

# R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

901 Rio Grande Blvd NW ▲ Suite F-142 ▲ Albuquerque, NM 87104 ▲ 505.266.5004 ▲ Fax: 505.266-0745

March 4, 2013

Mr. Geoffrey Leking  
NMOCD District  
1625 French Drive  
Hobbs, NM 88240  
Via E-Mail and US Mail

**HOBBS OCD**

**MAR 05 2013**

RE: Murchison Oil and Gas, Brininstool 4 State 3H

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Dear Geoff:

On behalf of Murchison Oil and Gas, R.T. Hicks Consultants submits the attached C-144 application for the above-referenced well. The current drilling schedule calls for a spud date in less than 25 days. In an effort to allow OCD to review the permit very quickly – to permit Murchison to begin building the location early next week, we have tried to make the application easy and perfect.

Please note the following:

1. The generic plans were recently approved by OCD.
2. We anticipate “in place” burial of stabilized solids in conformance with the applicable NMOCD Rules. If necessary, the flow-back cell of the temporary pit may be used for trench burial, after modification of this permit and an approval by OCD.
3. This letter and application is copied to the State Land Office to notify the surface landowner of the operator’s intent to use on-site burial
4. The Bell Lake Sink contains two abandoned water wells that once provided groundwater for beneficial use. As stated in the application, data support a conclusion that groundwater, if such water still exists within the Sink, does not extend to the area beneath the Brininstool 4 State 3 site..

To provide a high level of certainty regarding the presence/absence of shallow groundwater, we conducted lithologic logging and a water level measurement at the Mogi 9 State 1H 120-foot conductor pipe. The cuttings from the auger were bone dry and we have included a description of this field program as part of this application.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact me. As always, we appreciate your work ethic and attention to detail.

Sincerely,  
R.T. Hicks Consultants

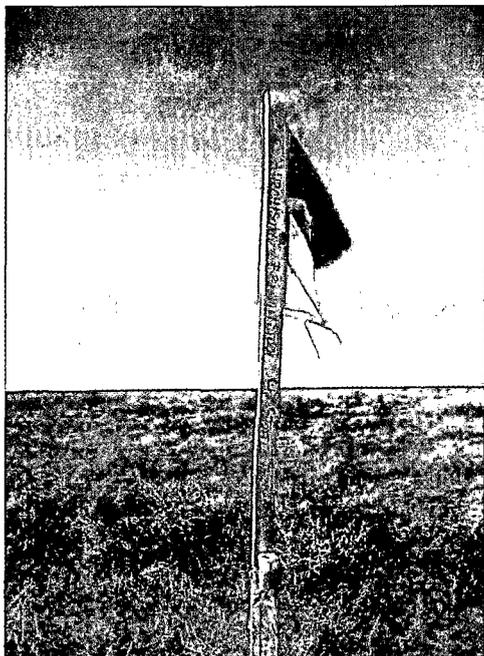


Randall Hicks  
Principal

Copy: Murchison Oil and Gas  
NM State Land Office, Terry Warnell

March 2013

**C-144 Permit Package for  
Brininstool 4 State #3H  
Temporary Pit  
Section 4 T24S R33E Lea County NM**



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**Prepared for  
Murchison Oil and Gas, Inc.  
Plano, Texas**

**Prepared by  
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
District II  
811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210  
District III  
1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410  
District IV  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

**HOBBS OCD** State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources  
Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
MAR 19 2013  
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Form C-144  
Revised August 1, 2011

For temporary pits, closed-loop systems, and below-grade tanks, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.  
For permanent pits and exceptions submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

**Pit, Closed-Loop System, Below-Grade Tank, or  
Proposed Alternative Method Permit or Closure Plan Application**

Type of action:  Permit of a pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method  
 Closure of a pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method  
 Modification to an existing permit  
 Closure plan only submitted for an existing permitted or non-permitted pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank, or proposed alternative method

**Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144) per individual pit, closed-loop system, below-grade tank or alternative request**

Please be advised that approval of this request does not relieve the operator of liability should operations result in pollution of surface water, ground water or the environment. Nor does approval relieve the operator of its responsibility to comply with any other applicable governmental authority's rules, regulations or ordinances.

1.  
Operator: Murchison Oil & Gas, Inc. OGRID #: 15363  
Address: 1100 Mira Vista Blvd., Plano, Texas 75093-4698  
Facility or well name: Brininstool 4 State 3  
API Number: 30-025-41030 OCD Permit Number: P1 05829  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr M Section 4 Township T24S Range R33E County: Lea  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32 14 23.920 Longitude 103 35 07.120 NAD:  1927  1983  
Surface Owner:  Federal  State  Private  Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2.  
 **Pit:** Subsection F or G of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Temporary:  Drilling  Workover  
 Permanent  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness 20 mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 String-Reinforced  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Volume: 39,610 bbl Dimensions: L 309' x W 122' x D Drilling = 7' Fluids = 12'

3.  
 **Closed-loop System:** Subsection H of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Type of Operation:  P&A  Drilling a new well  Workover or Drilling (Applies to activities which require prior approval of a permit or notice of intent)  
 Drying Pad  Above Ground Steel Tanks  Haul-off Bins  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_

4.  
 **Below-grade tank:** Subsection I of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ bbl Type of fluid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tank Construction material: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secondary containment with leak detection  Visible sidewalls, liner, 6-inch lift and automatic overflow shut-off  
 Visible sidewalls and liner  Visible sidewalls only  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Liner type: Thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mil  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_

5.  
 **Alternative Method:**  
Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

6.  
**Fencing:** Subsection D of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits, temporary pits, and below-grade tanks*)  
 Chain link, six feet in height, two strands of barbed wire at top (*Required if located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church*)  
 Four foot height, four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced between one and four feet  
 Alternate. Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7.  
**Netting:** Subsection E of 19.15.17.11 NMAC (*Applies to permanent pits and permanent open top tanks*)  
 Screen  Netting  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly inspections (If netting or screening is not physically feasible)

8.  
**Signs:** Subsection C of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
 12"x 24", 2" lettering, providing Operator's name, site location, and emergency telephone numbers  
 Signed in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC

9.  
**Administrative Approvals and Exceptions:**  
 Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17 NMAC for guidance.  
**Please check a box if one or more of the following is requested, if not leave blank:**  
 Administrative approval(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district or the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.  
 Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

10.  
**Siting Criteria (regarding permitting):** 19.15.17.10 NMAC  
*Instructions: The applicant must demonstrate compliance for each siting criteria below in the application. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria may require administrative approval from the appropriate district office or may be considered an exception which must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval. Applicant must attach justification for request. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks associated with a closed-loop system.*

Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of the temporary pit, permanent pit, or below-grade tank. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells <b>SEE FIGURE 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site <b>SEE FIGURE 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. ( <i>Applies to temporary, emergency, or cavitation pits and below-grade tanks</i> ) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image. <b>SEE FIGURE 4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. ( <i>Applies to permanent pits</i> ) - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site. <b>SEE FIGURE 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. <b>SEE FIGURE 5</b> - Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 500 feet of a wetland. - US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site - <b>SEE FIGURE 6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. - Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division. <b>SEE FIGURE 7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within an unstable area. - Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map. <b>SEE FIGURE 8</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map. <b>SEE FIGURE 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

11.

**Temporary Pits, Emergency Pits, and Below-grade Tanks Permit Application Attachment Checklist:** Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

**Instructions:** Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- Hydrogeologic Report (Below-grade Tanks) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Hydrogeologic Data (Temporary and Emergency Pits) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (2) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
- Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: \_\_\_\_\_ or Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

12.

**Closed-loop Systems Permit Application Attachment Checklist:** Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

**Instructions:** Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- Geologic and Hydrogeologic Data (only for on-site closure) - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (3) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations (only for on-site closure) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Design Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
- Closure Plan (Please complete Boxes 14 through 18, if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Previously Approved Design (attach copy of design) API Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Previously Approved Operating and Maintenance Plan API Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Applies only to closed-loop system that use above ground steel tanks or haul-off bins and propose to implement waste removal for closure)

13.

**Permanent Pits Permit Application Checklist:** Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC

**Instructions:** Each of the following items must be attached to the application. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- Hydrogeologic Report - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Climatological Factors Assessment
- Certified Engineering Design Plans - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Dike Protection and Structural Integrity Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Leak Detection Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Liner Specifications and Compatibility Assessment - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Quality Control/Quality Assurance Construction and Installation Plan
- Operating and Maintenance Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.12 NMAC
- Freeboard and Overtopping Prevention Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Nuisance or Hazardous Odors, including H<sub>2</sub>S, Prevention Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Oil Field Waste Stream Characterization
- Monitoring and Inspection Plan
- Erosion Control Plan
- Closure Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.17.9 NMAC and 19.15.17.13 NMAC

14.

**Proposed Closure:** 19.15.17.13 NMAC

**Instructions:** Please complete the applicable boxes, Boxes 14 through 18, in regards to the proposed closure plan.

Type:  Drilling  Workover  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  Permanent Pit  Below-grade Tank  Closed-loop System  
 Alternative

Proposed Closure Method:  Waste Excavation and Removal  
 Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)  
 On-site Closure Method (Only for temporary pits and closed-loop systems)  
 In-place Burial  On-site Trench Burial  
 Alternative Closure Method (Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau for consideration)

15.

**Waste Excavation and Removal Closure Plan Checklist:** (19.15.17.13 NMAC) **Instructions:** Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.

- Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings)
- Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

16. **Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:** (19.15.17.13.D NMAC)

*Instructions: Please indentify the facility or facilities for the disposal of liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings. Use attachment if more than two facilities are required.*

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Will any of the proposed closed-loop system operations and associated activities occur on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?

Yes (If yes, please provide the information below)  No

*Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:*

Soil Backfill and Cover Design Specifications - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

17. **Siting Criteria (regarding on-site closure methods only):** 19.15.17.10 NMAC

*Instructions: Each siting criteria requires a demonstration of compliance in the closure plan. Recommendations of acceptable source material are provided below. Requests regarding changes to certain siting criteria may require administrative approval from the appropriate district office or may be considered an exception which must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval. Justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency are required. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.*

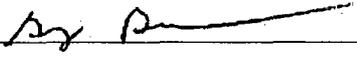
- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Ground water is between 50 and 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> NA |
| Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).<br>- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site                                                                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.<br>- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application.<br>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.<br>- Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within 500 feet of a wetland.<br>- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within the area overlying a subsurface mine.<br>- Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within an unstable area.<br>- Engineering measures incorporated into the design; NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; USGS; NM Geological Society; Topographic map                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |
| Within a 100-year floodplain.<br>- FEMA map                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                |

18. **On-Site Closure Plan Checklist:** (19.15.17.13 NMAC) *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure plan. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC
- Proof of Surface Owner Notice - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Construction/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit (for in-place burial of a drying pad) - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.11 NMAC
- Protocols and Procedures - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Confirmation Sampling Plan (if applicable) - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection F of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number (for liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings or in case on-site closure standards cannot be achieved)
- Soil Cover Design - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Re-vegetation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection G of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

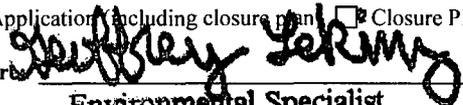
19.  
**Operator Application Certification:**  
 I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name (Print): Greg Boans Title: Production Superintendent

Signature:  Date: March 4, 2013

e-mail address: Gboans@jdmii.com Telephone: (575) 361-4962

20.  
**OCD Approval:**  Permit Application (including closure plan)  Closure Plan (only)  OCD Conditions (see attachment)

OCD Representative Signature:  Approval Date: 03/19/13

Title: Environmental Specialist OCD Permit Number: P105829

21.  
**Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** Subsection K of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
*Instructions: Operators are required to obtain an approved closure plan prior to implementing any closure activities and submitting the closure report. The closure report is required to be submitted to the division within 60 days of the completion of the closure activities. Please do not complete this section of the form until an approved closure plan has been obtained and the closure activities have been completed.*

Closure Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

22.  
**Closure Method:**

Waste Excavation and Removal  On-Site Closure Method  Alternative Closure Method  Waste Removal (Closed-loop systems only)

If different from approved plan, please explain.

23.  
**Closure Report Regarding Waste Removal Closure For Closed-loop Systems That Utilize Above Ground Steel Tanks or Haul-off Bins Only:**  
*Instructions: Please indentify the facility or facilities for where the liquids, drilling fluids and drill cuttings were disposed. Use attachment if more than two facilities were utilized.*

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposal Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Disposal Facility Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Were the closed-loop system operations and associated activities performed on or in areas that *will not* be used for future service and operations?  
 Yes (If yes, please demonstrate compliance to the items below)  No

Required for impacted areas which will not be used for future service and operations:

Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)  
 Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation  
 Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique

24.  
**Closure Report Attachment Checklist:** *Instructions: Each of the following items must be attached to the closure report. Please indicate, by a check mark in the box, that the documents are attached.*

Proof of Closure Notice (surface owner and division)  
 Proof of Deed Notice (required for on-site closure)  
 Plot Plan (for on-site closures and temporary pits)  
 Confirmation Sampling Analytical Results (if applicable)  
 Waste Material Sampling Analytical Results (required for on-site closure)  
 Disposal Facility Name and Permit Number  
 Soil Backfilling and Cover Installation  
 Re-vegetation Application Rates and Seeding Technique  
 Site Reclamation (Photo Documentation)

On-site Closure Location: Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_ NAD:  1927  1983

25.  
**Operator Closure Certification:**  
 I hereby certify that the information and attachments submitted with this closure report is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also certify that the closure complies with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan.

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

HOBBS OCD

MAR 05 2013

RECEIVED

# **C-144 and Site Specific Information for Temporary Pit**

**R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

## Distance to Groundwater

**Figure 1, Figure 2, and the discussion presented below demonstrates that groundwater (fresh water as defined by NMOCD Rules) at the location is greater than 50 feet beneath the temporary pit.**

Figure 1 is an area geologic and topographic map that shows:

1. The location of the temporary pit as an orange square.
2. Water wells from the OSE database as a blue triangle inside colored circles that indicate well depth. Please note, OSE wells are often miss-located in the WATERS database as older wells are plotted in the center of the quarter, quarter, quarter, of the Section Township and Range.
3. Water wells from the USGS database as large green triangles.
4. Water wells, which are not documented in the public databases but were identified by field inspection or other published reports as colored squares.
5. The depth-to-water from the most recent available measurement for each well is provided adjacent to the well symbol.

Figure 2 is an area topographic map that shows:

1. The location of the temporary pit as an orange square.
2. Water wells with the same symbols as those shown in Figure 1.
3. The date of the most recent depth-to-water measurement for each water well and the identifier number of the well.

