OIL CONSERVE IN DIVISION REC: VED 193 0C = 28 RM 9 24



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PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401 5525 HWY. 64 NBU 3004

October 21, 1993

New Mexico Oil Conservation Division ATTN: MR. MICHAEL E. STOGNER P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

> RE: Administrative Application for an Unorthodox Coal Gas Well Location. San Juan 30-5 Unit Well No. 246 2011' FSL & 531' FWL (Unit L) Section 26, Township 30 North, Range 5 West, NMPM, Rio Arriba Co., New Mexico Basin Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool

Gentlemen:

This letter is in response to your October 15, 1993 letter requesting additional information relating to the staking of the unorthodox location. Phillips Petroleum Company did in fact conduct a thorough survey of orthodox locations for the subject well. This survey was conducted jointly by Henry P. Broadhurst Jr., Surveyor, Maureen Cavanaugh, Archaeologist and Richard Allred, Phillips Drilling Superintendent.

In response to your numbered paragraph (1), although the archaeological survey was dated April 16, 1993, the actual survey work was conducted on April 6, prior to the date of the C-102 form. Please refer to the first paragraph under "Introduction" of the Archaeological Survey. Since both the surveyor and archaeologist were present during staking, the location was chosen after pedestrian transects were conducted by the archaeologist. Again, note the survey was conducted April 6.

In the final paragraph of page one of your letter you state that "...it would appear that many locations considered to be standard were available." Please be assured that the "Fruitland Window" in the SW/4 was transversed by pedestrian survey methods by Ms. Cavanaugh and Mr. Allred. The location set forth in the archaeological survey was determined after eliminating unacceptable topographical locales in the window. We have requested La Plata Archaeological consultants to provide information to expand on the survey narrative. We do wish to confirm, however, that the location set forth in the archaeological survey represents the ONLY location not hampered by archaeological constraints yet offering acceptable topographic conditions.

In reviewing the information presented in our September 28 request, we can see where the apparent contradiction may have occurred. To repeat our earlier statement, the well is physically located on the ONLY site available to Phillips which would not have contained significant archaeological problems encountered during the study conducted in our behalf, after eliminating unacceptable topography.

MR. MICHAEL STOGNER PAGE 2 OCTOBER 21, 1993

We believe this letter responds to the concerns raised in your October 15 letter. However, if you require any additional information please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

Trulse,

W. F. Hulse, III Land Specialist, CPL Farmington Area (505) 599-3458

Enclosure

LA PLATA ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS 26851 County Road P Dolores, Colorado 81323 Office Phone: (303) 565-8708 Fax Phone: (303) 882-2224

Mr. Frank Hulse Phillips Petroleum 5525 Highway 64 NBU 3004 Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Dear Mr. Hulse:

I have read the letter dated October 15, 1993, sent by the OCD to Phillips Petroleum and have several comments to offer. Maureen Cavanaugh, who conducted the study for La Plata Archaeological Consultants, was accompanied in the field by Richard Allred of you office on April 6, 1993. According to Ms. Cavanaugh, they conducted a general reconnaissance of the most logical drilling locations within the "Fruitland window" in the SW 1/4 of Section 26, Township 30N, Range 5W. As indicated by the very steep topography shown on Figure 1 in our survey report, any possible well locations are confined to the bottom of Manuel Canyon. The surrounding topography is simply too steep to consider. Ms. Cavanaugh and Mr. Allred conducted a reconnaissance of the portion of the canyon bottom within the Fruitland window and found that the canyon bottom is covered with <u>unrecorded archaeological sites in this vicinity</u>. Based on their reconnaissance, they determined that the nearest well location that would not have an impact on cultural resources is the one that was subsequently staked.

Please note that the well was staked on April 7 as indicated on the C-102 and that we conducted the reconnaissance and survey on April 6, 1993. The section on page 1 of our report under Field Methods is "boiler plate" and indicates that we later rechecked the location after staking to insure that the well was staked as initially surveyed.

If you have any questions concerning this survey, please let me know.

Sincerely,

EnLFill

Steven L. Fuller Director



PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401 5525 HWY. 64 NBU 3004 OIL CONSERVICTION DIVISION RECEIVED 193 SE® 30 AM 8 58

September 28, 1993

Mr. William J. LeMay New Mexico Oil Conservation Division P.O. Box 2088 Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

> Re:Unorthodox Well Location 2011 FSL & 531 FWL Section 26, T30N, R5W Rio Arriba County, New Mexico G.F. 5397

Dear Mr. LeMay:

Phillips Petroleum Company drilled its San Juan 30-5 #246 well in the Fruitland Coal formation at the subject location in accordance with its approved APD. However, we are advised that approval of the Non Standard Location (NSL) will be required prior to processing of the C-104.

