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\*See Instructions on Reverse Side





Archaeological Clearance Report for McKay Oil Company

2

Pipeline to China Draw Federal #1 Pipeline to China Draw Federal #3 Access Road to China Draw Commercial #4 Relocation of Remmele Federal #2 and Access Road

F86-169

by Keith Landreth and Joseph P. Martin

Principal Investigator Dr. John L. Montgomery

December 23, 1985

# ACA F86-169

# MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On December 19, 1985, the Agency for Conservation Archaeology conducted a cultural resource survey for McKay Oil Company, on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The areas were surveyed for two access roads, two pipelines, and a well pad, and encompass a total of 11.98 acres. The proposed project areas are located in Sections 25 and 31, T6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, New Mexico. During the reconnaissance, one cultural resource site, ENM 20188, was located in the area along the pipeline to China Draw Federal #3. On the basis of field observations, the site may have the qualities necessary to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and avoidance is recommended. Upon location and definition of the site, an alternate location was surveyed. No cultural resource sites or isolated manifestations were observed at this locale. Clearance is recommended at the alternate location for the pipeline.

# ACA F86-169

# Introduction

An archaeological reconnaissance was completed recently by the Agency for Conservation Archaeology (ACA) at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) for McKay Oil Company in Chaves County, New Mexico, on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The reconnoitered areas will be disturbed by the construction of two access roads, a well pad, and two pipelines. The project was administered by Jim Schultz for McKay Oil Company, and Dr. John L. Montgomery, Director of ACA. This report was prepared by the Portales office of ACA.

The fieldwork was conducted on December 19, 1985, by Keith Landreth and Joseph P. Martin. Excellent field and weather conditions prevailed throughout the course of this reconnaissance. This survey was conducted under Federal Antiquities permit number 11-2920-85-G. A search of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been made, and no properties within this area are listed. Prefield examination of the BLM Roswell Resource Area's site files showed two previously recorded sites in the of the sections of land where the proposed projects are located (Steve Fisher, personal communication December 118, 1985).

# Survey Technique

Visual inspection of the proposed access roads, pipelines, and well pad was completed by walking a series of parallel transects. Each transect was covered in a tightly spaced zigzag pattern. In all cases, the distance between transects was 25 ft (7.6 m). This method maximized the opportunity of observing any cultural resources on the surface within or near the proposed areas of disturbance.

### Pipeline to China Draw Federal #1

# Location

The proposed pipeline right-of-way is approximately 27 mi (43 km) northwest of Reswell, New Mexico, near the Peces Biver valley. The pipeline covers 1.72 acres and measures 1500 X 50 ft (457 X 15 m). It is situated as follows:

SW 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (NLM) NW 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 06, TO7S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (NLM)

Map Reference: USGS Rock Nouse Canyon, N.Mex. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1962 (Figure 1)

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### Terrain

The proposed pipeline is located northwest of the city of Roswell, New Mexico. It is situated on a ridge spur, trending northeast toward Arroyo del Macho. Elevation along this line varies from 4100 to 2080 ft (1249.7 to 634 m) above mean sea level (amsl). The sediment in the area is predominantly tan aeolian sand. Taxonomically it can be classified as a member of the calciustolls-rock land association. Lithic inclusions consist of common tabular caliche and limestone fragments of various sizes.

# Vegetation

The ACA archaeologists observed a sparse floral assemblage at this location. The coverage of the vegetation in the area is approximately 40% to 45%, consisting primarily of a variety of shrubs. The dominant species observed was broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae). Among other species present are desert holly (Perezia nana), javelina bush (Condalia ericoides), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), plains yucca (Yucca campestris), sqawbush (Rhus trilobata), cane cholla (Opuntia spinosior), Christmas cactus (Opuntia lepticaulis), purple pricklypear (Opuntia macrocentra), poverty threeawn (Aristida divaricata), sideoats grama (Bouteloua curtipendula), tobosa (Hilaria mutica), devils-claw (Proboscidea arenaria), mammillaria (mammillaria micromeris), and wavyleaf thistle (Cirsium undulatum).

# Previous Disturbances

The area has been disturbed previously by cattle grazing and construction.

#### Cultural Fesources

The ACA archaeologists did not find any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations within or near the proposed facilities.

#### Recommendations

Due to the absence of significant cultural resources in the project area, clearance is recommended for the proposed pipeline. Construction should be allowed to proceed as currently planned.

# Pipeling to China Draw Federal #3

#### Location

The proposed pipeline is located approximately 27 mi (43 km) northwest of Roswell, New Mexico, near the Pecos River valley. The pipeline covers 4.3 acres and measures 3750 X 50 ft (1143  $\times$  15 m).