## Geology

The proposed temporary pit is located on exposures of Quaternary Age eolian and piedmont deposits (Qe/Qp on Figure 1). These deposits are a thin covering of the underlying Tertiary Ogallala Formation or, in some places, the redbeds of the Dockum Group. The Ogallala Formation consists primarily of sand with some clay, silt and gravel, generally capped by caliche. Based on information from Ground-Water Report 6 (GWR-6) *Geology and Ground-Water Conditions in Southern Lea County, New Mexico* by Alexander Nicholson and Alfred Clebsch (1961), the top of the redbeds in the area is about 3600 above sea level (see Plate 1 of GWR-6). Because the location lies at an elevation of 3636.3, Ogallala Formation, if it is present, must be less than 36 feet thick (3636-3600). This thickness estimate based upon published data agrees very well with the data collected from the Mogi 9 State 1h rathole (see attached Mogi 9 State 1H Rat Hole Evaluation).

Topographically, the site lies immediately outside of the northwestern boundary of the Bell Lake Sink, a 2-mile wide circular depression (see Figures 2 and 3). This and other nearby depressions have been described as an ancient collapse feature (breccia pipes) associated with the removal of salt due to upward groundwater flow from the Capitan Reef<sup>1</sup>. Approximately 70 feet of topographic relief is present from the bottom of the sink to the proposed location of the well

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<sup>1</sup> [http://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/guidebooks/downloads/57/57\\_p0233\\_p0242.pdf](http://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/guidebooks/downloads/57/57_p0233_p0242.pdf)

## Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC) Murchison Oil and Gas: Brininstool 4 State 3H

(3636-3563= 73). The deepest point of the sink is approximately 1/2 mile to the southeast of the site and is about 200 feet north and 5 feet below the site of the Bell Lake Windmill on Figure 3.

### Water Table Elevation

Twelve water wells were identified on Figures 1 and 2 to determine the water table elevation below the temporary pit. We also employed data from the Mogi 9 State 1H rathole, located 1 mile south of the proposed pit.

Four of these eleven wells appear on more than one database. They include eleven listings from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) database – note that 2430, 2431 and 2432 are measurements taken from one well and C 2275 and C 2276 appear to be one well. Two wells are derived from the USGS database (one of which are also on the OSE database and in Open File Report 95). Four wells described in Open File Report No. 95 (OFR-95) and GWR-6; two of these four are also listed in the OSE database and one is in the USGS database. A summary of the available water well data is provided on the table below. One well (Bell Lake Windmill on Figure 3) was inspected in the field as plugged and abandoned and not listed in the Table.

A depth to water measurement for Well Misc. 11 is reported in Open File Report OFR-95; but the reported data is a mis-reading of data in GWR-6; therefore no depth to water data are available in publications.

Well Numbers	Well Location				Well Source Information							Groundwater Elevation Data						Gauging Date	Alias ID
	Township (south)	Range (east)	Section	Quarter Section (64, 16, 4)	NM-OSE Database	USGS Database	Open File Rpt. 95	GW Report No. 6	USGS Topo Sheet	Aerial Photograph	Field Verification	Surface Elevation (published)	Surface Elevation (Topo Sheet)	Well Total Depth (published)	Depth to Water (published)	Groundwater Elev. (published)	Groundwater Elev. (using topo elev.)		
C 2216	23	32	21	2 2 4	✓				✓			3670	585	400		3085	12/31/1912		
C 2275	23	33	19	3 1 4	✓				✓			3700	650	400		3300	12/31/1957		
C 2276	23	33	19	3 1 1	✓							3700	650	400		3300	1/1/1958		
C 2277	23	33	20	2 2 4	✓				✓			3685	550	400		3285	12/31/1974		
C 02284	23	33	26	4 2 4	✓				✓			3635	325.0	225.0		3,310	12/31/1919		
15	23	33	28	3 4 4	✓		✓		✓	✓	3675	575.0	500.0	3175.0			12/12/9999	C 2279	
C 02278	23	33	28	2 4 3	✓							3685	650.0	400.0		3,035	12/31/1981		
C 02279	23	33	28	3 4 3	✓				✓	✓		3675	650.0	400.0		3,025	12/31/1981	Misc. 15	
C 02280	23	33	28	4 2 3	✓					✓		3678	650.0	400.0		3,028	12/31/1981		
C 02281	23	33	28	4 4 3	✓					✓		3685	545.0	400.0		3,140	12/31/1944		
11	24	32	3	3 2 2			✓	✓	✓	✓	3660	500.0				3660			
432	24	32	10	3 4 4		✓			✓	✓	3589			19.4	3570		2/7/2006		
445	24	33	10	1 3 4		✓	✓		✓	✓	3589			22.1	3567		3/13/1996	C 2308, Misc. 18	
18	24	33	10	1 3 1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	3589		40.0	22.0	3567.0		5/23/2012	USGS-445, C 2308	
C 02308	24	33	10	1 3 1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		3589	40.0	20.0		3,549	6/30/1920	USGS-445, Misc. 18	
C 02430	24	33	16	3 3 3	✓				✓	✓		3572	643.0	415.0		2,929	12/31/1982	C 2431, 2432	
C 02431	24	33	17	4 4 4	✓				✓	✓		3572	525.0	415.0		3,047	12/31/1959	C2430, 2432	
C 02432	24	33	17	4 4 4	✓				✓	✓		3572	640.0	415.0		2,932	12/31/1980	C 2430, 2431	
12	24	33	23	3 1 3			✓		✓	✓	3558		232.0	208.7	3343.3		11/27/1953		

✓ Indicates well was verified, (blank) indicates well not verified, and -- indicates no attempt to verify

\* Indicates wells completed in the (deeper) Triassic aquifer, based on groundwater elevation

Table 1 – Groundwater Data

Visual inspections of questionable wells were performed to verify the information provided by the public records and published reports. Initially, an attempt was made to identify each well using USGS topographic maps. The surface elevations of wells identified on the maps were

Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC)  
Murchison Oil and Gas: Brininstool 4 State 3H

compared to the published surface elevation, if available. Wells that could not be verified using maps were searched for using current and historic satellite photographs in an effort to identify windmills, tanks, or roads associated with the well. Locations that could not be verified by maps or photographs were verified in the field. Attempts were also made to gauge wells during the field investigation when access was permitted. The results of the field inspections are summarized as follows:

- Six of the 14 water wells were physically located by field inspection.
- Water well #18 (445, C2308) was accessed on October 10, 2012 and the depth-to-water was measured at 22 feet below ground surface.
- Water well #C2279 (#15) is a windmill at the Ranch Headquarters.
- Water wells C2280 and C2281 are abandoned/plugged
- At the three-well cluster shown as C2430-C2432, we identified only one operational well in the field
- The Bell Lake Windmill, which is not on the Table but is identified on the topographic map is plugged and abandoned

### **Hydrogeology**

GWR-6 (1961) indicates that Ogallala groundwater is not present as a regional aquifer within the Bell Lake area, although the Bell Lake Windmill and wells #18 and #432 obviously tap a shallow water table associated with the collapse features described above. The lack of a regional water table aquifer described in GWR-6 is borne out in the data from well #12, located about 2.5 miles east-southeast from the proposed pit. Here the water supply well spuds on Ogallala Formation (To), is drilled to a total depth of 232 feet and records a water level of 208.7 feet below land surface (see Table 1). The water level in well #12 lies below the projected bottom of the Ogallala Formation. All wells outside of ancient collapse features record water levels below the projected base of the Ogallala and tap water-bearing units within the red beds (Dockum Group). Based on the depth-to-water measurements (published and recent) the regional groundwater (Triassic Santa Rosa Formation) is present across the area at an elevation below 3,150 feet.

Within the Bell Lake Sink are two water supply wells (see Figure 3), the plugged Bell Lake Windmill and the abandoned (but open casing) Bell Well. The water level in the abandoned Bell Well is 22 feet below grade at a projected elevation of 3568 (3590-22). Obviously this water level is highly localized because the surface elevation at Bell Lake is 3562 (about 5-feet lower than the Bell Lake Windmill) and the lake holds no water. The horizontal limit of groundwater within the Bell Lake Sink is also documented by the hydrogeologic logging conducted at the Mogi 9 State 1H site (see attached Mogi 9 State 1H Rat Hole Evaluation).

The hydrologic and geologic data demonstrate that groundwater within the Bell Lake Sink is highly localized. The fact that both water supply wells are abandoned also suggests that groundwater for beneficial use no longer exists in the Sink area. We conclude with a high degree of certainty that groundwater, as defined by OCD Rules, exists beneath the Brininstool 4 State 3H site only in the Triassic Dockum Group redbeds at a depth of about 400 feet.

### **Distance to Surface Water**

**Figure 3 and the site visit demonstrates that the location is not within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse or lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark).**

- The nearest topographic low area is the Bell Lake Sink located southeast of the location. Neither Bell lake nor excavated areas south of Bell Lake contained surface water on the day of the inspection. Our examination of Google Earth images suggests the excavated areas south of the lakebed contained water periodically from 1996 to 2012. Bell Lake, however, did not exhibit evidence of surface water during this period.
- A watercourse is mapped about 1000 feet east of the proposed temporary pit
- No other watercourses, as defined by NMOCD Rules, or water bodies exist with 300-feet of the location
- The Bell Lake Sink is an ancient collapse feature but is not considered a sinkhole as typically used in NMOCD Rules.

### **Distance to Permanent Residence or Structures**

**Figure 4 and the site visit demonstrates that the location is not within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, church, or other structure in existence at the time of initial application.**

- The nearest structures are tank batteries and a corral.

### **Distance to Non-Public Water Supply**

**Figures 1 and Figure 2 demonstrates that the location is not within 500 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring that less than five households use for domestic or stock watering purposes, or within 1000 horizontal feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of initial application.**

- Figure 1 and 2 show the locations of all area water; the nearest active water wells are located approximately 1.5 miles north and 1.5 miles south. There are no known domestic water wells located within 1000 feet of the location.
- No springs were identified within the mapping area.

### **Distance to Municipal Boundaries and Fresh Water Fields**

**Figure 5 demonstrates that the location is not within incorporated municipal boundaries or defined municipal fresh water well fields covered under a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended.**

- The closest municipality is Jal, NM approximately 28 miles to the southeast.
- The closest public well field is located approximately 50 miles to the west.

### **Distance to Wetlands**

**Figure 6 demonstrates the location is not within 500 feet of wetlands.**

- The nearest designated wetlands is a "Freshwater Pond" located approximately 1/2 mile to the southeast (Bell Lake area excavations).

### **Distance to Subsurface Mines**

**Figure 7 and our general reconnaissance of the area demonstrate that the nearest mines are caliche pits.**

- The nearest caliche pit is located approximately 5 miles to the southwest.

### **Distance to High or Critical Karst Areas**

**Figure 8 shows the location of the temporary pits with respect BLM Karst areas**

- The proposed temporary pit is located within a “low” potential karst area.
- The nearest “high” or “critical” potential karst area is located approximately 18 miles west of the site.
- No evidence of solution voids were observed near the site during the field inspection.
- No evidence of unstable ground was observed in Bell Lake Sink

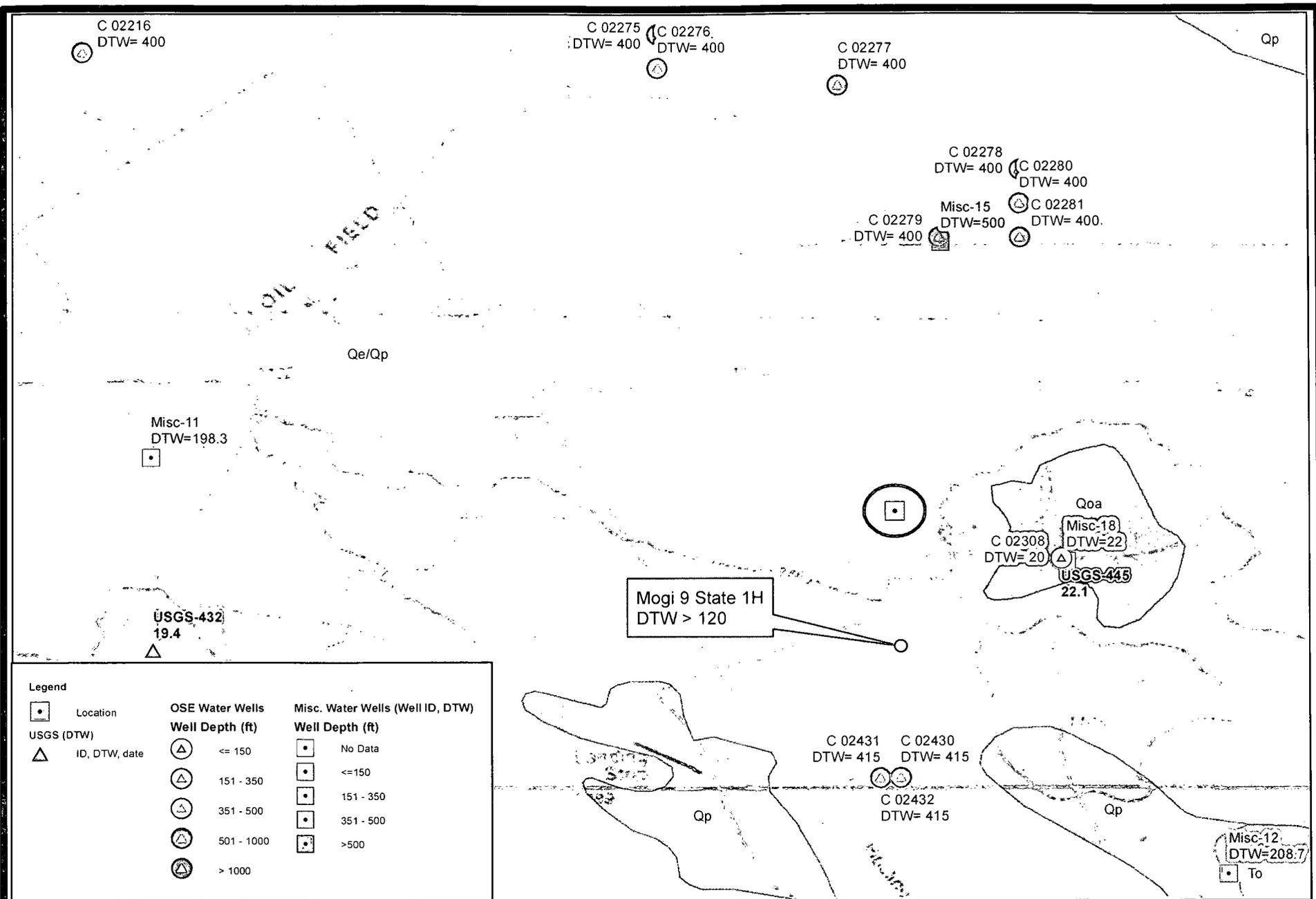
### **Distance to 100-Year Floodplain**

**Figure 9 demonstrates that the location is within an area that has not yet been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with respect to the Flood Insurance Rate 100-Year Floodplain.**

- Areas that are not mapped are generally considered minimal flood risk
- Our field inspection and examination of the topography permits a conclusion that the location is not within any floodplain

### **Temporary Pit Design**

Please refer to Plates 1a, 1b and 1c for the design of the temporary pit and the Design and Construction Plan at the end of this application.



