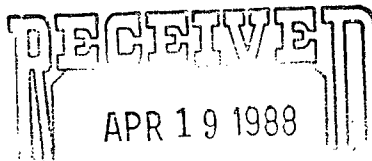


Release Date:  
May 9, 1988

B, DRC

MERIDIAN OIL



April 18, 1988

Mr. William LeMay  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
Post Office Box 2088  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

NSL-2513  
RULE 104F(I)

Undesignated Blanco  
Fruitland Pool  
160 Acres dcd  
NW 1/4 Sec 22

Dear Mr. LeMay:

This is a request for administrative approval for an unorthodox gas well location in the Undesignated Fruitland Pool.

It is intended to locate the Meridian Oil Inc.'s Howell K #302 at 2056' from the North line and 1675' from the West line of Section 22, T-30-N, R-8-W, San Juan County, New Mexico. (unit F)

This location was moved at the request of the archaeologist.

A copy of this application is being submitted to all offset operators by certified mail with a request that they furnish your Santa Fe office with a Waiver of Objection, and return one copy to this office.

Plats showing the proposed well location and the terrain in Section 22, along with an ownership plat, are attached.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Doak

encl.

WAIVER

\_\_\_\_\_ hereby waives objection to Meridian Oil Inc.'s application for an unorthodox location for their Howell K #302 as proposed above.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

cc: Tenneco Oil

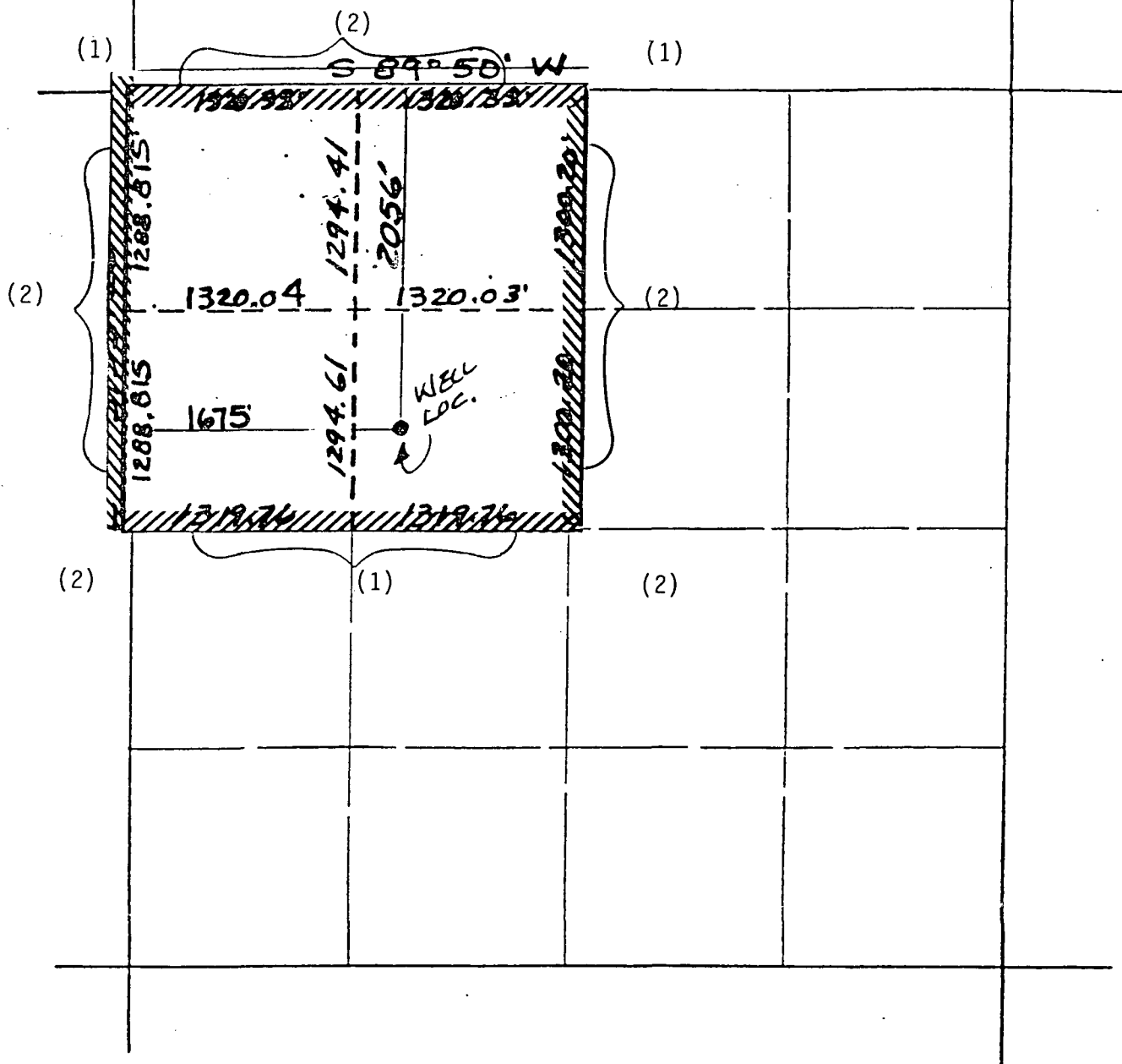
MERIDIAN OIL INC.