## It is situated as follows:

SW 1/4 NE 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM) SE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM) SW 1/4 NE 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM) NW 1/4 SE 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Mesa SW, N.Mex. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1967 (Figure 2)

## Terrain

The proposed pipeline is located northwest of the city of Roswell, New Mexico. It is situated on and along a ridge, sloping southeast toward Arroyo del Macho. Elevation along the line varies from 3980 to 4140 ft (1213 to 1261 m) amsl. The sediment in the area is predominantly tan aeolian sand. Taxonomically it can be classified as a member of the calciustolls-rock land association. Lithic inclusions consist of exposures of caliche and limestone bedrock, as well as many pebble- to cobble-sized pieces of chert, chalcedony, quartzite, petrified wood, and sandstone.

### Vegetation

The ACA archaeologists observed a moderately dense floral assemblage at this location. The coverage of the vegetation in the area is approximately 40% to 50%, consisting primarily of a variety of shrubs. The dominant species is broom snakeweed (<u>Gutierrezia</u> <u>sarothrae</u>). Among other species present are acacia (<u>Acacia</u> <u>constricta</u>), catclaw acacia (<u>Acacia gregii</u>), creosote bush (<u>Larrea</u> <u>tridentata</u>), mesquite (<u>Prosopis juliflora</u>), yucca (<u>Yucca glauca</u>), cane cholla (<u>Opuntia spinosior</u>), Christmas cactus (<u>Opuntia</u> <u>letticaulis</u>), purple pricklypear (<u>Opuntia macrocentra</u>), black grama (<u>Boutelous eriopoda</u>), and poverty threeawn (Aristida divaricata).

#### Previous Disturbances

The area has been disturbed previously by the construction of an access road and a well pad. Disturbance caused by cattle grazing also was noted.

### Cultural Resources

The ACA archaeologists located and recorded one archaeological site, DNM 20188, within the proposed facilities.



Figure 2. Location of proposed pipeline to China Draw Federal #3, and Site INH 20188, Section 31, TOOS, R23E. Hap: USGS Mesa SW, N.Mex. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1967 ENM 20188 (Figures 2 and 3)

Location:

SW 1/4 SW 1/4 NE 1/4, SEC 31, T6S, R23E, NMPM, ChavesCnty, NM (BLM)SW 1/4 SE 1/4 NW 1/4, SEC 31, T6S, R23E, NMPM, ChavesCnty, NM (BLM)Map Reference: USGS Mesa SW, N.Mex. Quadrangle, 1967, PR 1982

Ownership: Bureau of Land Management

Site Type: Lithic Procurement/Reduction Station

Site Size: 490 X 290 ft (149 X 88 m), 3.26 acres

The site is situated on and along the collucial slopes of two small isolated knolls, 2200 ft (670 m) west of Macho Draw at 4030 ft (1228 m) amsl. On-site sediments were noted to be tan aeolian sands overlying limestone bedrock at an average depth of less than 10 cm.

Site ENM 20188 is defined as a lithic materials from the immediate site area is inferred on the basis of apparent material type correlations between naturally occurring and culturally modified materials. Use of the resource for early stage lithic reduction also is inferred from the absence of tool forms and biface thinning flakes.

Debitage types noted on the site include two multidirectional cores, six tested cobbles, primary, secondary, and tertiary flakes, and shatter. Utilized material types are predominately Sand Andres chert, followed by purple quartzites and red and white mottled cherts. Apparent true quarrying activities at the site are indicated by the presence of large primary flakes removed from bedrock exposures in the easternmost site area. Total artifact density is estimated to be more than 300 items.

## Recormendations

Although the total cultural assemblage at ENM 20188 is small, some data recovery potential may exist at the site. Information including definition of material procurement strategies, quantitative identification of lithic resources at the site, as well as possible identification of cultural components represented within discrete activity areas, could be obtained through systematic research. Therefore, this site is considered to possess the potential integrity and significance necessary for inclusion in the NRHP, and avoidance is reparented.

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### ACA F86-169

#### Access Road to China Draw Commercial #4

# Location

The proposed access road is located 27 mi (43 km) northwest of Roswell, New Mexico, near the Pecos River valley. The road covers 1.49 acres and measures 1300 X 50 ft (396 X 15 m).

NW 1/4 NE 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R23E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM) SW 1/4 NE 1/4, Section 31, TO6S, R30E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Mesa SW, N.Mex. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1967 (Figure 2)

## Terrain

The proposed access road is located northwest of the city of Roswell, New Mexico, heading north-northeast from an existing road. It is situated on a gently undulating slope, west of China Draw. Elevation along the proposed road varies from 3990 to 4020 ft (1216 to 1225.3 m) amsl. The sediment in the area is predominantly tan aeolian sand. Taxonomically it can be classified as a member of the calciustolls-rock land association. Lithic inclusions consist of exposures of caliche and limestone bedrock, as well as many pebbleto cobble-sized pieces of chert, chalcedony, quartzite, petrified wood, and sandstone.