The movement of this well to a NSL was predicated upon archaelogical concerns set forth in La Plata Archaelogical Consultants Report 9316B. The drillsite is located upon private surface and minerals and waiver of objection was obtained. In as much as the unorthodox location is internal to and offset on all four sides by the Phillips-operated San Juan 30-5 Unit, request administrative approval of this unorthodox location.

Please advise of any additional information you may require.

Very truly yours, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

Ulap

W.F. Hulse, III Land Specialist,CPL Farmington Area (505) 599-3458

Attachments

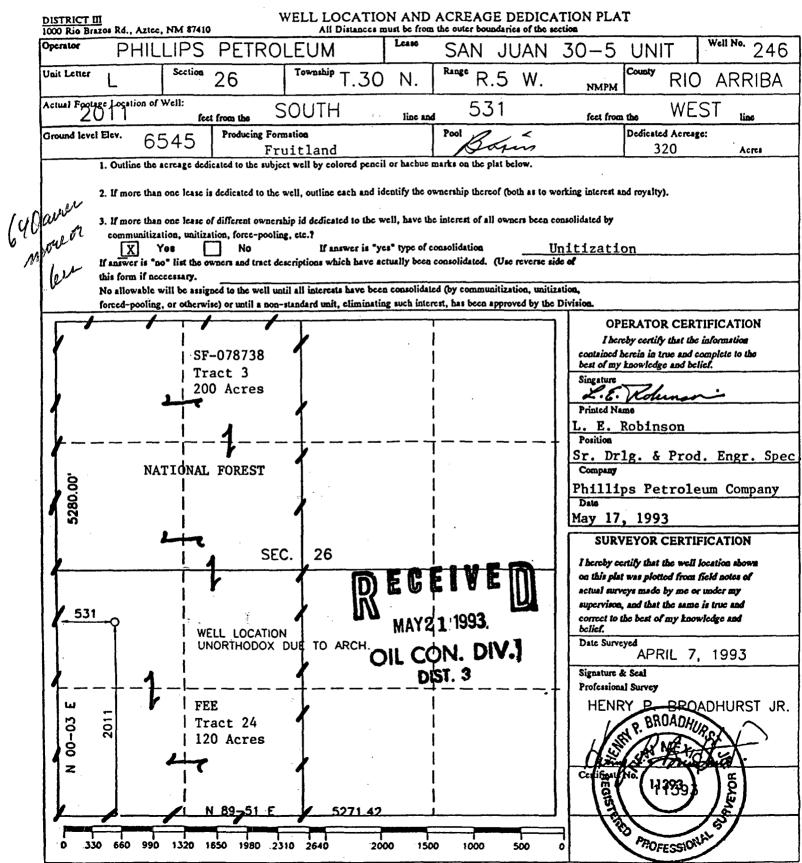
cc:Mr. Ernie Busch NMOCD-Aztec Submit to Appropriate District Office State Lease - 4 copies Fee Lease - 3 copies

DISTRICT I P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240

DISTRICT II P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Meixco 7504-2088



Submit to Appropriate District Office State Lease - 6 copies Fee Lease - 5 copies		State of New Me Minerals and Natural Re	esources Department	Form C-101 Revised 1-1-89				
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2. Name of Operator				& Well No.				
Phillips Petr	oleum Company			246				
3. Address of Operator				9. Pool name or Wildcat	· (W/Z)			
5525 Hwy 64 N	BU 3004, Farmi	Basin Fruitlan	d Coal					
4. Well Location 'Unit Letter L	:2011 Feet Fr	om The South	Line and 531	Feet From The	West Line			
Section	26 Towns	up 30N Ran	nge 5W	NMPM Rio Arri	ba County			
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13. Elevations (Show whether 6545' (GL	DF, RT, GR, etc.) 14 Unprepared)		Date Work will start APPROVAL					
17. PROPOSED CASING AND CEMENT PROGRAM								
SIZE OF HOLE	SIZE OF CASING	WEIGHT PER FOOT	SETTING DEPTH	SACKS OF CEMENT	EST. TOP			
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OIL CON. DIV. This Approval Expires 5-28-94

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I hereby certify that the information above is true and complete to the best of my	knowledge and belief.		
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TYPE OR PRINT NAME L. E. Robinson		(505) Telephone no.	599-3415
(This space for Sizie Use)			
APTROVED BY CALL BURGE	DEPUTY OIL & GAS INSPECTOR, DIST. #3	DATE MAY	2 8 199:
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C-104 For NSL			í.

