Terrain

The proposed well pad and access road are located in the Pecos River Valley and are 1 mile northeast of Lake McMillan. They are situated on a plain-like surface of a Pecos River terrace, which declines to the east. The elevation is 3400 feet.

The soils encountered in the area are predominantly gypsiferous sands. No lithic inclusions were noted on the pad or access road. Taxonomically, this soil can be classified as a member of the Rock Land-Torriorthent-Haplargid association.

Floristics

ACA encountered a moderate floral assemblage in this vicinity. The density of the ground cover in the area is approximately 25 percent, consisting mainly of shrub species. Among the species present are: Christmas cactus (Opuntia leptocaulis), creosote bush (Larrea tridentata), ephedra (Ephedra trifurca), mesquite (Prosopis juliflora), plains yucca (Yucca campestris), purple prickly-pear (Opuntia macrocentra), sand dropseed (Sporobolus cryptandrus), tabosa (Hilaria mutica), leatherweed croton (Croton potsii), and broom snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae).

Cultural Resources

During the course of this reconnaissance, ACA did not encounter any archaeological sites; however, one isolated manifestation was recorded:

IM-1: is a scatter of burned caliche and, it was found at the southeast corner of the pad, outside of the staked work area. It is a scatter of the type which frequently mark the remains of deflated hearths in southeastern New Mexico.

A review of ACA's site files and the National Register did not show any properties listed for this area.

Recommendations

ACA recommends clearance for the proposed facilities and suggests that construction be allowed to proceed as currently planned.