Well Name Howell K #302, Undesignated Fruitland

Footage---- 2056' FNL, 1675' FWL

APPLICATION FOR NON-STANDARD LOCATION

County San Juan State New Mexico Section 22 Township 30N Range 8W



REMARKS:

OFFSET OPERATORS:

(1) Meridian Oil Inc.

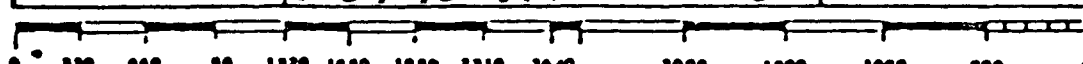
(2) Tenneco Oil Company

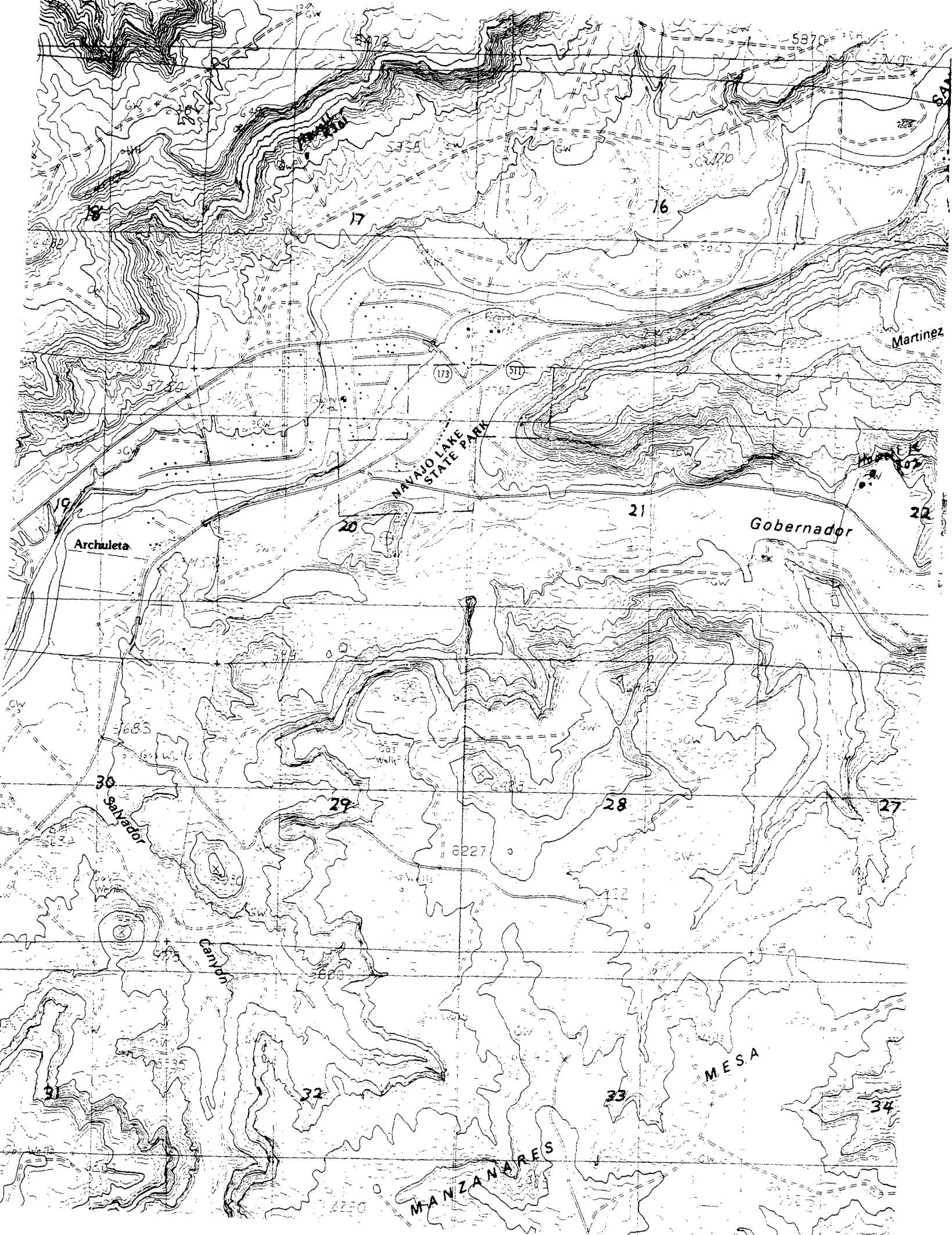
ld

Supersides C-128  
Effective 1-1-63

Operator MERIDIAN OIL		Lease HOWELL K (SF-078578A)		Well No. 302
Unit Letter F	Section 22	Township 30N	Range 8W	County SAN JUAN COUNTY
Actual Footage Location of Well: 2056 feet from the NORTH line and 1675 feet from the WEST line				
Ground Level Elev. 5832	Producing Formation FRUITLAND	Pool Undesignated		Dedicated Acreage: 160 Acres

- Reissued to show moved location.







## DIVISION OF CONSERVATION ARCHAEOLOGY

San Juan County  
Museum Association

March 22, 1988

RECEIVED  
MAY 09 1988  
OIL CON. DIV.  
DIST. 3

Mr. Charles Werner  
Meridian Oil Company  
P.O. Box 4289  
Farmington, New Mexico 87499

Dear Mr. Werner:

Our report on the archaeological survey of five gas wells near Navajo Dam is enclosed. Three sites and three isolates were found.

We have recommended clearance for all but the Howell K #302. A clearance recommendation for the Howell K #302 is contingent upon either moving the location at least 200 ft from its current position or testing site DCA-88-8 before construction. Stipulations for clearance for the locations are outlined in the report.

The Bureau of Land Management will review this report and make the final decision on archaeological clearance for your project.

Also enclosed is an invoice for our services. We have enjoyed working with you and hope we can be of service again. If you have any questions, please call us. We will be happy to help you.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Powers  
Principal Investigator

cc: Resource Area Manager, BLM, Farmington (3)

Project No. 9-88-C

Cultural Resource Use Permit  
7-2920-87-D (NM BLM)

An Archaeological Survey of  
Five Wells near Navajo Dam, San Juan  
and Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico

for

Meridian Oil Company

San Juan Unit 30-6 #421  
Howell L #301  
Howell L #302  
Howell L #303  
Howell K #302

Prepared  
and  
Submitted by

Margaret A. Powers  
Principal Investigator

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION ARCHAEOLOGY

