

Terrain (Cont.)

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly calcareous sands. Lithic inclusions within this soil consist of small amounts of fragmented caliche and limestone. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Haplargid-Torripsamment association.

Floristics

ACA encountered a sparse floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the vegetation in the area is approximately 10 percent, consisting primarily of grasses. Among the species present are: creosote bush (Larrea tridentata), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), black grama (Bouteloua eriopoda), sand dropseed (Sporobolus cryptandrus), and broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae).

Cultural Resources

ACA did not encounter any archaeological sites or isolated manifestations either within or near the proposed area of impact. A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not find any properties listed for this location.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed well pad and associated access right-of-way and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed as currently planned.

Location

The proposed well pad and associated access line are located 5 miles southeast of Artes, New Mexico, in the Pecos River Valley. The pad measures 400 X 400 feet and the access measures 15 X 2500 feet (approximately). They are located in the:

Pad

NW¹/4SE¹/4, Section 20, T19S, R27E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

Access

NW¹/4SE¹/4, Section 20, T19S, R27E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

NE¹/4SE¹/4, Section 20, T19S, R27E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

SE¹/4SW¹/4, Section 20, T19S, R27E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico (BLM)

Map Reference: USGS Lake McMillan North Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, 1950 (see Figures 3 & 4).