

Map Reference: USGS Artesia Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1955.

### Terrain

The proposed drill pad and access road are situated on a slightly undulating plain which lies between the foothills of the Guadalupe Mountains and the floodplain of the Pecos River. Tumbleweed Draw dissects the northernmost portion of the location and serves as a drainage channel for the area. Soils are calcareous sandy loams and belong to the Calciorthid Association. These soils are somewhat eroded by sheetwash. Alluvially deposited gravels and cobbles are strewn about the area although they tend to concentrate on the south bank of Tumbleweed Draw.

### Floristics

Local soils support a rather diverse array of plants. Grasses predominant and include Bouteloua gracilis, Hilaria mutica, Muhlenbergia porteri, Panicum olitum, Aristida divaricata, Aristida longiseta, and Scheropogon brevifolius occur in the area. In addition, Opuntia spp. (platyopuntia), Yucca elata, Gutierrezia sarothrae, Larrea tridentata, Flourensia cernua, and Condalia ericoides grow only in the bottom of the draw.

### Cultural Resources

No archaeological sites were recorded during this reconnaissance. Contemporary trash, however, is present and includes a Prince Albert tobacco can and lid found in the draw, one expended 44-40 caliber cartridge located on the western edge of the drill pad, and a section of barbed wire, approximately 2.5 ft in length, found at the southern extremity of the access road near an existing fenceline.