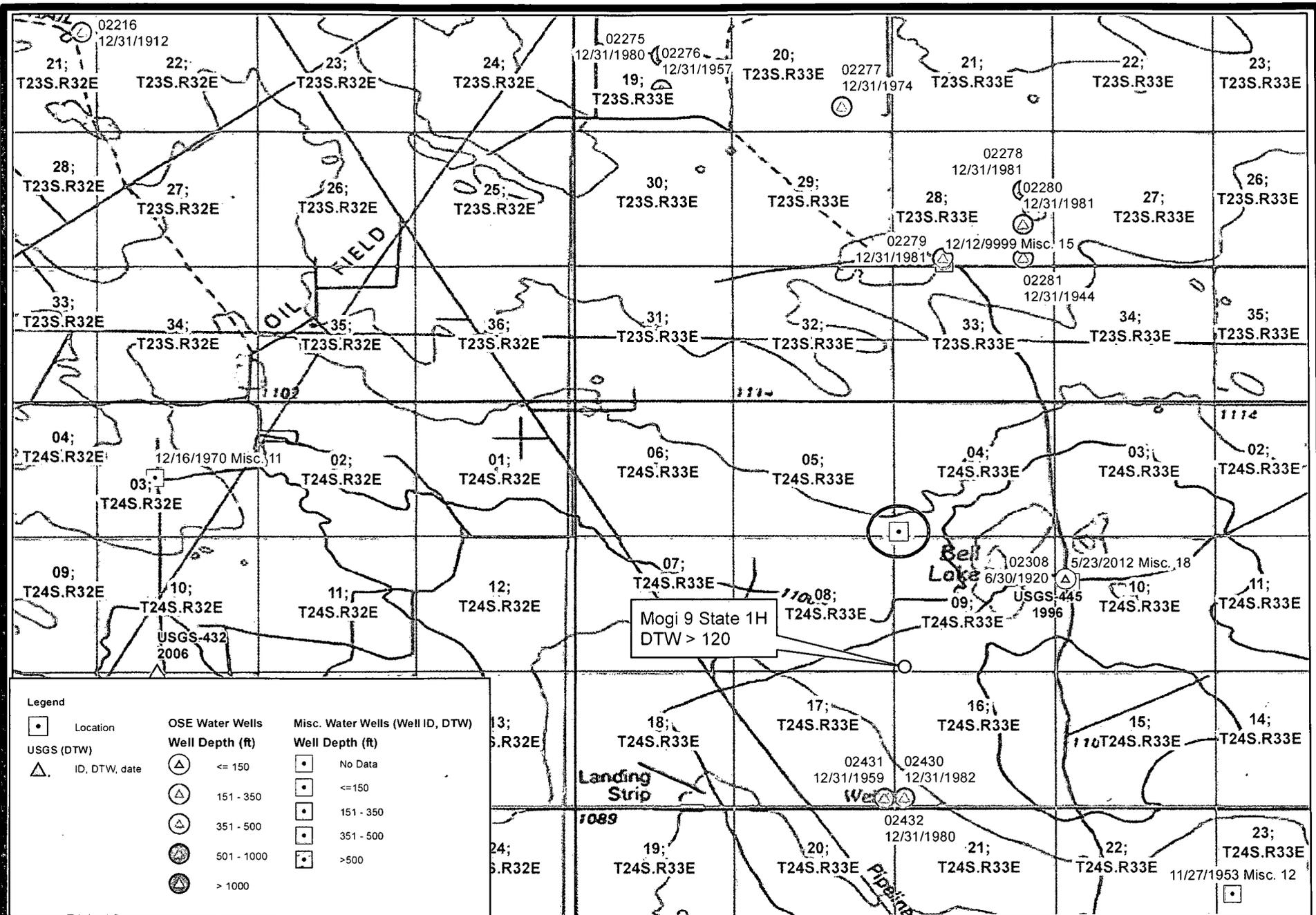
Legend			
	Location		
	USGS (DTW)		
	ID, DTW, date		
	OSE Water Wells	Misc. Water Wells (Well ID, DTW)	
	Well Depth (ft)	Well Depth (ft)	
	<= 150		No Data
	151 - 350		<=150
	351 - 500		151 - 350
	501 - 1000		351 - 500
	> 1000		>500



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 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Ph: 505.266.5004

**Geology and Depth to Water**  
 Murchison Oil and Gas  
 Brininstool "4" State #3

**Figure 1**  
 March 2013



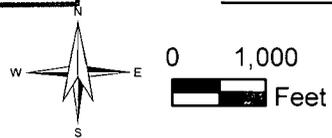
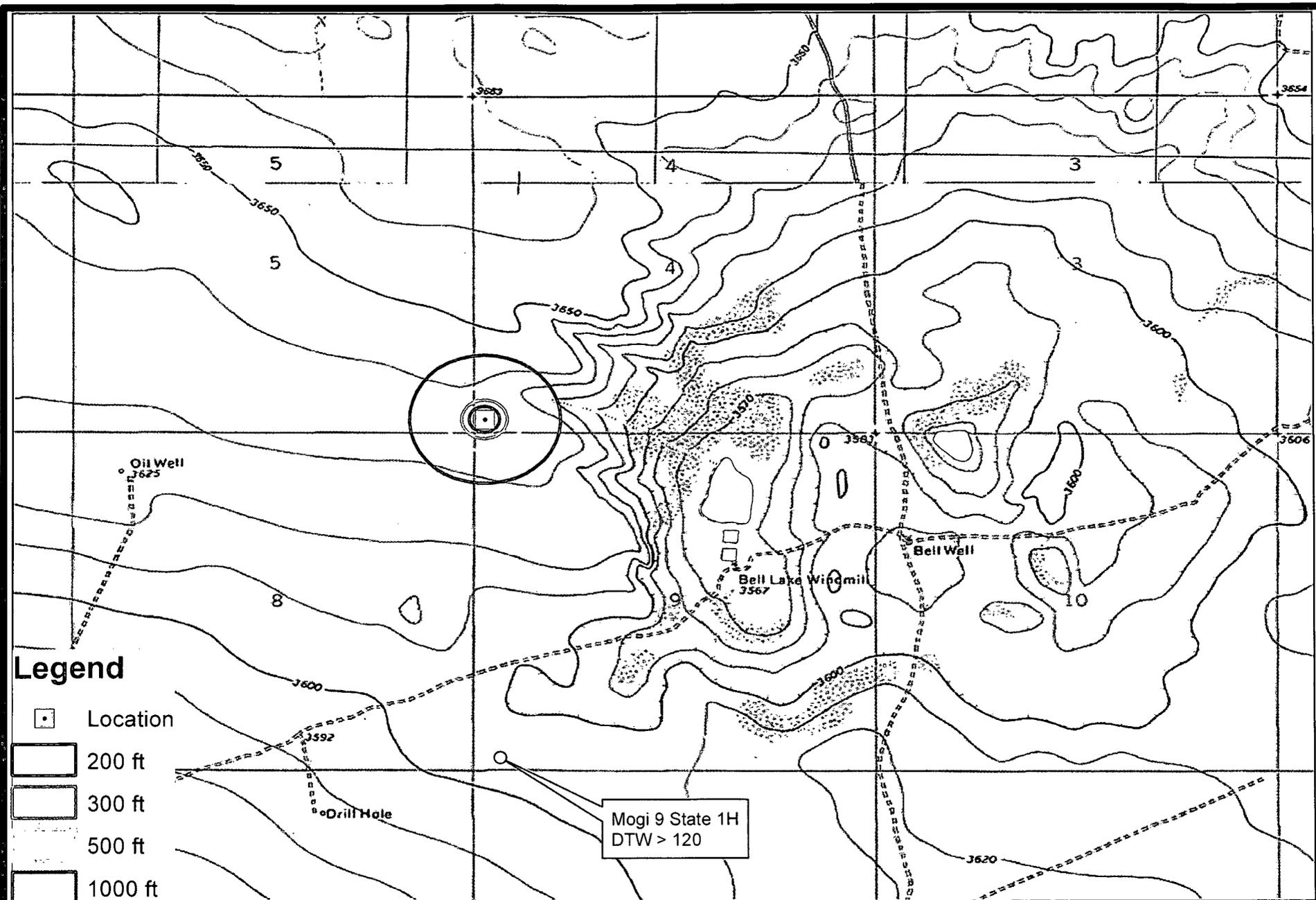
Legend		OSE Water Wells	Misc. Water Wells (Well ID, DTW)
	Location	<b>Well Depth (ft)</b>	<b>Well Depth (ft)</b>
	USGS (DTW)		
	ID, DTW, date		



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**Well Number and Date of Measurement**  
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 Brininstool "4" State #3

**Figure 2**  
 March 2013



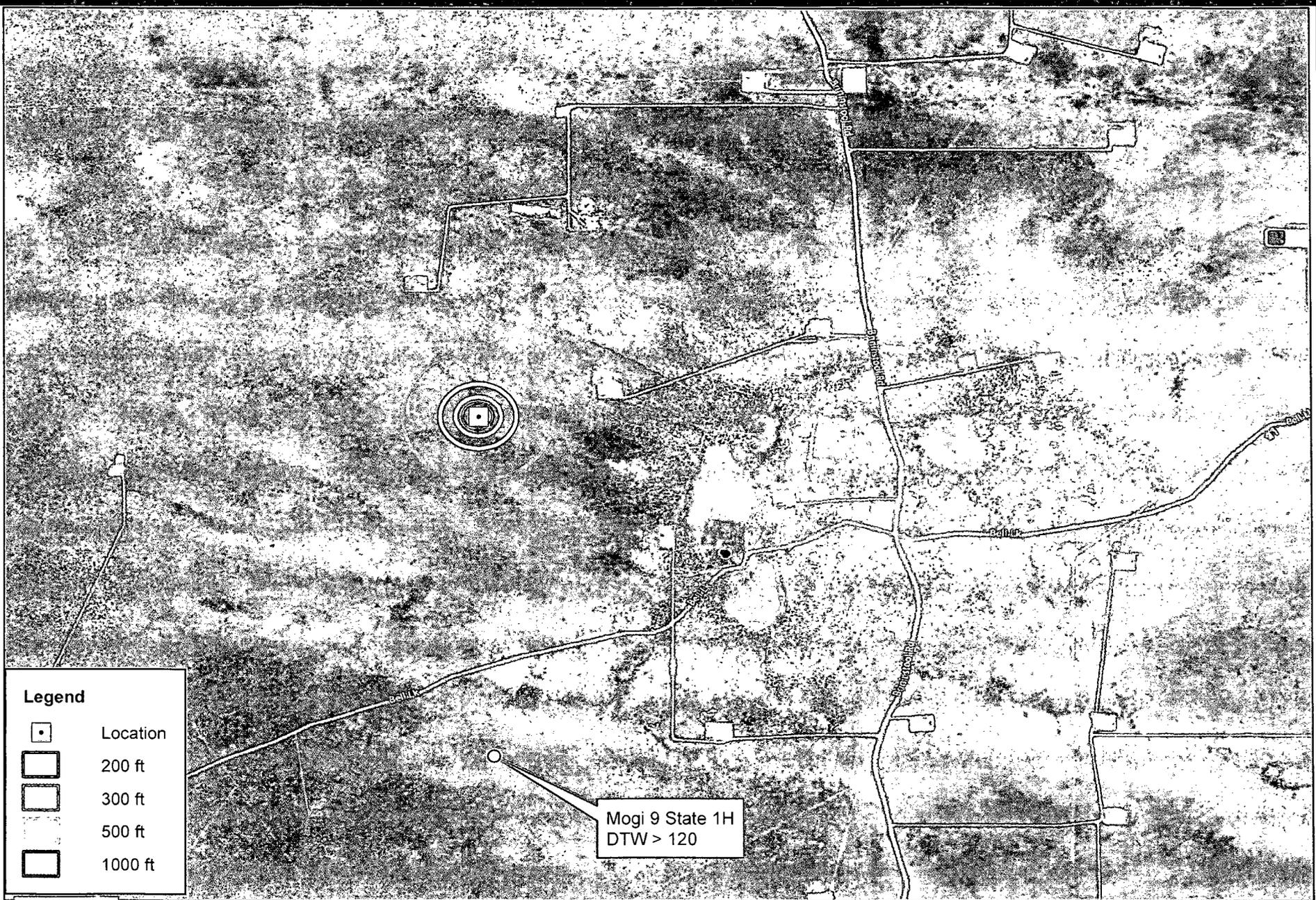
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Nearest Surface Water and Sinkhole

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 Brininstool "4" State #3

Figure 3

March 2013



**Legend**

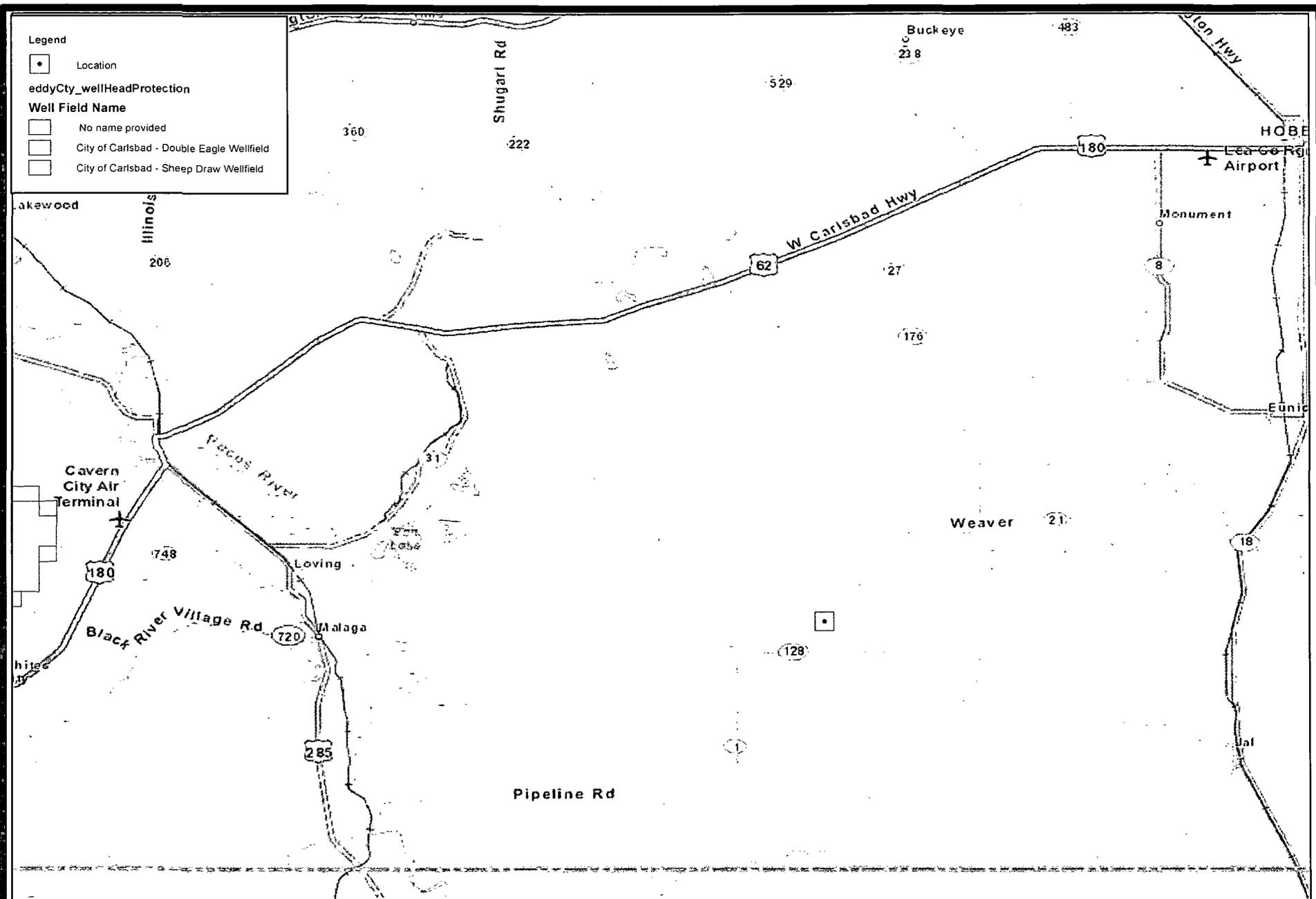
- Location
- 200 ft
- 300 ft
- 500 ft
- 1000 ft

0 1,000 Feet

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Nearest Structures  
 Murchison Oil and Gas  
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Figure 4  
 March 2013



**Legend**

- Location

**eddyCty\_wellHeadProtection**

**Well Field Name**

- No name provided
- City of Carlsbad - Double Eagle Wellfield
- City of Carlsbad - Sheep Draw Wellfield

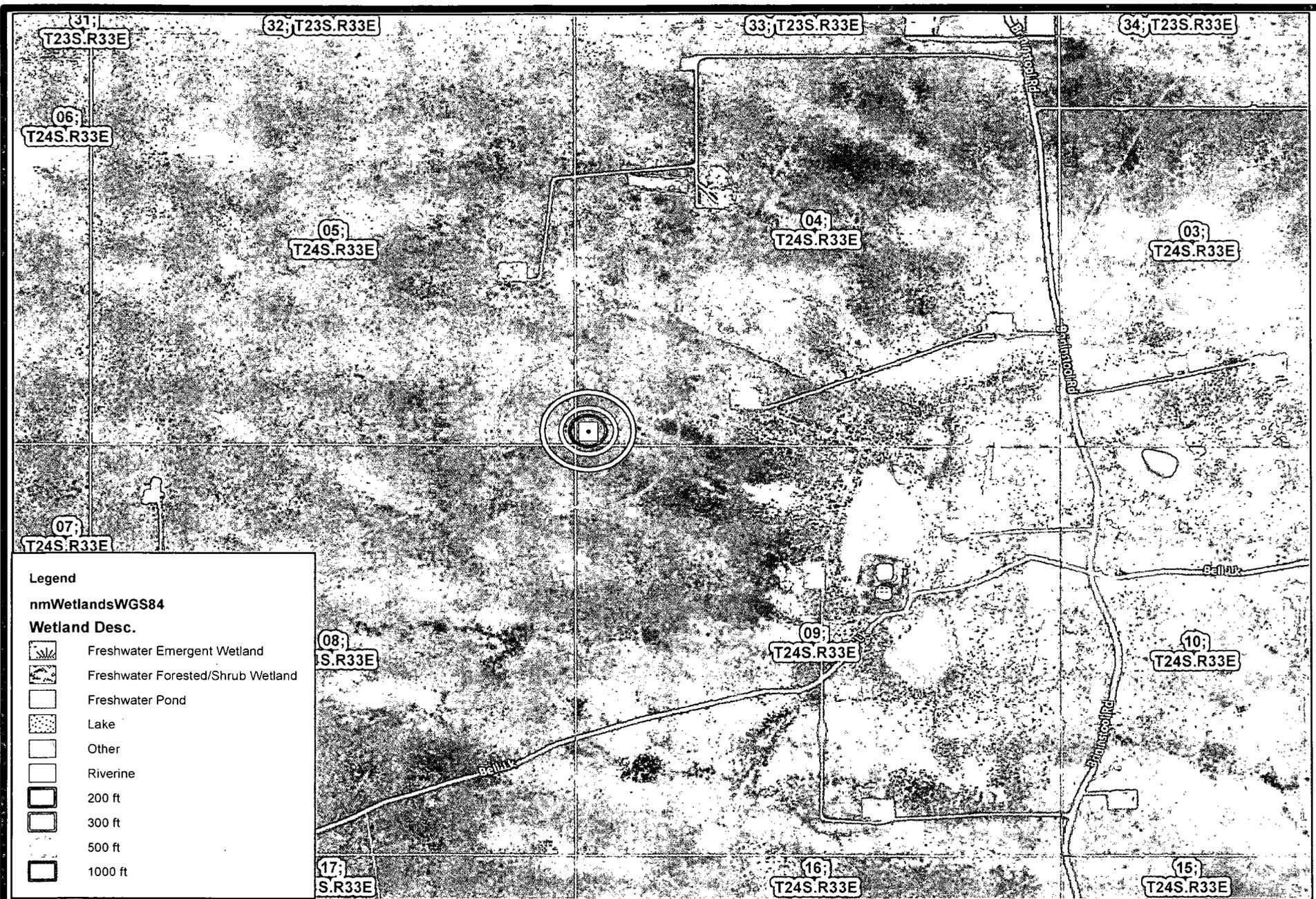
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**Nearest Municipalities and Wellfields**

Murchison Oil and Gas  
 Brininstool "4" State #3

**Figure 5**

March 2013

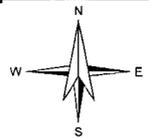


**Legend**

nmWetlandsWGS84

**Wetland Desc.**

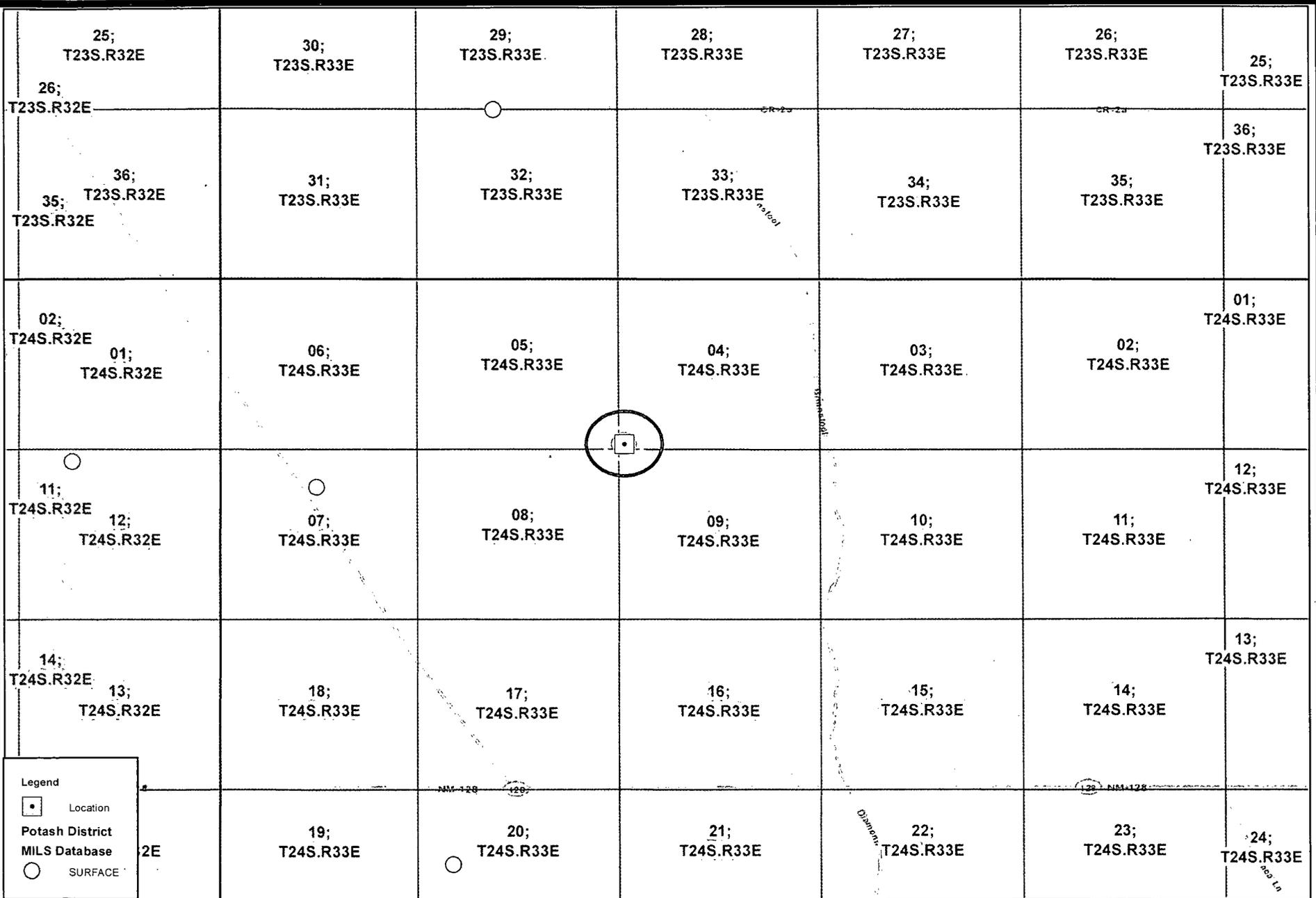
-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  Freshwater Pond
-  Lake
-  Other
-  Riverine
-  200 ft
-  300 ft
-  500 ft
-  1000 ft



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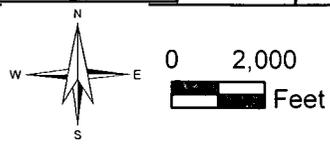
Nearest Wetlands  
 Murchison Oil and Gas  
 Brininstool "4" State #3

Figure 6  
 March 2013



**Legend**

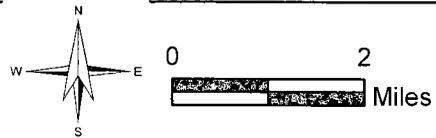
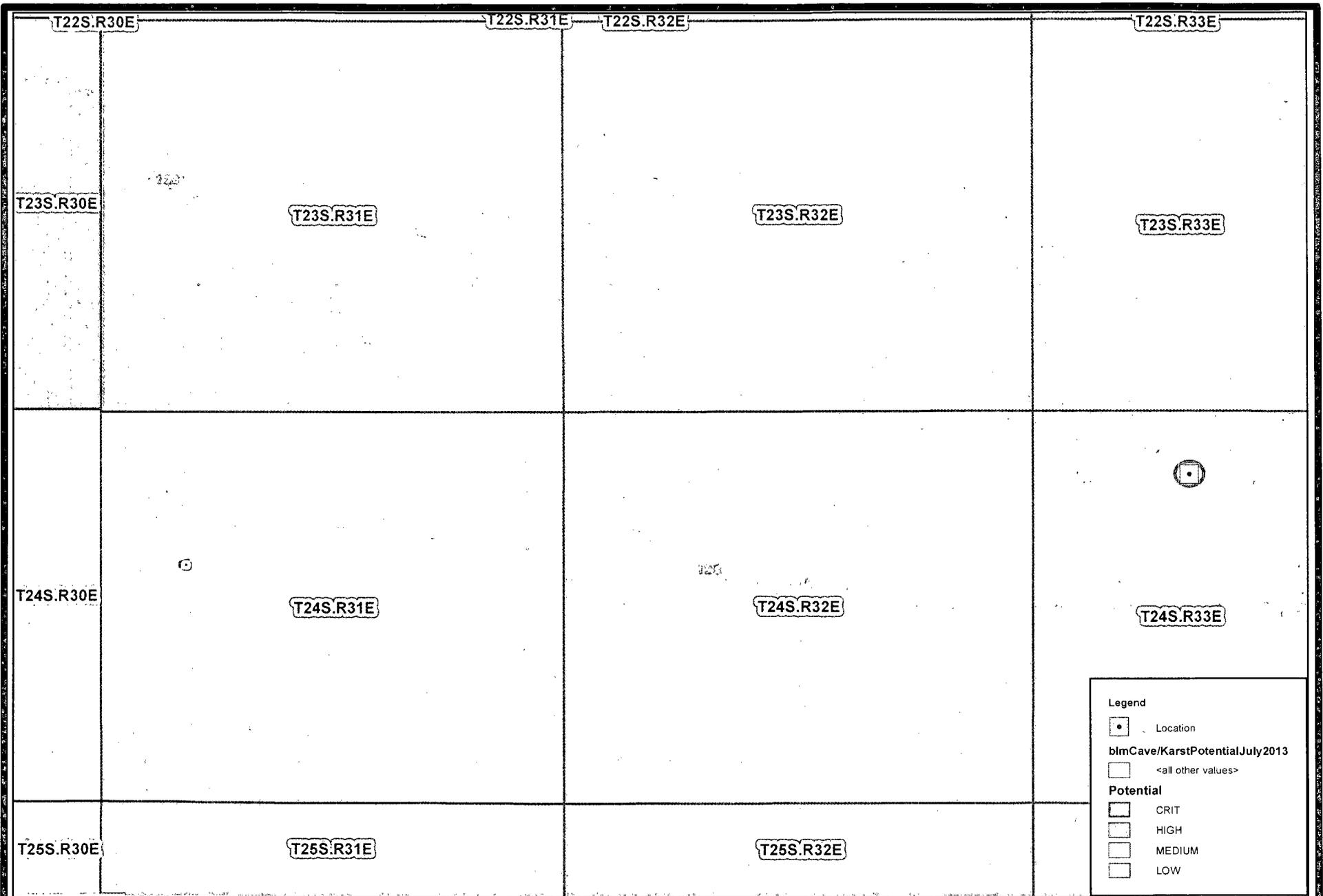
-  Location
- Potash District MILS Database**
-  SURFACE



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**Nearest Mines**  
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**Figure 7**  
 March 2013



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BLM Cave/Karst Potential Map  
 Murchison Oil and Gas  
 Brininstool "4" State #3

Figure 8  
 March 2013

				(178)
*35025C1575D 12/16/2008	*35025C1600D 12/16/2008	*35025C1625D 12/16/2008	*35025C1650D 12/16/2008	*35025C1675D 12/16/2008
*35025C1725D 12/16/2008	*35025C1750D 12/16/2008	*35025C1775D 12/16/2008	*35025C1800D 12/16/2008	*35025C1825D 12/16/2008
	Brinninstool 4 State 3H			
*35025C1875D 12/16/2008	*35025C1900D 12/16/2008	*35025C1925D 12/16/2008	*35025C1950D 12/16/2008	*35025C1975D 12/16/2008
*35025C2025D 12/16/2008	*35025C2050D 12/16/2008	*35025C2075D 12/16/2008	*35025C2100D 12/16/2008	*35025C2125D 12/16/2008



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

MAP INDEX

**FIRM**  
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
LEA COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO  
AND INCORPORATED AREAS

**MAP INDEX**

PANELS PRINTED: 440, 445, 955,  
965, 1165, 1170, 1200, 1335, 1345, 1355,  
1365, 1670, 2102



MAP NUMBER  
35025CIND0A

EFFECTIVE DATE  
DECEMBER 16, 2008

Federal Emergency Management Agency

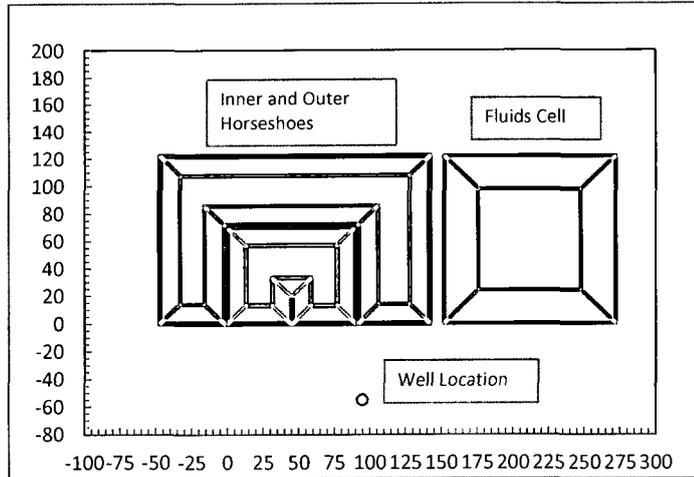
\* PANEL NOT PRINTED - AREA IN ZONE D

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)

# **Site Specific Information Plates**

**R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

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Albuquerque, NM 87104



Width refers to East-West dimensions. Length refers to North-South dimensions.

<b>Overall Horseshoe Cell Dimensions</b>	Total Width of Inner and Outer Horseshoe Cells <b>A - A'</b>	<b>189.0</b>	[feet]
	Total Length of Inner and Outer Horseshoe Cells including divider <b>B - B'</b>	<b>122.0</b>	
	Rise over Run for all slopes	<b>2.0</b>	[-]

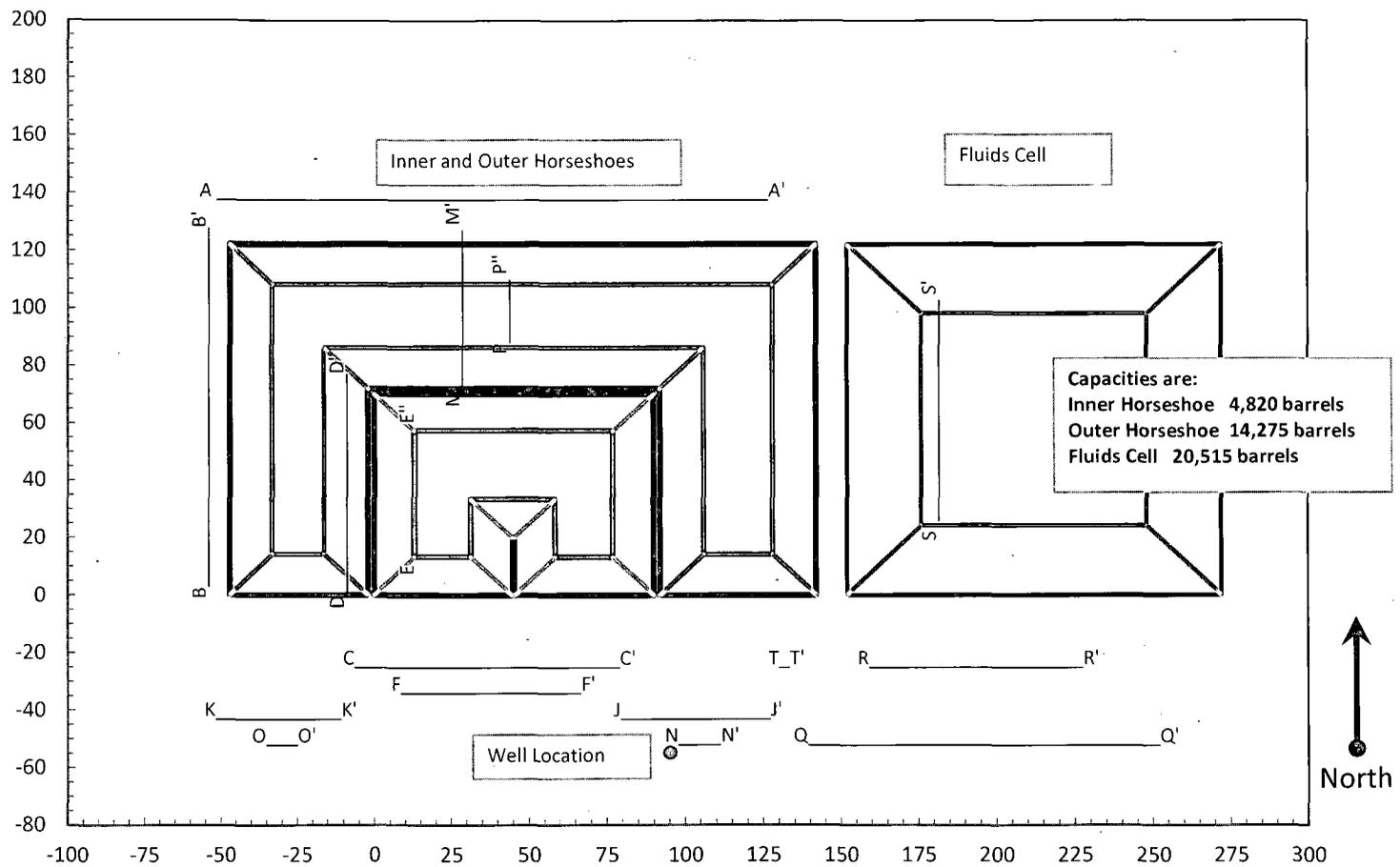
<b>Inner Horseshoe Cell Dimensions</b>	Width of Inner Horseshoe Pit <b>C - C'</b>	<b>90.0</b>	[feet]
	Length of Inner Horseshoe Pit <b>D - D'</b>	<b>70.0</b>	
	Depth of Inner Horseshoe Pit	<b>6.5</b>	
	Inner Horseshoe Pit Floor North to South <b>E - E'</b>	<b>44.0</b>	[feet]
	Inner Horseshoe Pit Floor Width <b>F - F'</b>	<b>64.0</b>	

<b>Divider Dimensions</b>	Width of Divider between Inner and Outer Horseshoe Pits	<b>2.0</b>	[feet]
---------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------	------------	--------

<b>Outer Horseshoe Cell Dimensions</b>	Width of Outer Horseshoe Pit <b>J - J'</b>	<b>50.0</b>	[feet]
	Depth of Outer Horseshoe Pit (East Side)	<b>7.0</b>	
	Width of Outer Horseshoe Pit <b>K - K'</b>	<b>45.0</b>	[feet]
	Depth of Outer Horseshoe Pit (West Side)	<b>7.0</b>	
	Length of Outer Horseshoe Pit <b>M - M'</b>	<b>50.0</b>	[feet]
	Width of Outer Horseshoe Pit (North Side)	<b>189.0</b>	
	Depth of Outer Horseshoe Pit (North Side)	<b>7.0</b>	
	Width of Outer Horseshoe east side Pit Floor <b>N - N'</b>	<b>17.0</b>	[feet]
	Width of Outer Horseshoe west side Pit Floor <b>O - O'</b>	<b>22.0</b>	
Outer Horseshoe north side Pit Floor <b>P - P'</b>	<b>22.0</b>		

<b>Fluid Cell Dimensions</b>	Fluid Cell Width <b>Q - Q'</b>	<b>120.0</b>	[feet]
	Fluid Cell Length (North to South Dimension)	<b>122.0</b>	
	Fluid Cell Depth	<b>12.0</b>	
	Fluid Cell Width on Floor <b>R - R'</b>	<b>72.0</b>	
	Fluid Cell Length on Floor <b>S - S'</b>	<b>74.0</b>	
	Divider Width between Drilling Cells and Fluid Cell <b>T - T'</b>	<b>10.0</b>	

<b>R.T. Hicks Consultants</b> 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Suite F-142 Albuquerque, N. M. 87104	<b>Drilling Pit Dimensions</b> <b>Brininstool 4 State 003H</b>	<b>Plate 1A</b>
	<b>Murchison Oil and Gas Inc.</b>	<b>March 2013</b>



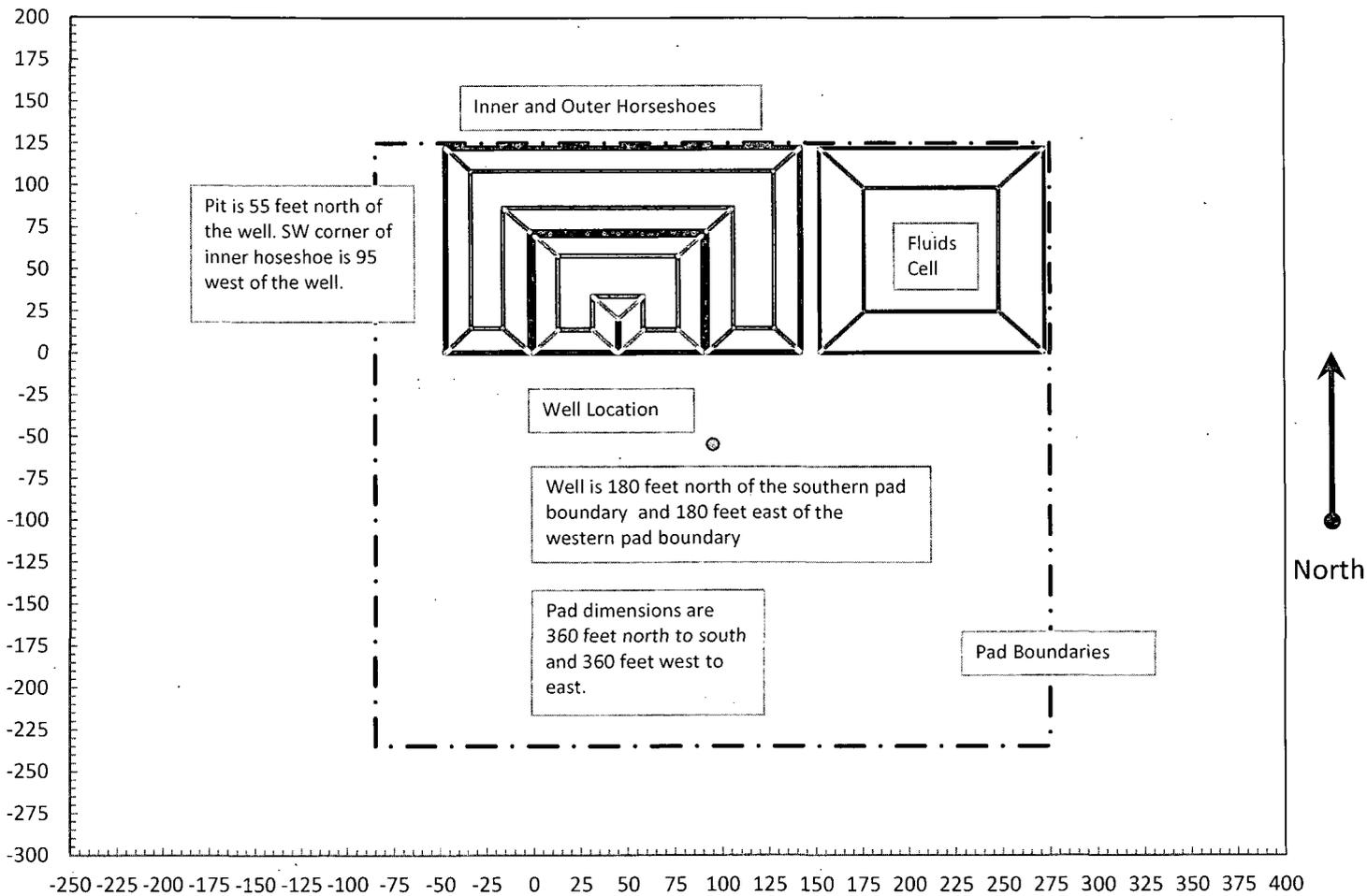
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**Dimensions of Drilling and Fluids Cells and Relationship to Well**  
 Brininstool 4 State 003H

**Murchison Oil and Gas Inc.**

**Plate 1B**

**March 2013**



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**Drawing of Drilling Pit and Well in Relation to Pad Boundaries**  
**Brininstool 4 State 003H**

**Plate 1C**

**Murchison Oil and Gas Inc.**

**March 2013**

# Mogi 9 2H Rathole Data

**R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

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# R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

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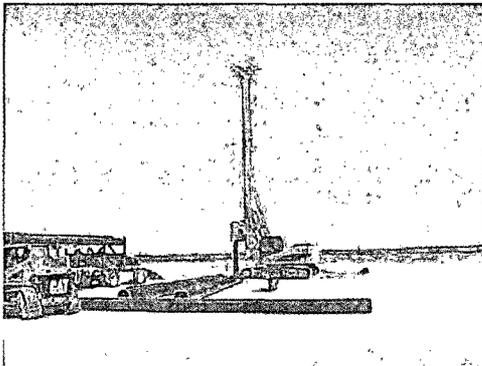
February 28, 2013

## **Memo: Murchison Oil and Gas, Mogi 9 State Com 1H Rat Hole Evaluation**

The Mogi 9 State Com #1H well site has an elevation of 3606 and located 1 mile due south of the Brinninstool 4 State 3H site. The Brinninstool 4 State 3H site is 30 feet higher, with an elevation of 3636.3. The Mogi 9 State Com #1H rat hole location is:

- Lower in elevation than the Brinninstool well site,
- Closer to the center of the Bell Lake depression area
- Closer to the closed topographic contour that defines the edge of the ancient collapse feature

Within the eastern portion of the Bell Lake Sink shallow (Ogallala or Alluvium) groundwater is known to be present at an elevation of 3,566 feet (see Table 1 and Figure 1 in the C-144 application). In the western portion of the Sink, groundwater is likely deeper, as the surface elevation of Bell Lake is about 3565 and the lake is dry. Based on this information it is expected that the shallow groundwater, if present at the Brinninstool 4 State 3H site would be approximately 50 to 70 feet below the surface.



On February 27, 2013 I witnessed the drilling of the rat hole at the Mogi 9 #1H site. Ready Drill LLC of Monahans, Texas performed the work using a track-mounted 30-inch auger drilling rig as shown in the adjacent photograph.

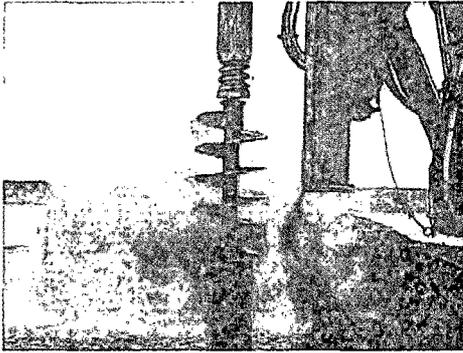
I arrived at the site at 10:30 am and found the operations shut down (waiting on fuel for the drilling rig) with the auger in the hole at a depth of approximately 70 feet. This provided an excellent opportunity to check for any

groundwater that may have accumulated in the bottom of the while the drilling rig was not operational.

At 11:25 am the rig had been re-fueled and the bottom 1 foot was cut, removed, and inspected for possible moisture. The photograph from the 70 to 71-foot depth interval (shown to the right) demonstrates that the soil cuttings were completely dry. Also, a mirror was used to reflect sunlight in to the boring in order to inspect the walls and bottom. There were no indications of water seeps in the walls or an accumulation of water at the total depth.



Over the next 2.5 hours the boring was advanced to a total depth of 120 feet by removing approximately 1 to 1.5 feet of material per trip into the hole. I carefully inspected each auger for the appearance moisture in the soil prior to it being spun off and removed from the drilling pad. Had the slightest indication of moisture been identified in the soil, the operation would have been suspended to allow for the accumulation of measurable water.



The photograph to the left was taken from the soil recovered at a depth of 98 feet as it is being spun from the auger. This photograph demonstrates the lack of moisture in the cuttings. It is believed that any potential moisture from the bottom or walls of the boring would have been easily identified during the drilling process as each trip into the hole should contact wet soil if it is present at any depth.

During the drilling operations, soil samples were collected and described as shown on the adjacent log. Based on the evaluation of the cuttings it appears that the Ogallala (or alluvium) is present at least seven feet above the Bell Lake well groundwater elevation. The top of the Triassic is identified by the hard purple shale at a depth of 33 feet and extends to the total depth of the boring.

In light of the geology observed from the rat hole samples and the absence of any detectable moisture throughout the drilling operation, it was determined that the additional costs associated with suspending the installation of the conductor pipe for 24 to 72 hours in order to allow the accumulation of potential groundwater was not justified at this site. Had any moisture been observed during drilling, or had porous rocks been present below the groundwater elevation observed in Bell Lake water wells, the installation of conductor pipe would have been suspended. Based on my observations, I am 100% certain that no groundwater is present at the Brinninstool 3H site to a depth of at least 120 feet below the surface (3,486 feet above sea level).

Photo	Lithologic Description
	0 - 12 Ft: CAUCHE with some sand.
	12 - 33 Ft: SAND, light brown to pinkish brown, fine grained, poorly sorted.
	33 - 37 Ft: SHALE, Dark purple, hard, friable.
	37 - 39 Ft: SANDSTONE, Gray, fine grain, very hard drilling.
	39 - 94 Ft: SILTY SHALE, Grayish brown, interbedded with gray siltstone, and very fine grain sand.
	94 - 112 Ft: SHALE, Gray, friable, interbedded with grayish brown silty shale.
	112 - 120 Ft: SHALE, Dark reddish brown, friable, platy.

Based on the location of the two Murchison Brinninstool 3H well location, relative to the Bell Lake Depression, we conclude that no shallow groundwater is present at the Brininstool 4 State 3H site.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,  
 R.T. Hicks Consultants

Dale Littlejohn

# Survey Information

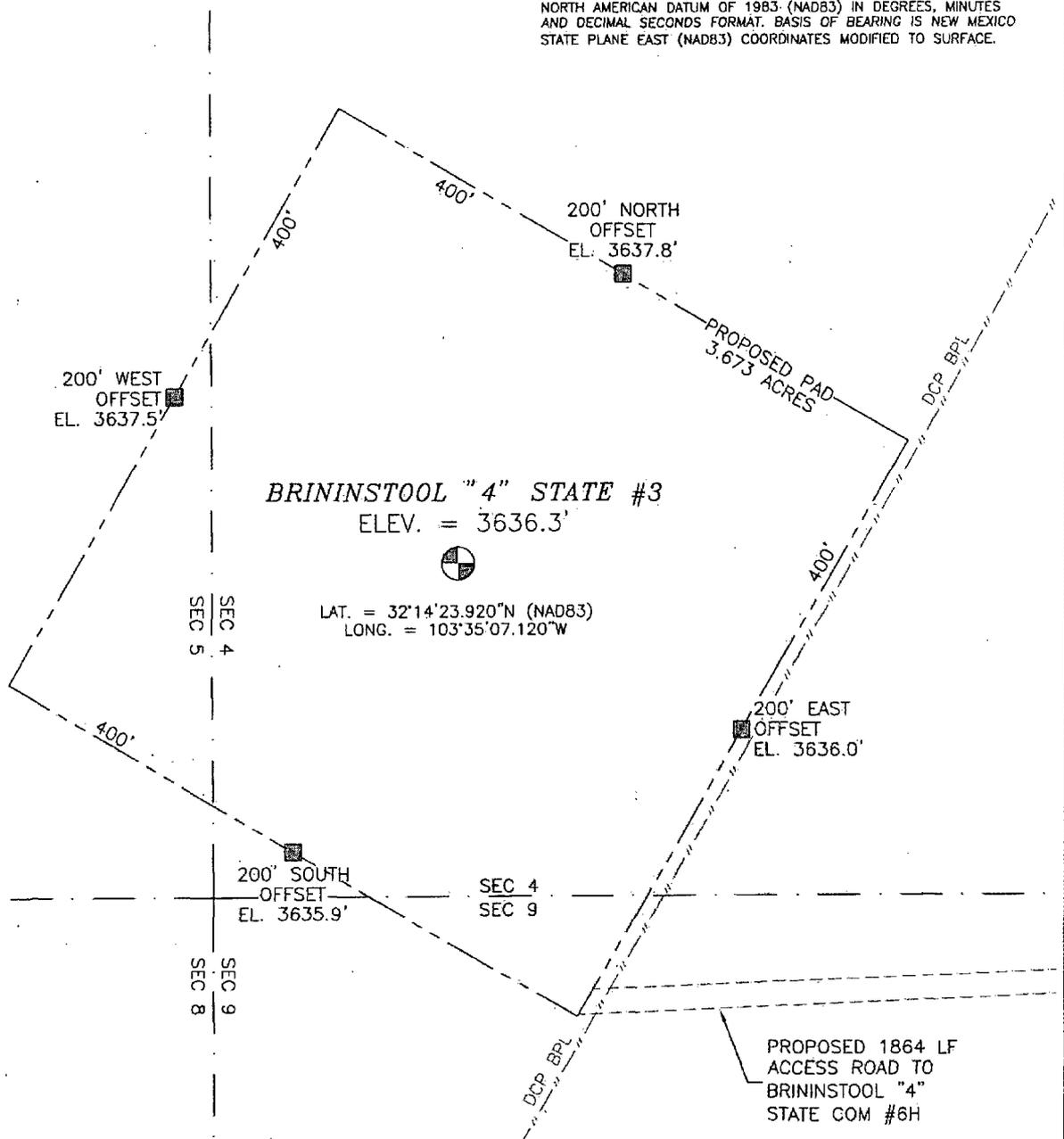
**R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142  
Albuquerque, NM 87104



SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

NOTE: LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES ARE SHOWN USING THE NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983 (NAD83) IN DEGREES, MINUTES AND DECIMAL SECONDS FORMAT. BASIS OF BEARING IS NEW MEXICO STATE PLANE EAST (NAD83) COORDINATES MODIFIED TO SURFACE.



BRININSTOOL "4" STATE #3  
ELEV. = 3636.3'

LAT. = 32°14'23.920"N (NAD83)  
LONG. = 103°35'07.120"W

200' WEST  
OFFSET  
EL. 3637.5'

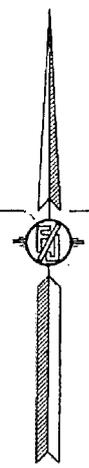
200' NORTH  
OFFSET  
EL. 3637.8'

PROPOSED PAD  
3.673 ACRES

200' EAST  
OFFSET  
EL. 3636.0'

200' SOUTH  
OFFSET  
EL. 3635.9'

PROPOSED 1864 LF  
ACCESS ROAD TO  
BRININSTOOL "4"  
STATE COM #6H



0 10 50 100 200  
SCALE 1" = 100'

**DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION**  
FROM THE INTERSECTION OF STATE HIGHWAY 128 AND CR 21 (DELAWARE BASIN) GO WEST ON STATE HIGHWAY 128 FOR APPROX. 3.25 MILES TO BRININSTOOL ROAD. GO NORTH ON BRININSTOOL ROAD FOR APPROX. 2.5 MILES. GO WEST ON LEASE ROAD APPROX. 0.4 OF A MILE TO BRININSTOOL "4" STATE #2 WELL. GO SOUTH APPROX. 500 FT TO SOUTHWEST CORNER OF BRININSTOOL "4" STATE COM #6H WELL (STAKED), FOLLOW ROAD LATHS APPROX. 1860 FT TO SOUTHEAST CORNER PAD.

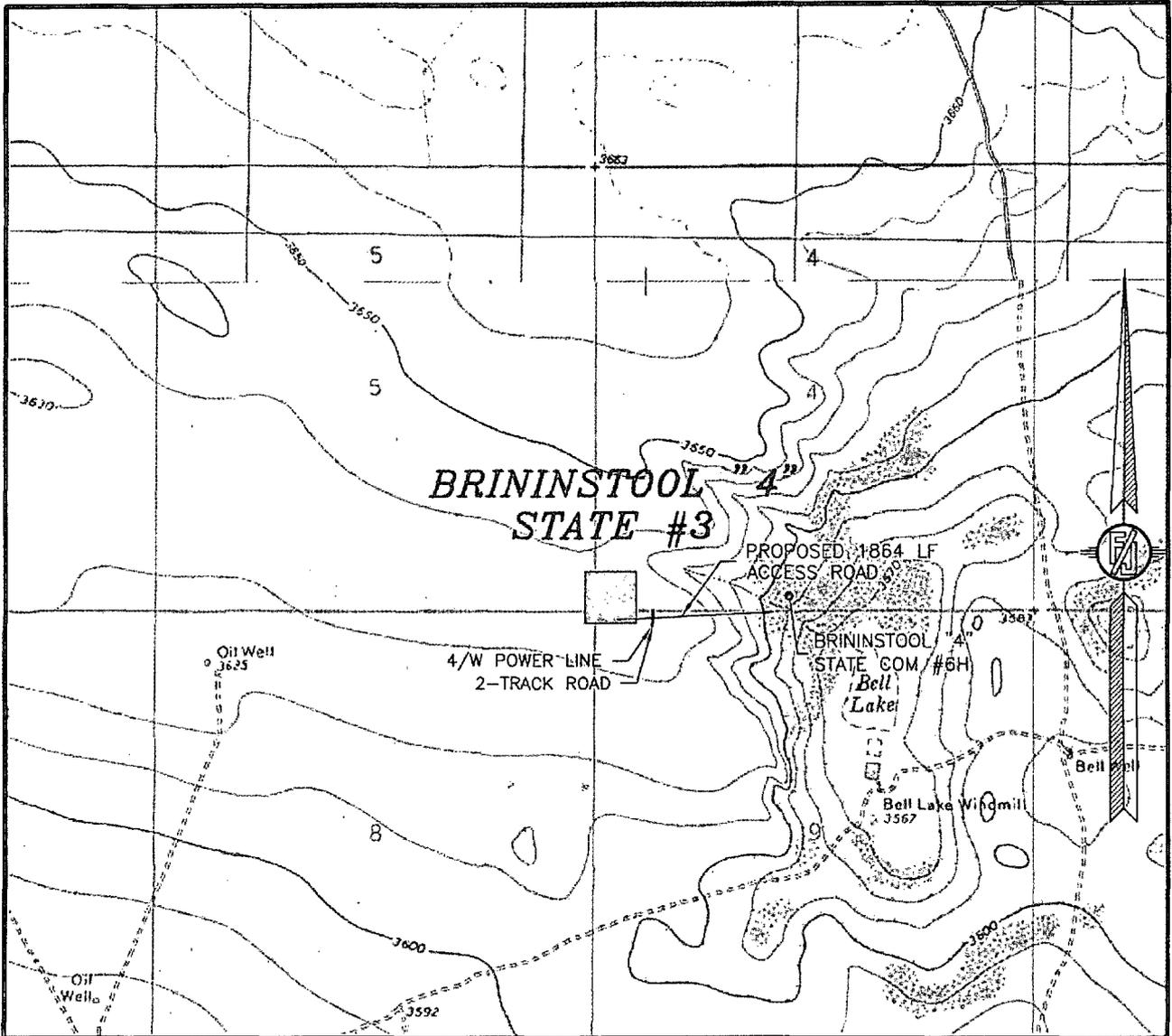
MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.  
**BRININSTOOL "4" STATE #3**  
LOCATED 200 FT. FROM THE SOUTH LINE  
AND 150 FT. FROM THE WEST LINE OF  
SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH,  
RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

SURVEY NO. 1218D

MADRON SURVEYING, INC. 301 SOUTH CANAL CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO  
(575) 234-3341

SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
 LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
 LOCATION VERIFICATION MAP



USGS QUAD MAP:  
 BELL LAKE

NOT TO SCALE

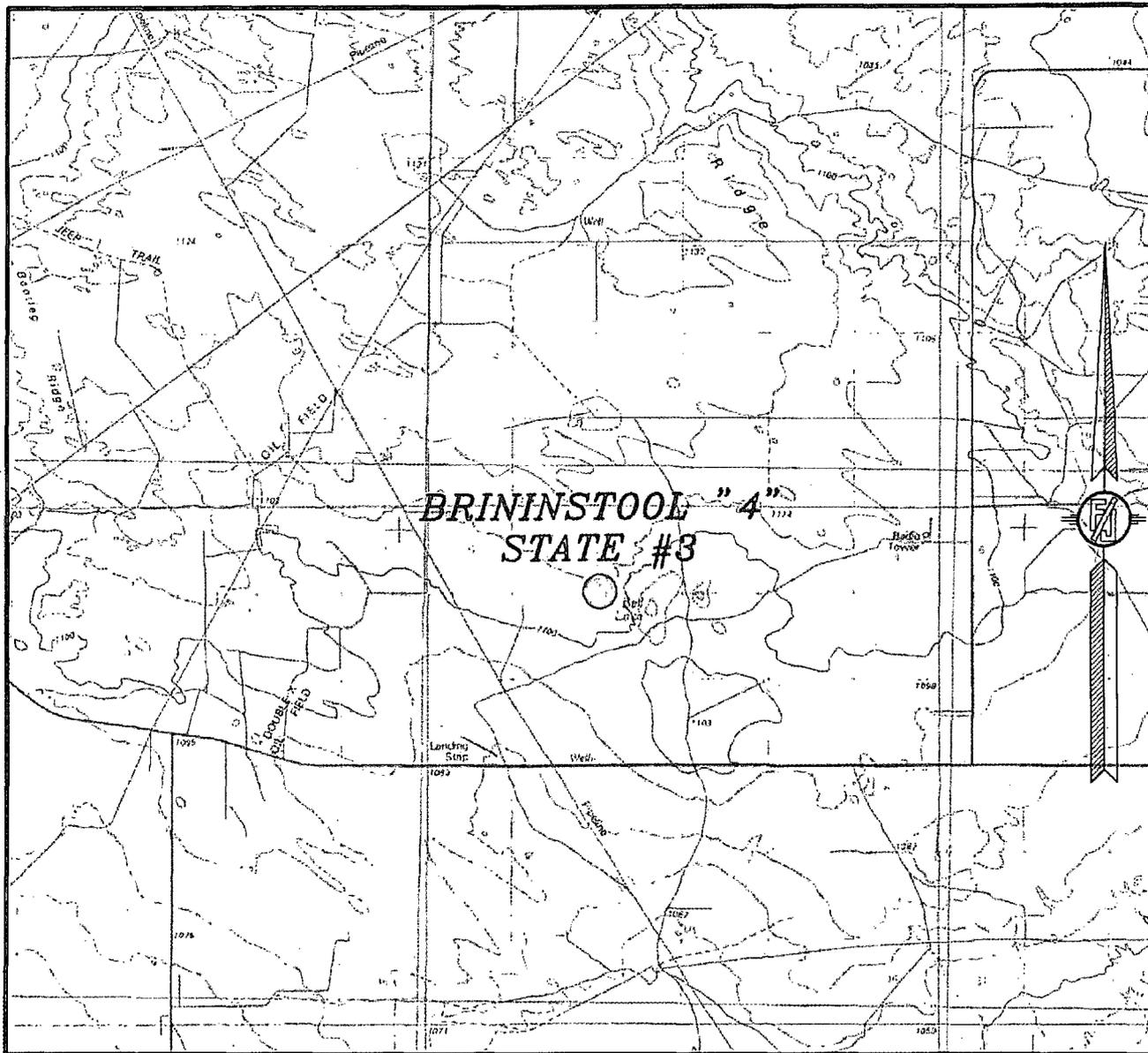
MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.  
**BRININSTOOL "4" STATE #3**  
 LOCATED 200 FT. FROM THE SOUTH LINE  
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 RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
 LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

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MADRON SURVEYING, INC. 301 SOUTH CANAL (575) 234-3341 CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
VICINITY MAP



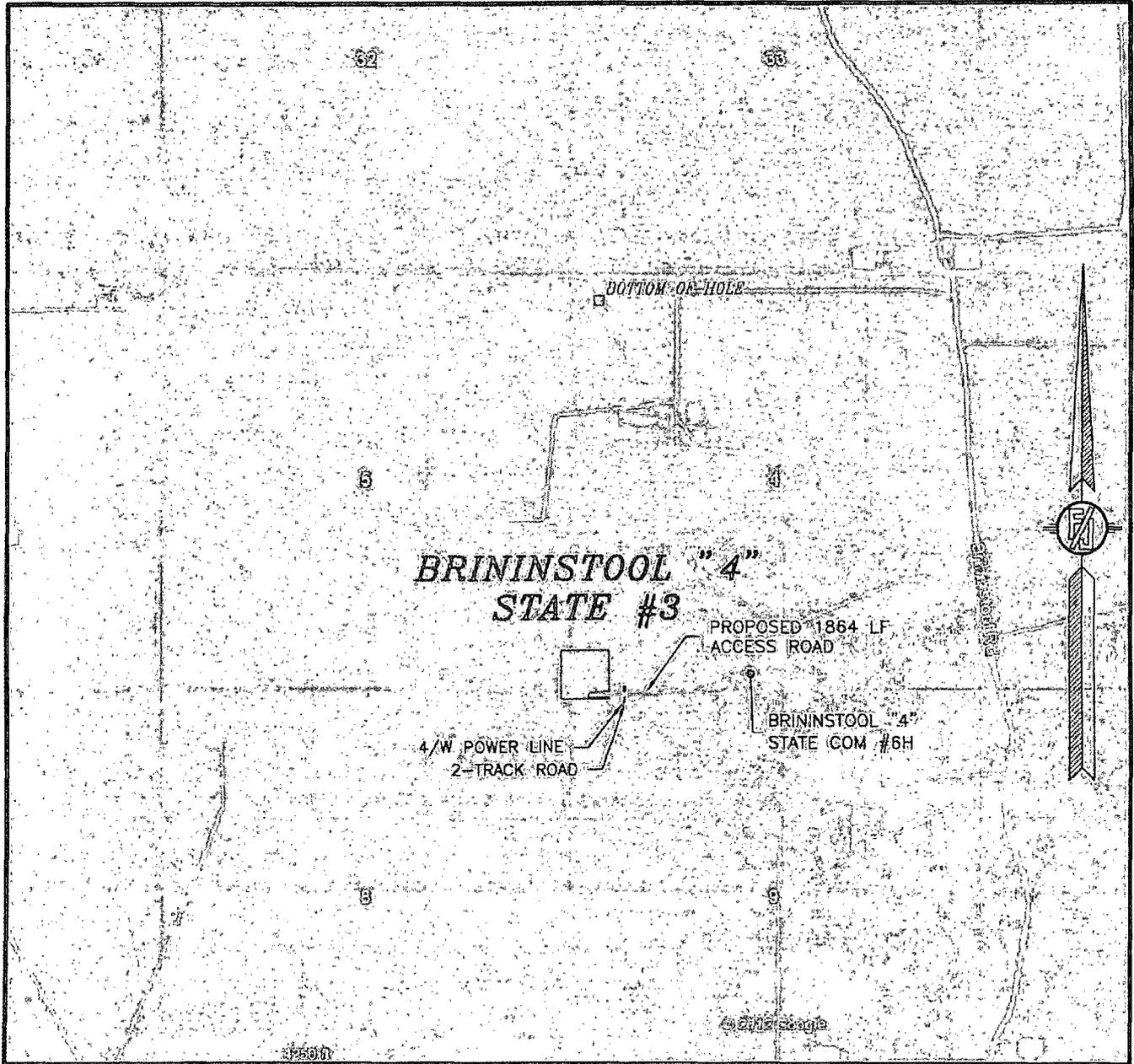
NOT TO SCALE

MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.  
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FEBRUARY 20, 2013

MADRON SURVEYING, INC. 301 SOUTH CANAL CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO  
(575) 234-3341 SURVEY NO. 1218D

SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
AERIAL PHOTO



NOT TO SCALE  
AERIAL PHOTO:  
GOOGLE EARTH  
MARCH 2012

MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.  
**BRININSTOOL "4" STATE #3**  
LOCATED 200 FT. FROM THE SOUTH LINE  
AND 150 FT. FROM THE WEST LINE OF  
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RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

SURVEY NO. 1218D

MADRON SURVEYING, INC. 301 SOUTH CANAL CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO  
(575) 234-3341

# **Generic Plans for Temporary Pits**

**R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd.**

901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite F-142  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

## Temporary Pit Design Plan

Plates 1a, 1b, and 1c show the design of the temporary pit proposed for this project. Field conditions and the drilling rig layout will determine the final configuration of the pit cells, which will consist of the following:

1. A cell for drilling fluid circulation and cuttings storage
2. A cell for the storage of fresh water (drilling/stimulation) and stimulation flow-back water prior to re-use or disposal

In addition to the commitments listed below, the operator will install a system that can drain water entrained in the drilling waste of the drilling pit. As described in the closure plan, this system of filtered perforated pipe and drainage mats cover much of the bottom of the drilling cell of the pit – the cut brine cell and the inner cell. The system will drain to the lowest corner of each cell, generally near the suction area. The exact location will be determined upon completion of the cells. Standpipes rise from the depression and house a solar-powered pump. The drainage system for the cut brine cell removes water to the brine cell via the solar pumps. This water can be placed in an above-ground tank or the fluids cell of the pit for temporary storage before re-use or disposal. The drainage system in the brine cell may also be used to introduce water below the residual cuttings/mud, causing the introduced fluid to move upwards through the cuttings/mud and enhance the solids rinsing process. Introduced water to the brine cell (which will become cut brine or saturated brine after movement through the cuttings) can be removed from the pit for re-use via a vacuum truck or recovered from the drainage system at the bottom.

The temporary storage of fluids, fluid reuse or fluid disposal will be conducted in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment. This drainage and rinsing system allows the operator to:

- Recover clear water for possible re-use,
- Reduce the concentration of constituents of concern in the drilling waste by removing some water entrained in the drilling waste.

Precipitation and the possible addition of relatively fresh water (see closure plan) will rinse the solid drilling waste, causing additional reduction in the constituents of concern as the water is recovered for re-use or disposal.

For any temporary storage of fluids derived from the drilling pit and placed in an above-ground tank, the following will apply:

1. Construction, operation and maintenance of the temporary storage tank(s) will adhere to all applicable NMOCD Rules including but not limited to:
  - a. Safety stipulations
  - b. Protection from hydrogen sulfide mandates
  - c. Signage and identification requirements
  - d. Secondary containment requirements for temporary tanks

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Drilling Pit

- e. Applicable netting requirements
2. Any cleaning of the temporary tank(s) will adhere to NMOCD Rules relating to tank cleaning.
3. Transportation of water or drilling fluids derived from the drilling pit will adhere to all applicable NMOCD Rules relating to transportation.
4. Storage of water or drilling fluids in temporary above-ground tanks will also adhere to all applicable Federal mandates.

During final closure of the pit, the tanks and secondary containment system will be removed from the location and the area beneath the tank inspected for any leakage. If any leakage is suspected, the operator will sample the soil beneath the tanks and report any release pursuant to NMOCD Rules.

Finally, we intend to place any temporary tank used in conjunction with the pit drainage system on a 20-mil liner with a berm around it that would allow any inadvertently released fluids to drain or be pumped back into the pit.

### ***Construction/Design Plan of Temporary Pit***

1. The operator or qualified contractor will design and construct the pit to contain liquids and solids and prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.
2. Prior to constructing the pit the operator or qualified contractor will strip and stockpile the topsoil for use as the final cover or fill at the time of closure.
3. The operator will post an upright sign in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC. The operator will post the sign in a manner and location such that a person can easily read the legend. The sign will provide the following information: the operator's name; the location of the site by quarter-quarter or unit letter, section, township and range; and emergency telephone numbers.
4. The operator will fence the pit in a manner that prevents unauthorized access and will maintain the fences in good repair. The operator will fence the pit to exclude livestock with a four-foot fence that has at least four strands of barbed wire evenly spaced in the interval between one foot and four feet above ground level. The pit will be completely fenced at all times excluding drilling and workover operations. During drilling or workover operations, the operator is not required to fence the edge of the pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig.
5. The operator will design and construct the temporary pit to prevent unauthorized releases and ensure the confinement of liquids.
6. The temporary pit will have a properly constructed foundation and interior slopes consisting of a firm, unyielding base, smooth and free of rocks, debris, sharp edges or irregularities to prevent the liner's rupture or tear.
7. The slopes of the pit will be no steeper than two horizontal feet to one vertical foot (2H:1V). Unless an alternate slope, protective to fresh water, public health and the environment, is proposed and approved by the appropriate division district office.
8. As an addition engineering control to address any concerns relating to the presence of karst and associated instability, during construction of the pit the contractor will compact

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Drilling Pit

the earth material that forms the foundation for the pit liner. An expected proctor density of greater than 90% will be achieved by

- a. Adding water to the earth material as appropriate,
  - b. Compacting the earth by walking a crawler-type tractor down the sides and bottom of the pit
  - c. Repeating this process with a second 6-inch lift of earth material if necessary
9. The operator will design and construct the temporary pit with a geomembrane liner. The geomembrane liner will consist of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE or equivalent liner material that the appropriate division district office approves. The geomembrane liner will be composed of an impervious, synthetic material that is resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions. The liner material will be resistant to ultraviolet light. Liner compatibility will comply with EPA SW-846 method 9090A.
  10. The operator will minimize liner seams and orient them up and down, not across a slope. The operator will use factory-welded seams. Prior to any field seaming, the operator will overlap liners four to six inches and orient seams parallel to the line of maximum slope, *i.e.*, oriented along, not across, the slope. The operator will minimize the number of welded field seams in corners and irregularly shaped areas. Qualified personnel will weld field seams.
  11. Construction will avoid excessive stress-strain on the liner.
  12. Geotextile will be placed under the liner where needed to reduce localized stress-strain or protuberances that may otherwise compromise the liner's integrity.
  13. The operator and/or qualified contractor retained by the operator will anchor the edges of all liners in the bottom of a compacted earth-filled trench. The anchor trench will be at least 18 inches deep.
  14. The operator and/or qualified contractor retained by the operator will ensure that the liner is protected from any fluid force or mechanical damage at any point of discharge into or suction from the lined temporary pit.
  15. The operator and/or qualified contractor retained by the operator will design and construct the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water. As necessary, a berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water.
  16. The volume of the temporary pit (fluids cell plus drilling cell), including freeboard, does not exceed 10 acre-feet (77,583 bbls).

## Temporary Pit Operating and Maintenance Plan

The operator will operate and maintain the pit to contain liquids and solids and maintain the integrity of the liner, liner system, or any secondary containment system to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment as described below:

1. If feasible, the operator will recycle, reuse or reclaim of all drilling fluids and recovered water in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment. Specifically, drilling fluids and reclaimed water will be transferred to other drilling operations for use (see closure plan).
2. If re-use is not possible, fluids will be sent to disposal at division-approved facility.
3. Reuse or disposal of fluids from the pit will be conducted in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment.
4. The operator will not discharge into or store any hazardous waste in the pit.
5. If any pit liner's integrity is compromised, or if any penetration of the liner occurs above the liquid's surface, then the operator will notify the appropriate division district office within 48 hours (phone or email) of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the liner.
6. If the pit develops a leak or if any penetration of the pit liner occurs below the liquid's surface, then the operator will remove all liquid above the damage or leak line within 48 hours, notify the appropriate district office within 48 hours (phone or email) of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the pit liner.
7. The injection or withdrawal of liquids from the pit will be accomplished through a header, diverter or other hardware that prevents damage to the liner by erosion, fluid jets or impact from installation and removal of hoses or pipes.
8. The operator will install diversion ditches and berms around the pit as necessary to prevent the collection of surface water run-on.
9. The operator will immediately remove any visible layer of oil from the surface of the temporary pit and maintain on site an oil absorbent boom to contain and remove oil from the pit's surface.
10. Only fluids used or generated during the drilling or workover process will be discharged into the temporary pit. The discharge of workover fluids to the drilling pit as a rinse to the drilling waste solids is discussed in the closure plan (below).
11. The operator will maintain the temporary pit free of miscellaneous solid waste or debris.
12. Although hydrocarbon-based drilling mud is not anticipated for use, the operator will use a tank made of steel to contain hydrocarbon-based drilling fluids if need be.
13. Immediately after cessation of drilling, the operator will remove any visible or measurable layer of oil from the surface of a drilling pit, in the manner described above.
14. The operator will maintain at least two feet of freeboard for the temporary pit.
15. The operator will inspect the temporary pit containing drilling fluids at least daily while the drilling rig is on-site to ensure compliance with this plan.
16. After drilling operations, the operator will inspect the temporary drilling pit weekly so long as liquids remain in the temporary pit.

## **C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Drilling Pit**

17. The operator will maintain a log of such inspections and make the log available for the appropriate district office's review upon request.
18. The operator will file a copy of the log with the appropriate division district office when the operator closes the temporary pit.
19. The operator will remove all free liquids from the temporary pit within 30 days from the date that the operator releases the drilling rig – unless granted an extension of time by the District Office. The operator will note the date of the drilling rig's release on form C-105 or C-103 upon well completion.

## Temporary Pit Closure Plan

### *Protocols and Procedures*

The operator will use the following procedures and protocols to implement the closure:

- The operator will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, prior to closure, that the operator plans to close the temporary pit.
- The operator of the temporary pit will notify the applicable division district office verbally or by email at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. The notice will include the operator's name and the location to be closed by unit letter, section, township and range, well's name, number, the API number.
- The operator of the temporary pit will remove all liquids from the temporary pit prior to closure and either:
  - Dispose of the liquids in a division-approved facility, or
  - Recycle, reuse or reclaim the liquids for use in drilling another well.
- Fluids on and entrained in the drilling waste will be removed from the pit for re-use or disposal.
- The operator may request extensions of time for the pit to hold free liquids as extensions may be necessary to allow the addition of water to the outer horse shoe of the pit to cause rinsing of solid waste and removal of constituents of concern via the pit drainage system to the inner shoe then to an above-ground tank (or truck) or to the fluids cell of the temporary pit. Sources of water for rinsing the solid drilling waste in the outer horse shoe include:
  - Residual fresh water in the workover cell not used for hydraulic fracturing (removed from the workover cell prior to the introduction of flow-back)
  - Flow-back of water pumped down hole during hydraulic fracturing that is less than 50% of the estimated TDS of pit pore water based on field conductance or specific gravity measurements<sup>1</sup>.
- Fluids pumped from the outer horseshoe drainage system are transferred to the inner shoe drainage system causing relatively low salinity water to move up through the cuttings, dissolving the rock salt cuttings.
- When the inner shoe contains at least 130 barrels of clear water (one water truck load), the brine or cut brine can be removed for re-use in drilling operations or sent to disposal.
- The operator shall remove all free liquids from the temporary pit within 30 days from the date that the operator released the drilling rig. The operator shall note the date of the drilling rig's release on form C-105 or C-103 upon well completion. The operator will request an extension of up to three months from the appropriate division district office if necessary to allow for rinsing of drilling waste solids and the recovery of water for re-use.

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<sup>1</sup> If water pumped from the pit drainage system prior to stimulation is 9.5 pounds/gallon and distilled water is 8.3 pounds per gallon, discharge to the outer shoe ceases when measurements of flow back are 8.9 pounds/gallon or less

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Drilling Pit

- After removal of all standing water, cuttings rinsing ceases and drilling cell drainage begins as:
  - Water from the outer horseshoe drainage system discharges to the surface of the inner shoe
  - Solar pumping from the inner shoe drainage system transfers water to an above-grade tank or the fluids cell of the temporary pit
- Fluids drained from the cell are temporarily stored in the above-ground tank or fluids cell and are removed for re-use or disposal. Both temporary storage of fluids from the pit and reuse or disposal will be conducted in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment.
- The operator will close the temporary pit within six months of the date that the operator releases the drilling rig. An extension not to exceed three months may be requested of the applicable district office.
- The operator will close the pit by an earlier date that the division requires because of imminent danger to fresh water, public health or the environment.
- Within 60 days of closure completion, the operator will submit a closure report on form C-144, with necessary attachments to document all closure activities including sampling results; information required by 19.15.17 NMAC; a plot plan; and details on back-filling, capping and covering, where applicable.
- In the closure report, the operator will certify that all information in the report and attachments is correct and that the operator has complied with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan.
- The operator will provide a plat of the pit location on form C-105 with the closure report within 60 days of closing the temporary pit.

### ***Additional Protocols and Procedures for On-Site Closure***

- The operator has provided the surface owner notice of the operator's proposal of an on-site closure (see transmittal letter for proof of notice to the landowner) as required in 19.15.17.13.F(1)(b).
- Upon receipt of NMOCD approval for on-site closure (in-place burial), the operator will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the operator plans to close the pit and where the operator has approval for on-site closure. Evidence of mailing of the notice will demonstrate compliance with this requirement.
- The operator will place a steel marker at the center of an on-site burial (unless the surface owner requires an alternative marker that is acceptable to the appropriate division district office). The steel marker will be not less than four inches in diameter and will be cemented in a three-foot deep hole at a minimum. The steel marker will extend at least four feet above mean ground level and at least three feet below ground level. The operator name, lease name and well number and location, including unit letter, section, township and range, and that the marker designates an on-site burial location will be welded, stamped or otherwise permanently engraved into the metal of the steel marker.

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Drilling Pit

- The operator will report the exact location of the on-site burial on form C-105 filed with the division.
- If the State of New Mexico or the Federal government owns the land surface, no deed exists, the land is held in trust. Therefore, the operator cannot file a deed notice identifying the exact location of the on-site burial with the county clerk in the county. The exact location of the on-site burial will be transmitted to the surface owner by copy of the form C-105 discussed above.
- If the surface is not in the public domain, the operator will file a deed notice identifying the exact location of the on-site burial with the county clerk in the county. The exact location of the on-site burial will be transmitted to the surface owner by copy of the form C-105 discussed above.

In-place closure is the preferred closure alternative for the temporary pit. If waste sampling results suggest that standards for in-place closure are not met for the entire drilling cell (inner horseshoe and outer horseshoe), the operator will implement excavation and removal as described in later sections of this plan

### ***Site Reclamation Plan***

After the operator has closed the pit, the operator will reclaim the pit location and all areas associated with the pit, including associated access roads to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area. The operator will substantially restore the impacted surface area to the condition that existed prior to oil and gas operations by placement of the soil cover as provided in Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, re-contour the location and associated areas to a contour that approximates the original contour and blends with the surrounding topography and re-vegetate according to Subsection I of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

### ***Soil Cover Design Plan***

If the operator removes the pit contents or remediates any contaminated soil to the division's satisfaction the soil cover will consist of the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater.

The soil cover for the in-place burial will consist of a minimum of four feet of compacted, non-waste containing, earthen material. The soil cover will include either the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater.

The operator will construct the soil cover to the site's existing grade and prevent ponding of water and erosion of the cover material.

### ***Re-vegetation Plan***

1. The first growing season after the operator closes the pit, including access roads; the operator will seed or plant the disturbed areas.
2. The operator will accomplish seeding by drilling on the contour whenever practical.
3. The operator will obtain vegetative cover that equals 70% of the native perennial vegetative cover (un-impacted by overgrazing, fire or other intrusion damaging to native vegetation).
4. In the absence of specific guidance from the surface owner, the operator will follow BLM mandates for the seed mixture not including noxious weeds, and maintain that cover through two successive growing seasons. The operator will notify NMOCD of the specific mixture prior to seeding.
5. During the two growing seasons that prove viability, there will be no artificial irrigation of the vegetation.
6. The operator will repeat seeding or planting until it successfully achieves the required vegetative cover.
7. If conditions are not favorable for the establishment of vegetation, such as periods of drought, the operator may request that the division allow the operator to delay seeding or planting until soil moisture conditions become favorable or may require the operator to use additional cultural techniques such as mulching, fertilizing, irrigating, fencing or other practices.
8. The operator will notify the division when it has seeded or planted and when it successfully achieves re-vegetation.

### **In-place Closure Plan**

In the event that sampling of the drilling waste suggests that the inner and outer horseshoe of the drilling cell meet the criteria for in-place closure, the operator will proceed with in-place closure for one or both cells (inner and outer horseshoe).

#### ***Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstration for In-Place Burial***

The Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstration for the temporary pit show that the requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC are met for in-place closure.

#### ***Waste Material Sampling Plan for In-place Burial***

The operator will collect at a minimum, a five-point, composite sample of the contents of the temporary pit after treatment or stabilization.

The purpose of the sampling after the waste material is stabilized is to demonstrate that:

- Benzene, as determined by EPA SW 846 method 8021B or 8260B, does not exceed the concentration limit for in-place burial;
- Total BTEX, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8021B or 8260B, does not exceed the concentration limit for in-place burial;
- The GRO and DRO combined fraction, as determined by EPA SW-846 method

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Drilling Pit

- 8015M, does not exceed the concentration limit for in-place burial;
- TPH, as determined by EPA method 418.1 does not exceed the concentration limit for in-place burial;
- Chloride, as determined by EPA method 300.1, does not exceed the concentration limit for in-place burial or the background concentration, whichever is greater.
- The Stabilized waste passes the paint filter liquids test (EPA SW-846, method 9095)

### ***Protocols and Procedures for In-Place Burial***

In addition to the General Conditions Protocols and Procedures and the Additional Protocols and Procedures for On-site Closure listed above, the operator will execute the following steps for in-place closure of the pit:

- A. The operator will measure the distance between the top of the drilling waste and existing grade to determine if stabilized drilling waste (see stabilization methods, below) will be at least 4-feet below existing grade to allow installation of the soil cover (see soil cover design, above).
- B. The operator will stabilize or solidify the contents of the pit to a bearing capacity sufficient to support the temporary pit's final cover. However, the operator will not mix the pit contents with soil or other material at a mixing ratio of greater than 3:1, (3 parts soil or other material to 1 part drilling waste).
- C. Specifically, the drilling waste will be stabilized in the cell by adding no more than 3 parts clean fill derived from the excavation of the pit to 1 part drilling waste.
- D. After stabilization such that the waste material will support the soil cover, the mixture will be re-sampled (as necessary) pursuant to NMOCD Rules (see above).
- E. If sample results show that stabilized waste in the inner and outer horse shoe of the cell satisfy the regulatory standards for in-place burial, the operator will measure the distance between the stabilized waste and existing grade and, if necessary, transfer stabilized waste from one shoe to the other to allow for placement of the soil cover (see design criteria, above).
- F. Cover the geomembrane lined, filled, temporary pit with compacted, non-waste containing, earthen material; construct a division-prescribed soil cover; recontour and re-vegetate the site as described in this plan. Specifically, a 4-foot thick soil cover consistent with NMOCD Rules will be placed over the stabilized waste.
- G. If necessary to meet the other mandates of NMOCD Rules (e.g placement of a 4-foot soil cover to existing grade) and this closure plan, the stabilized drilling waste in the inner horseshoe will be excavated and placed in the outer horseshoe. The operator will implement confirmation sampling consistent with excavation and removal (see below) if this option is exercised on the inner horseshoe. This process would be conducted according to applicable regulations as described below, not allowing waste stabilization to exceed a 3:1 mixing ratio (3 parts soil or other material to 1 part drilling waste), testing

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stabilized waste to demonstrate compliance with in-place burial standards as required, sampling to confirm no release has occurred beneath the inner horseshoe.

- H. Any excess liner above the stabilized waste will be removed for re-use or disposal.

### **Excavation and Removal Closure Plan**

IF THE CRITERIA FOR ON-SITE CLOSURE (IN-PLACE BURIAL) FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE TEMPORARY PIT ARE NOT MET, THE OPERATOR WILL ADHERE TO NMOCD RULES AND IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FOR ONLY THE MATERIALS THAT DO NOT MEET CRITERIA FOR IN PLACE CLOSURE:

#### ***Protocols and Procedures for Excavation and Removal***

The operator will close the temporary pit by excavating the drilling waste that does not meet the criteria for in-place closure (e.g. solids in the inner shoe) and any synthetic pit liners that cannot be re-used and transferring those materials to one of the division-approved facilities listed below:

Controlled Recovery, Inc.	NM-01-0006
Lea Land, LLC	NM-01-0035

If the sampling program described below demonstrates that a release has not occurred or that any release does not exceed the concentrations specified in Subparagraph (b.ii) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.13 NMAC, then the operator will:

1. Backfill the temporary pit excavation with compacted, non-waste containing, earthen material;
2. Construct a division-prescribed soil cover to existing grade as described in the Soil Cover Plan (above);
3. Re-contour and re-vegetate the site as described in the Re-vegetation Plan (above).

#### ***Confirmation Sampling Plan for Excavation and Removal***

The operator will test the soils beneath the temporary pit after excavation to determine whether a release has occurred. To determine if a release has occurred, the operator and/or qualified contractor will collect, at a minimum:

- A five-point, composite sample
- Individual grab samples from any area that is wet, discolored or showing other evidence of a release

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The purpose of this sampling is to demonstrate that:

- Benzene, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8021B or 8260B does not exceed concentration limits of the Rule;
- Total BTEX, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8021B or 8260B does not exceed concentration limits of the Rule;
- The GRO and DRO combined fraction, as determined by EPA SW-846 method 8015M, does not exceed concentration limits of the Rule;
- The TPH, as determined by EPA method 418.1 does not exceed 2,500 mg/kg; and
- Chloride, as determined by EPA method 300.1, does not exceed concentration limits of the Rule or the background concentration, whichever is greater.

### ***Reporting***

The operator shall notify the division of its results on form C-141. If the operator or the division determines that a release has occurred, then the operator will comply with 19.15.29 NMAC and 19.15.30 NMAC, as appropriate.