

Archaeological survey of a well pad and associated access road in Sections 25 and 26, T18S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM.

USGS 7.5' Series: Illinois Camp NE, NM (Provisional Edition 1985 [32104-F1]).

Land Status: Federal and State of New Mexico Lands

DWAS Report No. 98-320

NMCRIS No. 62493

Enron Oil and Gas Company  
Midland, TX

Attention:  
Dewey Smeltzer

### **1. Introduction:**

An intensive archaeological survey of Enron Oil and Gas Company's proposed STW "25" Federal Com. Well No. 1 (400' x 400'; 3.67 acres) and associated access road (3673.7' x 100'; 8.43 acres) in Sections 25 and 26, T18S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM was conducted by David Wilcox (Principal Investigator/Project Director) on 10-22-1998. One isolated manifestation (I.M.) and one previously recorded site (LA 117349) were encountered by this project. LA 117349 is a category 2 site, thus eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places. Total area surveyed was 12.09 acres. Archaeological clearance for Enron Oil and Gas Company's proposed well pad and access road is recommended provided that a temporary fence be erected prior to the well pad's construction and an archaeological monitor be present to insure that this fence is place just outside of the site's perimeter and that no subsurface information be lost to the archaeological record.

### **2. Legal Description:**

USGS 7.5' Series: Illinois Camp NE, NM (Provisional Edition 1985 [32104-F1]).

Land Status: Federal and State of New Mexico Lands

Sections 25 and 26, T18S, R29E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM.

Access Road: (Section 26 – Federal) nw/4, nw/4, se/4; ne/4, nw/4, se/4; se/4, sw/4, ne/4; sw/4, se/4, ne/4; nw/4, se/4, ne/4; sw/4, ne/4, ne/4; se/4, ne/4, ne/4; ne/4, se/4, ne/4. (Section 25 – State) nw/4, sw/4, nw/4; sw/4, sw/4, nw/4.

Well Pad: (Section 25 – State) 1980' FNL; 660' FWL, SW/4, NW/4

Federal – 3126.8' x 100'; 7.17 acres

State of New Mexico Lands – 400' x 400'; 3.67 acres and 546.9' x 100'; 1.25 acres

### **3. Project Description:**

A well pad (400' x 400') and an access road (100' x 3673.7'). Total area surveyed was 12.09 acres. East and north of State Route 360, west of Loco Hills, and south of the Greyburg Maljamar Oil Field.

Topography: This project's proposed access road crosses an existing buried Agave pipeline corridor.

Approximately ½ of the proposed access road follows an existing two-track, which was surveyed. The area in question is situated in an undulating dunal terrain of moderate relief with associated deflation basins of shallow depths. The area is affected by much water erosion as seen in some shallow ephemeral drainages which have cut the eastern perimeter of the proposed staked well pad. The well pad lies on the western slope of a dunal ridge, which has some indurated caliche, exposed on the surface. The western perimeter of this pad is down in a micro-valley that shows much evidence of water run-off.

Vegetation: Sage, mesquite, snake-weed, littleleaf horsebrush, shin oak and assorted grasses.

Soils: Simona-Pajarito association: Sandy, deep soils and soils that are shallow to caliche; from wind-worked deposits.

Aspect: mostly towards the southwest

Elevation: 3458' @ well pad's centre stake

Lithic Resources: Gatuna gravels were found throughout the study area.

Water Sources: (potential) Bear Grass Draw, west, 2 miles

(permanent) Pecos River, west, 17 miles