#### Vegetation

The ACA archaeologists observed a moderately dense floral assemblage at this location. The coverage of the vegetation in the orea is approximately 40% to 50%, consisting primarily of a variety of chrubs. The dominant species is broom snakewood (<u>Gutierrezia</u> sarothrae). Among other species present are acacia (<u>Acacia</u> <u>constricta</u>), catelaw acacia (<u>Acacia grevii</u>), creosote bush (<u>Latrea</u> <u>tridentata</u>), mesquite (<u>Prosopis jeliferra</u>), yueca (<u>Yueca glaver</u>), <u>cone cholic (Opuntia spinocior</u>), Christmas coetus (<u>Yueca glaver</u>), <u>letti viic</u>), pupple pricklypear (<u>Opuntia macrocertra</u>), black glave (<u>Sourclosa eriopoda</u>), blue grama (<u>Bouteloua gracilia</u>), and peverty threaden (Aristica divaricata).

# Previous Disturbances

The news has been disturbed proviously by cattle grazing.

#### Cultural Resources

The ACA archaeologists did not find any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations within or near the proposed facilities.

### Recommendations

Due to the absence of significant cultural resources in the project area, clearance is recommended for the proposed access road. Construction should be allowed to proceed as currently planned.

# Relocation of Remmele Federal #2 and Access Road

# Location

The well pad and access road are located 27 mi (43 km) northwest of Roswell, New Mexico, near the Pecos River valley. The pad covers 3.67 acres and measures 400 X 400 ft (122 X 122 m). The access road covers 0.8 acres and measures 700 X 50 ft (213 X 15 m). They are situated as follows:

SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 25, TO6S, R22E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM) SW 1/4 SE 1/4, Section 25, TO6S, R22E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Mesa SW, N.Mex. Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1967 (Figures 4 and 5)

# Terrain

The well pad and access road are located northwest of the city of Roswell, New Mexico. They are situated 1.0 mi (1.6 km) west of Arroyo del Tacho in an area of low ridges. The southern and northeastern portions of the well pad are situated on limestone outcrop. Elevation around the proposed road and well pad varies from 4150 to 4180 ft (1264.9 to 1274 m) amsl. The sediment in the area is predominantly tan aeolian sand. Taxonomically it can be classified as a member of the calciustoll-rock land especiation. Lithic inclusions consist of common pebble- to cobble-sized calible frugments and large outcrops of tabular limestone.

# Mag. Lation

The ACA archaeologists observed a dense floral assemblage at this location. The coverage of the vegetation in the area is approximately 00%, consisting primarily of shrubs. The dominant species is broom snakeweed (<u>Gutierrezia sarothrae</u>). Among other species present are acacia (<u>Acacia constricta</u>), catclaw acacia (<u>Acacia gregii</u>), creosote tuch (<u>Larrec tridentata</u>), desert holly (<u>Perezia nana</u>), javelina bush (<u>Condalia ericoides</u>), mesquite (<u>Prosopis juliflora</u>), cane cholla <u>puntra spinosior</u>), Christman cactus (<u>Orantia Depticaulis</u>), purple pricklypear (<u>Opuntia macrocentra</u>), leatherweed croton (<u>Croton</u> <u>totsii</u>), blue grama (<u>Boutelous aracilis</u>), bush muhly (<u>Muhlenbergia</u> porteri), and poverty threeawn (<u>Aristida divaricata</u>).



Figure 4.





# Previous Disturbances

3 . . . . .

The area has been disturbed previously by a two-track road and cattle grazing.

# Cultural Resources

The ACA archaeologists did not find any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations within or near the well pad and access road.

# Recommendations

Due to the absence of significant cultural resources in this project area, clearance is recommended for the well pad and access road at this new location. Construction should be allowed to proceed as currently planned.

### General Recommendations

One cultural resource site was located during the reconnaissance of the proposed pipeline to China Draw Federal #3. This site (ENM 20188) may have the qualities of significance, integrity, and data recovery potential necessary to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Avoidance is recommended. No cultural resources were located during the survey of the alternate location for the pipeline. Clearance for the pipeline right-of-way at this locale is event that substantial cultural the unlikely recommended. In materials are uncovered during construction, the BLM archaeologist for the Roswell Resource Area should be consulted immediately. This report contains professional opinions about cultural resources in the project areas. It should not be considered permission to proceed with construction, but should be submitted to the proper review agencies for comments prior to the initiation of land-altering activities.