Submit to Appropriate District Office State Lease - 4 copies Fee Lease - 3 copies

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Form C-102 Revised 1-1-89

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, New Meixco 7504-2088

DISTRICT I P.O. Box 1980, Hobbs, NM 88240 DISTRICT II P.O. Drawer DD, Artesia, NM 88210

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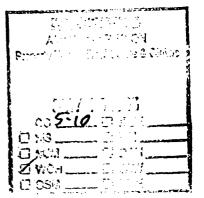
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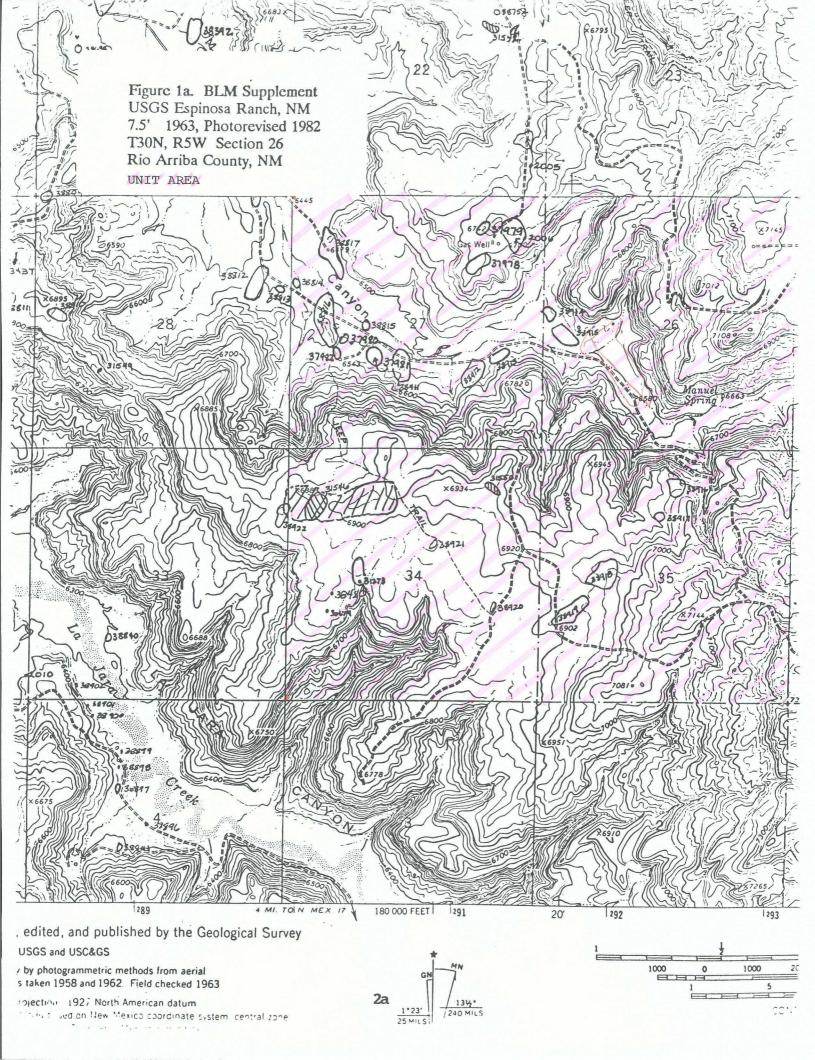
I, Beatrice Espinosa, surface owner of the SW/4 Section 26, T3ON-R5W, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, have been contacted by Phillips Petroleum Company concerning their plans to drill in the quarter section referenced herein. I have no objections with Phillips proceeding with the drilling of a well on my property.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 1993.

HALA) BEATRICE ESPI

Surface Owner





STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

BRUCE KING GOVERNOR

ANITA LOCKWOOD CABINET SECRETARY

> Phillips Petroleum Company 5525 Highway 64 - NBU 3004 Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Attn: W. F. Hulse, III

Re: Administrative Application for an Unorthodox Coal Gas Well Location. San Juan 30-5 Unit Well No. 246 2011'FSL - 531'FWL (Unit L) of Section 26, Township 30 North, Range 5 West, NMPM, Basin Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Hulse:

Upon initial review of the subject application dated September 28, 1993 it would appear that the archeological survey, dated April 16, 1993, was preformed after the well was staked:

1) the C-102 is dated April 7, 1993;

2) page 1 of the archeological survey under <u>FIELD METHODS</u> refers to the well pad prior to the survey;

3) the plat on page 2 of said survey refers to the "Phillips Petroleum's proposed SJ 30-5 Unit 246 well pad.

This would lead the Division to believe that Phillips did not thoroughly investigate the subject unit for a standard location and that the unorthodox well location was chosen for reasons other than "archeological".

I have included a copy of your land plat that was a part of the archeological survey and colored in the standard coal gas well location windows pursuant to RULE 7 of the Special Rules and Regulations for the Basin Fruitland Coal (Gas) Pool, as promulgated by Division Order No. R-8768, as amended, which is also information request in item IV.B of Division Memorandum 1-90, see copy attached. From this plat it would appear that many locations considered to be standard were available.



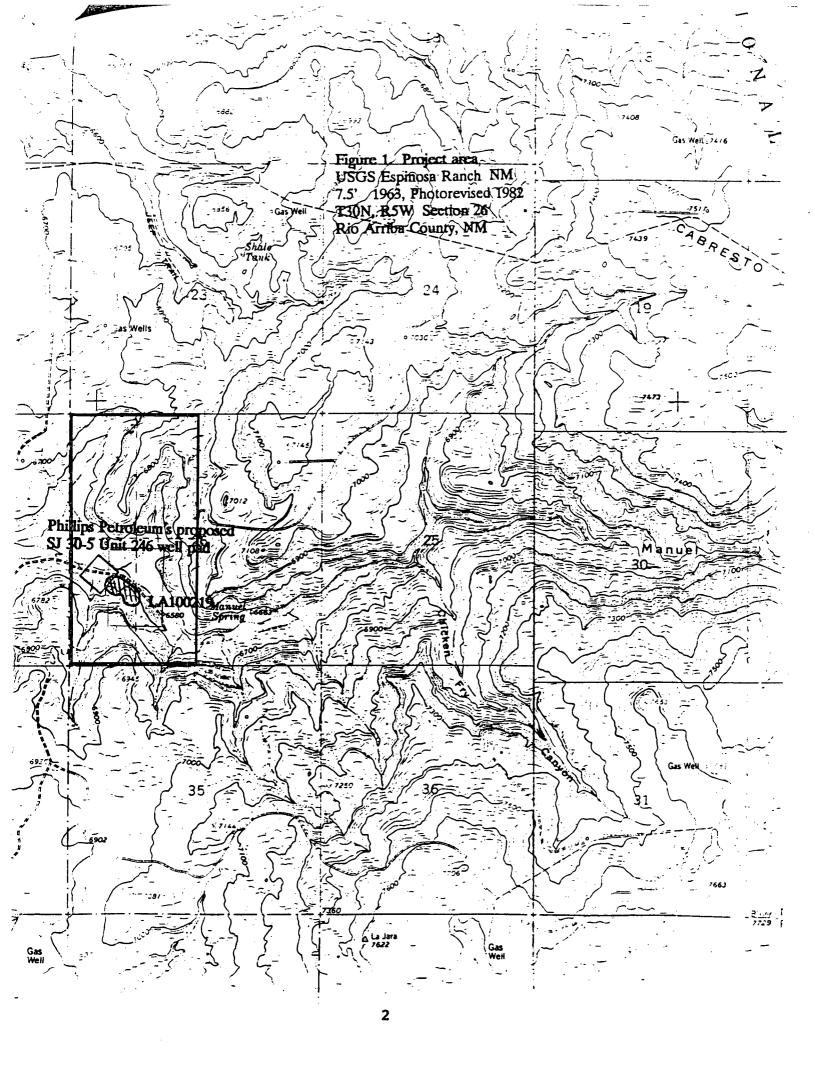
October 15, 1993

POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504 (505) 827-5800 Please supplement your application with additional detailed information as to the reason this unorthodox location was the only available site to Phillips in this unit. If applicable please submit any supporting data required by said Memorandum.

Sincerel Kun top

Michael E. Stogner Chief Hearing Examiner/Engineer

cc: Oil Conservation Division - Aztec
U. S. Bureau of Land Management - Farmington





STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

GARREY CARRUTHERS

No. 1-90

POST OFFICE BOX 2088 STATE LAND OFFICE BUILDING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504 ISO5) 827-5800

MEMORANDUM

TO:

All Operators

FROM: William J. LeMay, Director

SUBJECT: Administrative Applications for Unorthodox Locations

DATE: March 21, 1990

Division Memorandum No. 3-89, dated March 24, 1989, advised the industry that the OCD would no longer automatically approve unopposed unorthodox location applications. Unorthodox locations can be approved administratively in accordance with the Rules and Regulations or applicable special pool rules if surface conditions truly prevent the use of a legal location and if directional drilling to a legal location is not feasible.

Topographic conditions which will be considered to justify an unorthodox location include such traditional factors as terrain features (steep slopes, arroyos, etc.) which make drilling impractical. In addition, approval may be given to avoid archeological sites which may not be disturbed without substantial mitigation, incompatible surface uses such as buildings, recreation areas, etc. Applications should fully document the reason an unorthodox location is required.

The attached guidelines state the minimum information which should be submitted with applications for administrative approval of unorthodox locations. Failure to provide the necessary information will probably result in processing delays.

If the surface of the proration unit or proposed drill site is controlled by a Federal Surface Management Agency, a copy of the application must be sent to the appropriate agency office.

If there are legal locations within the proration unit which are drillable, but the operator choses not to drill those locations for geological reasons the application cannot be approved administratively and a hearing will be required.

NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF NON-STANDARD LOCATION APPLICATIONS

- I. If the well is located on Federal or Indian Lands, the Federal Surface Management Agency must be notified and an on-site inspection conducted prior to filing the application. If an Application for Permit to drill or a Notice of Staking has been prepared, a copy must be submitted.
- II. Completed C-102 showing the well location, proration unit, leases within the unit and other required information.
- III. Land plat showing offset operators and working interest owners and any offsetting wells producing from the same pool or formation.
 - A. This information may be shown on the topo map if it does not impair the readability of the map.
 - B. The operator should certify that the information is current and correct.
- IV. Original or clear copy of topographic map, preferably 7.5 minute quad, showing contours and other mapped features impacting the location, with the following information marked thereon (In order to be able to adequately show all of the necessary surface conditions it may be necessary to enlarge the relevant portion of the topo map to provide room for detail):
 - A. The proposed well location and proration unit;
 - B. An outline of the orthodox drilling windows as provided in the applicable rules for the subject application;
 - C. The location of any wells to any formation within the area of the proration unit and a statement as to whether an existing pad can be used to drill the proposed well;
- V. An enlargement of the topo map showing the subject area with the applicable additional information:
 - A. Terrain features not shown on the map which make an orthodox location unusable;
 - B. Proposed access roads and pipelines if they affect the location selection;
 - C. The location of any surface uses which prevent use of a legal location;

- D. The location of any archeological sites identified in the archeological survey;
- E. The location and nature of any other surface conditions which prevent the use of an orthodox location.
- VI. If archeological sites are a reason for the unorthodox location request, a copy of the archeological survey, or a summary, identifing sites which cannot be disturbed or which must have any disturbance mitigated. In addition, the location of such areas should be marked on the enlarged topo so they can be clearly identified.
- VII. A narrative report of any on-site inspection of the potential locations. If such on-site has resulted in elimination of legal locations due to surface conditions, such information should also be noted on the enlarged topo.
- VIII. A statement of why directional drilling to reach a legal bottom-hole location is not feasible.
- IX. An affidavit that notice has been sent to all parties entitled thereto, under the Divisions Rules and Regulations with return receipt cards showing date of receipt of notice.

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION RECEIVED

'93 SEP 30 AM 8 58

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PHILLIPS PETROLEUM'S PROPOSED SAN JUAN 30-5 UNIT NO. 246 WELL PAD RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

LAC REPORT 9316b

by

Maureen Cavanaugh

LA PLATA ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS 26851 COUNTY ROAD P DOLORES, COLORADO 81323 (303) 565-8708

April 16, 1993

Prepared For: Phillips Petroleum 5525 Highway 64 NBU 3004 Farmington, New Mexico 87401

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological survey of Phillips Petroleum's San Juan 30-5 Unit No. 246 well pad was conducted by personnel of La Plata Archaeological Consultants on April 6, 1993. The fieldwork was conducted by Maureen Cavanaugh, and the project was administered by Steven Fuller. The survey was conducted at the request of Mr. Richard Allred of Phillips Petroleum who accompanied the archaeologist during the fieldwork phase of the project. Personnel of Daggett Land Surveying staked the proposed well location.

The project is located entirely on privately owned lands with the mineral estate also privately owned. The project is within Rio Arriba County, New Mexico southeast of Navajo Reservoir (Figure 1).

The area was surveyed for a well pad proposed by Phillips Petroleum. The well pad will measure approximately 290 by 210 ft. The main Manuel Canyon road passes through the location and no new access is required. A total of 6.9 acres was intensively surveyed for this project. One archaeological site was encountered during the survey and can be protected during construction. Archaeological clearance is recommended for the project.

PREFIELD RECORDS SEARCH

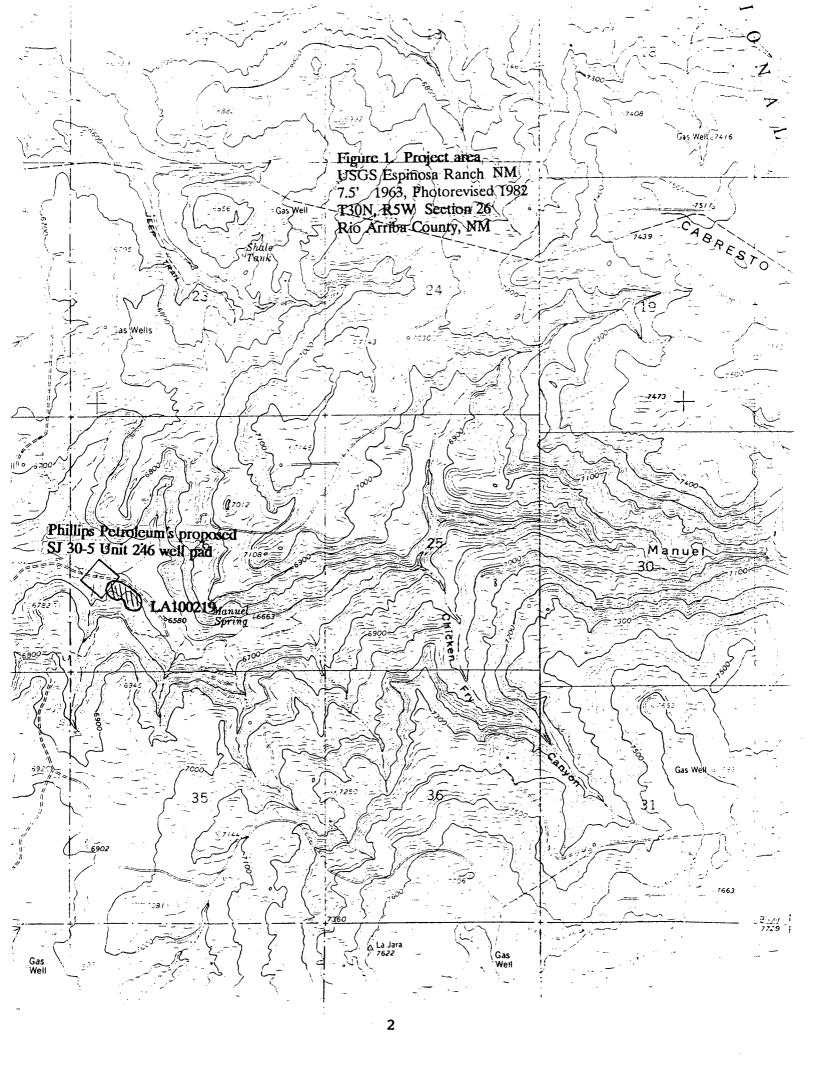
The recently updated ARMS records on file at La Plata Archaeological Consultants were consulted, as well as a recent copy of the BLM data base map for this area. There are four sites within 0.5 mile of the project area, all having been recorded by San Juan College in 1992 for a Phillips Petroleum pipeline project. The nearest site is over 500 feet to the northwest of the well location as indicated on Figure 1a.

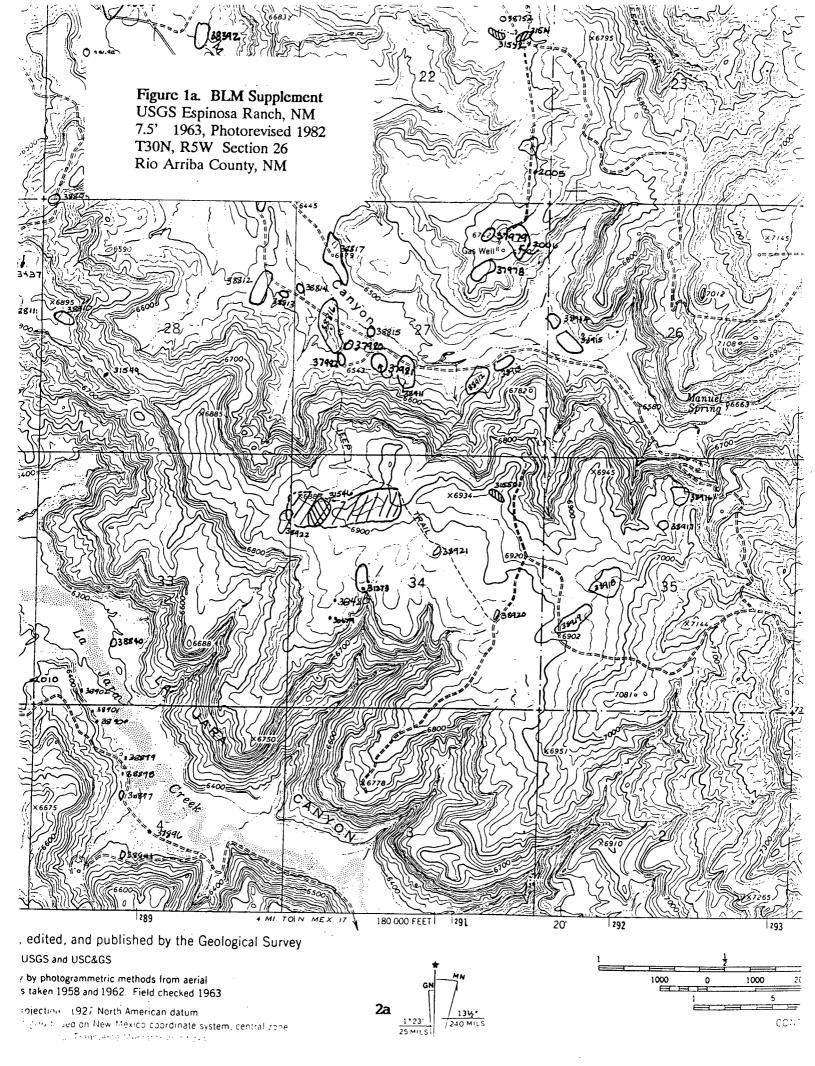
FIELD METHODS

Prior to the survey, the proposed well pad was marked at the center, the four corners, and the four centerline endpoints. A 6.9-acre block (590 by 510 ft) was surveyed centered on the well center (stake, which was sufficient to cover the 210- by 290-ft well pad, 50-ft construction zone, and at least a 100-ft buffer for cultural resources. The 6.9-acre block was surveyed by pedestrian transects that were no farther than 15 m or 50 ft apart. The surveyed area is illustrated on Figure 1.