Technical Report No. 1266  
San Juan County Archaeological Research Center and Library

March 22, 1988

# ABSTRACT

On March 7, 1988, the Division of Conservation Archaeology of the San Juan County Museum Association completed an archaeological survey of five wells for Meridian Oil Company. The survey area is located south and east of Navajo Dam in San Juan and Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico and is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (Farmington Resource Area). Approximately 33 acres were intensively inventoried.

Three sites and three isolates were recorded. The documentation of the isolates and the Category I sites in the field has exhausted their research potential. Archaeological clearance is recommended with the following stipulations: that the Howell K 302 either be moved or that DCA-88-8 be tested before clearance is granted and that the Howell L #301 be moved 50 ft west and that construction of the road and pad be monitored.

## INTRODUCTION

On March 7, 1988, the Division of Conservation Archaeology (DCA) of the San Juan County Museum Association conducted an archaeological survey for Meridian Oil Company of Farmington, New Mexico. Charles Werner requested the survey on March 6, 1988 and administered the project for Meridian Oil. Margaret A. Powers administered the project for DCA.

In recognition of the limited, nonrenewable nature of archaeological remains, the federal government has enacted legislation that is designed to conserve and protect these resources. The principal legislation includes the Antiquities Act of 1906 (PL 52-209), the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL 89-665) and, as amended (PL 96-515), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-852), the 1971 Executive Order No. 11593, the Archaeological and Historical Conservation Act of 1974 (PL 93-291), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (PL 96-95). In addition, the Navajo Nation and the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado have enacted laws to ensure compliance with federal legislation and to protect archaeological resources within their jurisdiction. Work undertaken in the course of this project is intended to comply with these statutes and is governed by the stipulations of Cultural Resources Use Permit No. 7-2920-87-D.

