

Introduction

On 12 January 1983, New Mexico Archaeological Services, Inc., (NMAS), Carlsbad, undertook for BELCO PETROLEUM COMPANY, Houston, an archaeological reconnaissance of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Eddy County, New Mexico. The reconnoitered area will be impacted by the construction of a drill location, and its associated access road. This project was advanced by Mr. P.E. Ilavia, Division Engineer, BELCO PETROLEUM COMPANY, and administered by Dr. J. Loring Haskell, Principal Investigator, NMAS, Inc. This reconnaissance was undertaken by Mr. James E. Hunt and Ms. Megan L. Self.

Survey Technique

For this investigation, BELCO PETROLEUM COMPANY's proposed location was reconnoitered for evidence of man's past activities by walking it in a series of 25 ft wide, close interval (15° or less), zigzag transects. In addition, an added zone embracing to 20 ft on each side of the staked 700 X 1100 ft location, and hence lying outside the bounds of the proposed work area, was reconnoitered by a similar means. As for the access road, it was walked in two 25 ft wide transects. Methodologically, this procedure served to promote optimal conditions for the visual examination of areas to be impacted by construction-related activities.

Belco/James Ranch Well No. 14

Location

The proposed location will measure 700 X 1100 ft on federal lands and will be situated 100 ft from the south line and 1980 ft from the west line of:

Section 6, T23S, R31E, NMPM, Chaves County, NM

Thus it will be situated in the: