

Archaeological Clearance Report

for

MARATHON OIL COMPANY

Proposed Flow Line, Federal IBD Gas Com. Well No. 2

Prepared

By

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Submitted

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# ABSTRACT

New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., representing MARATHON OIL COMPANY, Hobbs, undertook an archaeological reconnaissance of Bureau of Land Management Lands scheduled to be impacted by the construction of a flow line. The investigated easement will be situated in Sections 19 and 30, T21S, R23E, NMPM, Eddy County, New Mexico. No cultural resources were recorded during this reconnaissance, and hence NMAS is *suggesting* clearance for MARATHON OIL COMPANY's proposed work.

## Introduction

On 12 September 1980, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for MARATHON OIL COMPANY, Hobbs, an archaeological reconnaissance of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Eddy County, New Mexico. The reconnoitered easement will be impacted by the construction of a flow line. This project was advanced by Mr. Ralph DePauw, Associated Petroleum Engineer, MARATHON OIL COMPANY, and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This reconnaissance was undertaken by Dr. Haskell.

## Survey Technique

For this investigation, MARATHON OIL COMPANY's proposed easement was investigated for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in two, 35 ft wide, close interval (15° or less), zigzag transects. Owing to the serpentine character of the reconnoitered easement, as well as the fact that MARATHON is undecided where it will cross the road with its flow line, *each side of the existing ranch road was checked for cultural properties.* Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of areas to be impacted by construction-related activities.

## Flow Line

## Location

As proposed, MARATHON OIL COMPANY's easement will measure 30 X 5500 ft on federal lands and will be situated in the:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 30, T21S, R23E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM  
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 19, T21S, R23E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM  
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 19, T21S, R23E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM  
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 19, T21S, R23E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM  
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 19, T21S, R23E, NMPM, Eddy County, NM

Map Reference: USGS CAWLEY DRAW QUADRANGLE, 7.5 Minute Series, 1978.

### Terrain

MARATHON OIL COMPANY's proposed flow line will cross an undulating landform which is coextensive with Indian Basin. Locally, this feature is characterized by sporadic occurrences of limestone outcroppings as well as angular limestone cobbles and gravels. Minor swales and depressions occur in intervening areas. Drainage is toward the east and is tributary to Bone Tank Draw. Soil individuals, uniformly fine textured, are composed of silt loams and silty clay loams. Pedons belong to the Lithic Calciustoll subgroup.

### Floristics

Areal soils support a mixed overstory of *Larrea tridentata*, *Rhus microphylla*, *Yucca elata*, *Yucca torreyi*, *Condalia ericoides*, *Acacia greggii*, *Juniperus monosperma*, *Koeberlina spinosa*, and *Berberis trifoliolata*. Observed forbs and low shrubs include: *Krameria* sp., *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Euphorbia* sp., *Senecio* sp., *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, *Verbena* sp., *Cirsium* sp., *Coldenia* sp., *Dalea formosa*, and *Zinnia acersoa*. The Gramineae is represented by *Bouteloua* sp., *Scleropogon brevifolius*, and *Tridens pulchellus*.

### Cultural Resources

No cultural resources were recorded during this reconnaissance. Locally, their overall absence is due to the nature of the associated landform which is subject to a high level of sheetwash and actual flooding. In addition, lithic material is limited to limestone which locally is unsuited to flaked-tool manufacture. Ring middens, the single-most common cultural property occurring locally, invariable are confined to the leeward sides of locally prominent eminences. Features such as these do not occur in the immediate vicinity.

Recommendations

NMAS recommends clearance for MARATHON OIL COMPANY's proposed flow line and *suggests* that work-related activities proceed in accordance with company plans. Clearance, of course, is granted by the Bureau of Land Management.