ENVIRONMENT

The proposed SJ 30-5 #246 well is located on the south side of Manuel Canyon. Two low benches project into the canyon bottom and these two ridges are to the southeast and southwest of





the proposed location. Vegetation in the area of the well pad proper are large sagebrush and large rabbitbrush. Some pinyon and juniper are present on the ridges and colluvial slopes. Soils are deep sandy alluvium in the canyon bottom with sandy to clayey soils on the rocky colluvial slopes.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

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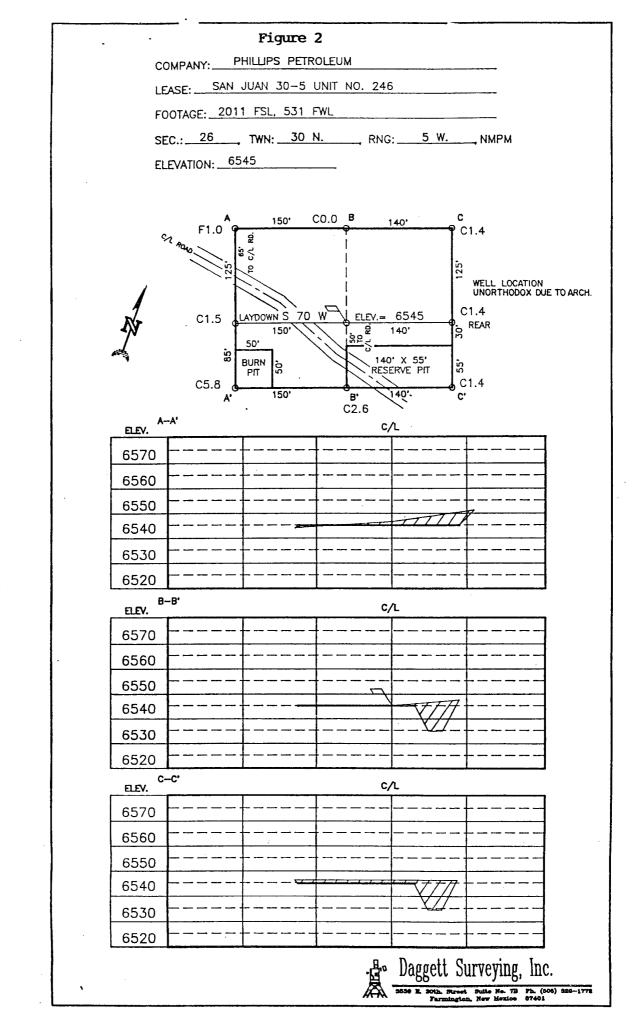
Project Name:	Phillips Petroleum's San Juan 30-5 Unit #246 well pad
Legal Description:	T30N, R5W, Section 26, NW 1/4-NW 1/4-SW 1/4. The actual footage of the location is 2011 FSL, 531 FWL; Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, (see Fig. 2, well plat)
Elevation:	6545 ft
Map Reference:	USGS Espinosa Ranch, New Mexico, 7.5' (1963, revised 1982)
Land Jurisdiction:	Private
Project Area:	The well pad will measure about 210 by 290 ft. Access is from the Manuel Canyon road that passes through the well pad.
Surveyed Area:	A 510- by 590-ft block (6.9 acres) for well pad, 50-ft construction zone, and 100-ft buffer zone.
Results:	Site LA100219 is 30 ft southeast of the proposed well and is described in Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The one new archaeological site encountered during this survey can be avoided and protected during construction. The site-specific management recommendations are as follows:

LA 100219: The site boundary is 30 ft north of the proposed well pad. It is recommended that a temporary protection fence be placed between the site and the construction zone as shown on Figure 3 and that no construction activity be allowed beyond this fence.

Given these protective recommendations, archaeological clearance is recommended for the SJ 30-5 No. 246 well pad.