Margaret A. Powers, DCA archaeologist, surveyed the project area for cultural remains. The Bureau of Land Management (Farmington Resource Area) was notified of the survey schedule prior to beginning fieldwork. Odell Farley of Meridian Oil accompanied the archaeologist during the fieldwork.

## METHODS

The area was surveyed by walking zigzag transects spaced 15m apart across the pads and their 100 foot buffer zones and one zigzag transect along the access roads. A buffer zone 35 ft wide was surveyed on each side of the access road. The archaeologist recorded all cultural remains. Those whose information potential exceeded what could be extracted during the survey phase were assigned site status. Other cultural remains were documented as isolated loci (IL). Pertinent environmental data were also recorded.

In addition to field inspection, the archaeologist conducted a search of the records at the DCA on March 7, 1988 and at the BLM on March 8, 1988 to determine if any sites had been recorded in the project area. Site and project records required by the BLM and the NMHPD were completed.

## PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES

Many well pads have been surveyed in the vicinity of Navajo Dam but two survey projects constitute the bulk of the work in the area. The first of these was the Navajo Reservoir Project (Dittert et al. 1961) which was conducted in the 1950s and early 1960s. The second project consists of surveys performed by San Juan College for the City of Farmington Hydroelectric Line (Del Bene et al. 1982). The sites recorded by these surveys are shown in Attachment I-A, B, and C which is provided only to the BLM.

Howell K #302

Legal Description: T30N, R8W, Section 22, SE 1/4 NW 1/4  
1685' F/NL, 1850' F/WL  
N.M.P.M. San Juan County, New Mexico

Map Source: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Archuleta, New Mexico (1985, provisional edition) -  
Figure 4

Land Jurisdiction: Bureau of Land Management

Project Area: 300' x 350' (pad)

Surveyed Area: 500' x 550' (pad with buffer)  
6.3 Acres

Description: The proposed pad abuts an existing location (Howell K 2A, 1800N, 1590W, Section 22). It lies directly southeast of a sandstone cliff at the edge of a large sage flat that borders Gobernador Wash. The north side of the pad is dominated by a pinyon-juniper woodland with a sparse understory of sage, prickly pear, and rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus). The area at the base of the cliff contains talus boulders. A sandy, flat-bottomed wash meanders from east to west through the center of the pad. South of the wash, the woodland gives way to sage mixed with saltbush (Atriplex canescens). The soil is a tan sand with occasional fine gravels and quartzite river cobbles, which are eroding from the cut banks of the wash and exposed in places on the sage flat.

Cultural Resources: One site, DCA-88-6 (Figure 6), is eroding from the cut bank on the south side of the wash. It consists of a 1 x 1m concentration of flakes and Dinetah Gray sherds, some of which are oxidized, and an area of charcoal flecks (1.5 x 1.5m) directly west of the artifact concentration. Two obsidian flakes and several tertiary quartzite flakes were found in the concentration. Trowel-probing showed there to be a zone of lightly charcoal-stained soil containing a sherd fragment about 15cm below the surface in the artifact concentration. About two meters south of the concentration, on the sage flat, small pieces of charcoal were found just below the surface. Probing a few centimeters below the surface beyond this area did not expose any charcoal or artifacts.

Because of the small area of exposure, it is impossible to evaluate the site function. The site apparently dates to the Dinetah or Gobernador phase of Navajo occupation.

Recommendations: Archaeological clearance is not recommended for this well pad in its present location. We recommend clearance if either the well pad is moved at least 200-300 ft south of its current location, or DCA-88-6 is tested to define its size and function and to recover botanical, chronometric and artifactual samples.

