> subsurface remains can not be determined with any certainty, however.

This site is apparently an ephemeral campsite, judging from the limited density of material deposited there. It would seem likely that such a large area so distant from vital resources, such as potable water, was not inhabited by a large group of people in a single event. Rather, a more reasonable conjecture would be that smaller areas were probably occupied repeatedly over time by for short periods, spreading the cultural deposition out over a large area. Grinding tools indicated that the processing of vegetal foodstuffs may have been performed at the site, and the proximity of the Llano Estacado, which functioned as a big-game hunting reserve for prehistoric man in the region, may point to hunting activities in the area nearby. No faunal remains were recorded on the surface to support this possibility, however. In any event, it is likely that PAC/ED-117 was occupied seasonally to exploit the natural resources which were available in the area at the season of habitation. The availability of such resources was probably critical to the location of this campsite.

According to the site typology developed for the Roswell BLM District in 1984, PAC/ED-117 would be classified as a "Temporary Camp Locale"--or a Type 2-A (Kemrer and Kearns, 1984). The presence of ceramics and milling equipment in addition to the indications of temporary habitation cause this site to by assigned the 2-A subtype. PAC/ED-117 possesses significant research potential in that it represents a piece in the puzzle of the overall economic system practiced by the prehistoric hunters and gatherers of the region. Further research at the site could help establish what resources were exploited at what time of the year, helping to establish a model for the seasonal round pursued by the aboriginal inhabitants of southeastern New Mexico. This potential for future research makes PAC/ED-117 an important site, eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and therefore, entitled to protection under the law.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the presence of the archeological site, PAC/ED-117, in close proximity to this drill location, Pecos Archeological Consultants is recommending clearance for Metex Pipe and Suppy, ONLY if special stipulations are observed. These stipulations include restricting the well pad closely to a 220 X 220 ft area, having the construction activities monitored by a qualified professional archeologist and erection of a barrier fence between the well pad and the archeological site. In addition, dirt contractors and drilling personnel should be strongly advised that collection of artifacts from the site, unauthorized excavation of archeological remains and vandalization of cultural resources is illegal, and punishable under federal law. In particular, Metex Pipe and Supply is cautioned that it, may be held responsible for such activities either by their own personnel or various contractors involved in the project. 0f course, approval of these recommendations and final clearance for this project must be granted by the Bureau of Land Management.

REFERENCES CITED

Kemmer, Meade F. and Timothy M. Kearns

	1984	, <u>An</u>	Archeol	oqical	Resea	rch D	esign	Project	for	the	Abo
Dil	and	Gas	Field,	Southea	astern	New	Mexi	<u>co</u> , a	study	submi	tted
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Cons	ultan	ts and	Flanners	, Albuqu	werque,	New M	exico.				

Bureau of Land Management Site Files, Carlsbad Resource Area:

<u>Site No.</u> <u>Date</u> NM-06-4118 09/25/84

ni.