APPENDIX A SITE DESCRIPTION

Site No.: LA 100219

Description: The site is situated on a north- to northwest-aspect colluvial slope on the south side of Manuel Canyon (Figure 3). A very sparse scatter of ceramics and lithics extends out onto the canyon floor at the base of the slope. The area of greatest artifact concentration is halfway up the colluvial slope that is east of the sage flat. A cluster of three large boulders (measuring up to 3 by 3 by 2 m in size), one of which is on edge, seems to mark the upper limits of the artifact concentration, although a light scatter is present southeast of the boulders. The artifacts are most concentrated on the steeper part of the slope, and are mixed among the small sandstone gravels that cover that portion of the hill side. The artifact concentration consists of ceramics, lithics, and ground stone. The ceramic assemblage is characterized by early Pueblo grayware body sherds (30+) and early Pueblo grayware rim sherds (2). Lithic debitage includes 20+ items of chert, obsidian, chalcedony, quartzite, and basalt and is mostly tertiary flakes with 1 core and 1 piece of angular debris. Groundstone items include 1 two-hand mano fragment of pink fine grained sandstone, 2 small metate fragments of the same material, and 1 one-hand bifacially utilized mano with one flat use surface and one rounded use surface, and one battered end. One exceptional item of white chert with red speckles was found near the base of the slope. This item is illustrated on a sheet included with the site form. The quality of workmanship is excellent. An interior flake of the same material was found on the hillside approximately 20 m away. A small artifact concentration was noted on the westaspect portion of the slope, south of a west-aspect drainage. Items in this concentration include three early Pueblo whiteware sherds, two grayware olla rim sherds, one ceramic handle of three fillets, one obsidian flake, 1 quartzite core, and one two-hand mano fragment. A light artifact scatter extends from the base of the slope out 60 m into the sage-covered flat. A light scatter of grayware sherds was present, several flakes of chert and obsidian, and two small one-hand manos of a tan medium-grained sandstone were noted. The site is possibly related to several Anasazi Pueblo I habitations on the north side of the Manuel Canyon, north of the site area. Based on the number of artifacts present, and the possibility of some cultural deposits buried in the alluvium, the site should be considered significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register.

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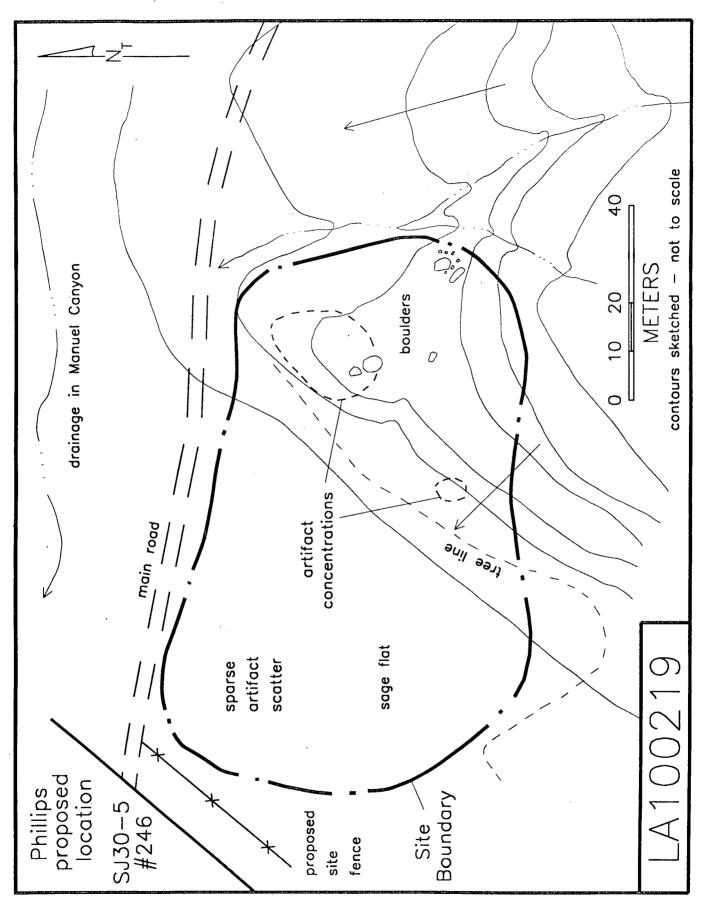


Figure 3



STATE OF NEW MEXICONSERVATION DIVISION ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCESEDEPARTMENT 5 AM 8 58

OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

1000 RIO BRAZOS ROAD AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410 (505) 334-6178

Date: 9-30-93

Kotn: Mike Stogne

- **Oil Conservation Division** P.O. Box 2088 Santa Fe, NM 87504-2088
- RE: Proposed MC Proposed DHC Proposed NSL Proposed SWD Proposed WFX Proposed PMX Proposed NSP Proposed DD

Gentlemen:

I have examined the application re	eceived on <u>9-29-93</u>
for the $\frac{p_{hill}}{p_{\text{PERATOR}}}$	5. I 30-5 #246 LEASE & WELL NO.
$\frac{L-26-30N-35W}{UL-S-T-R}$ and my	recommendations are as follows:
App roce	

Yours truly,

el Smart