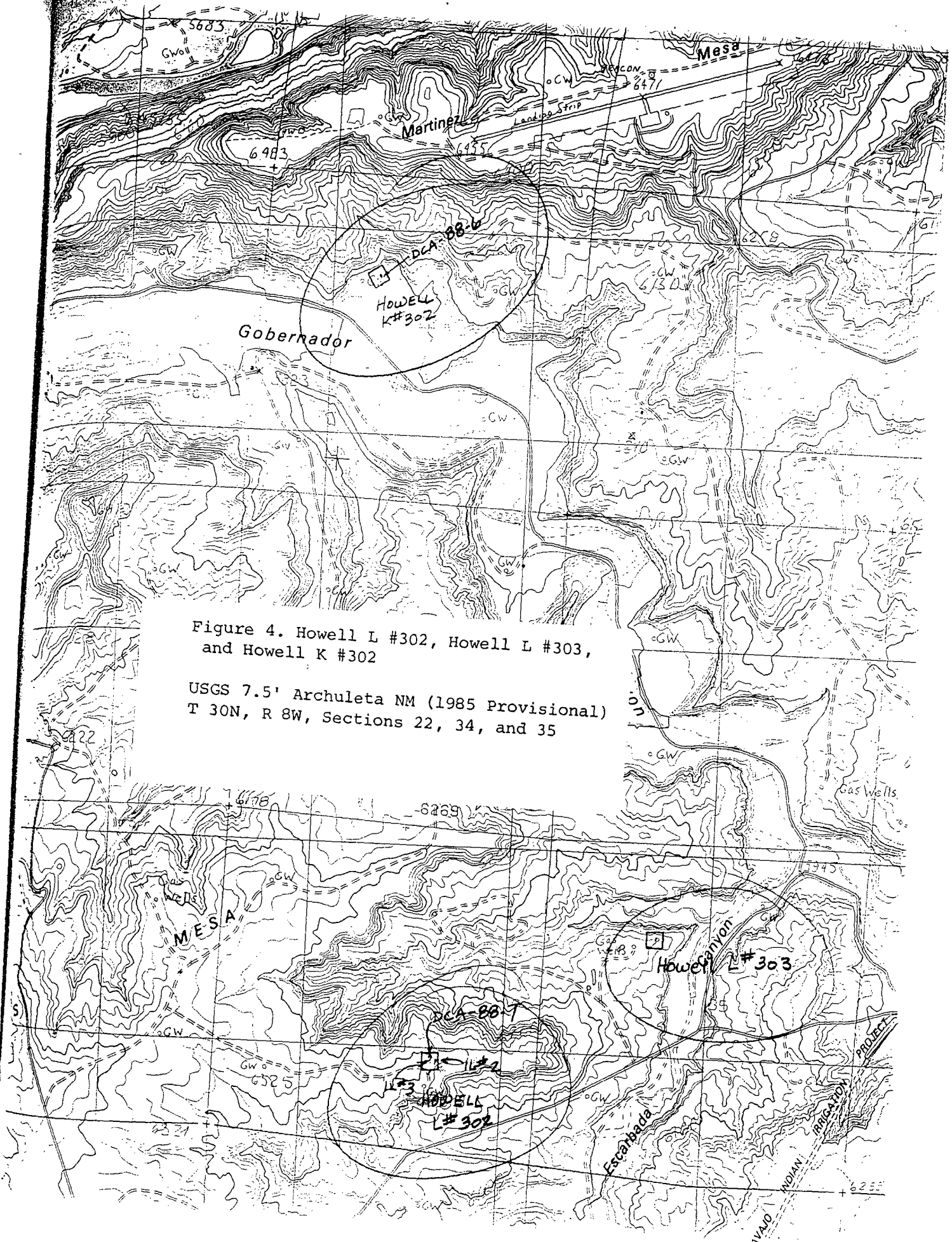


Figure 4. Howell L #302, Howell L #303, and Howell K #302

USGS 7.5' Archuleta NM (1985 Provisional)  
T 30N, R 8W, Sections 22, 34, and 35

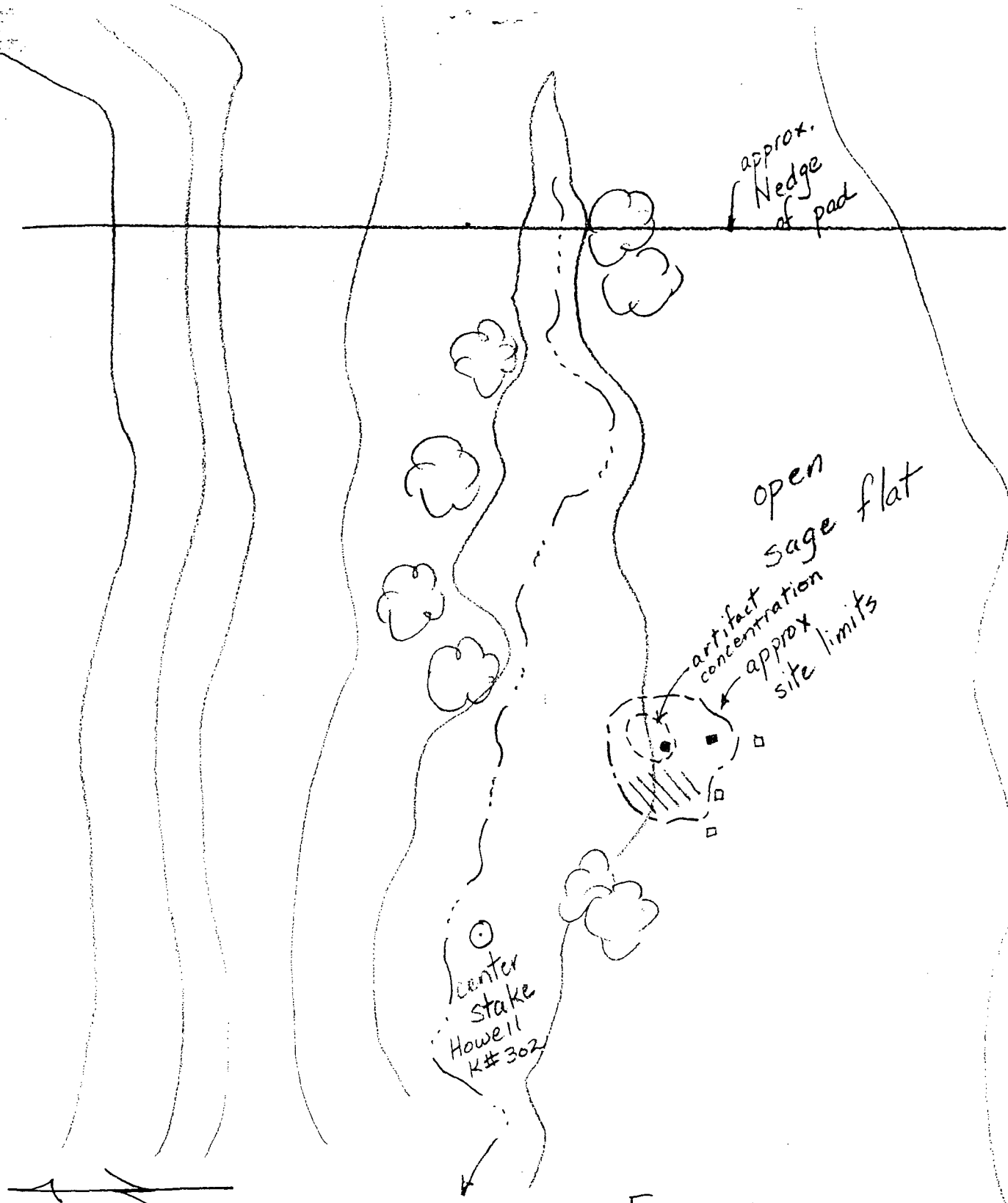
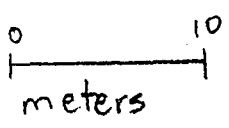


Figure 6

DCA-88-6



- KEY:
- ☁ TREE
  - (( SCHEMATIC CONTOURS
  - POSITIVE SUBSURFACE PROBE
  - NEGATIVE SUBSURFACE PROBE
  - /// CHARCOAL-STAINED SOIL



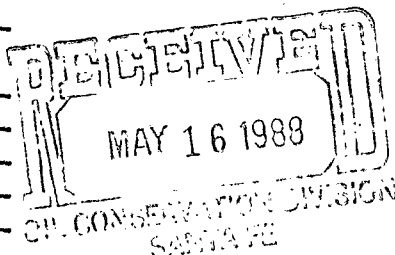
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENERGY AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
AZTEC DISTRICT OFFICE

1000 RIO BRAZOS ROAD  
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410  
(505) 334-6178

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
BOX 2088  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

DATE 5-11-88

RE: Proposed MC \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed DHC \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed NSL X \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed SWD \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed WFX \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed PMX \_\_\_\_\_



Gentlemen:

I have examined the application dated 4-19-88  
for the MERIDIAN OIL INC. HONOLULU #302 F-22-30W-805  
Operator Lease and Well No. Unit, S-T-R

and my recommendations are as follows:

Approve  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Yours truly,

[Signature]