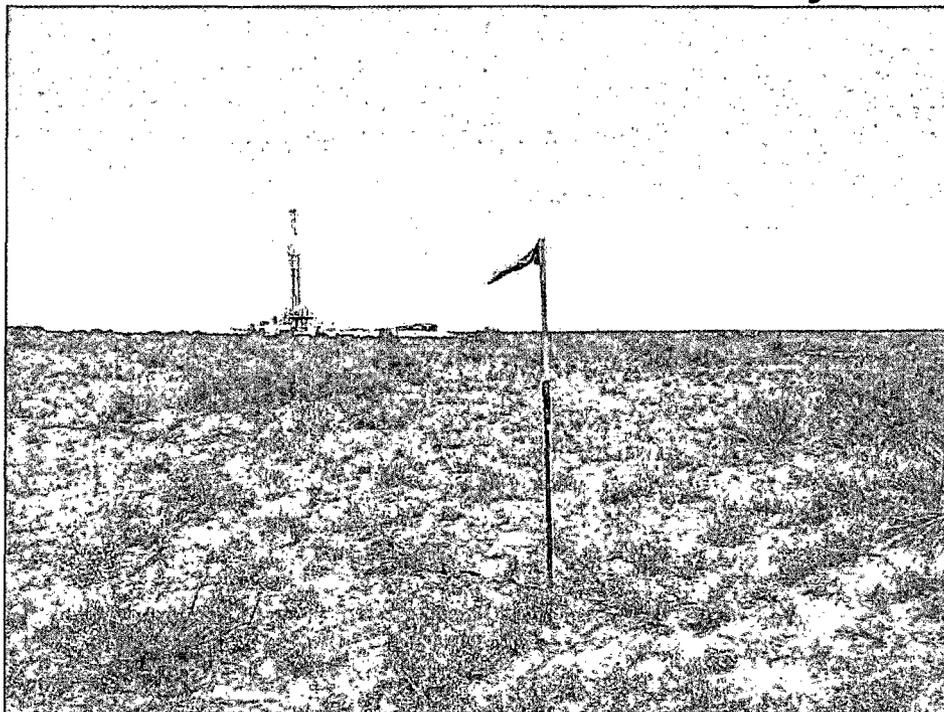


July 2013

**C-144 Permit Package for  
Jackson Unit 23H  
Temporary Pit  
Section 22 T24S R33E Lea County NM**



*Location flag at Jackson 23H, with drilling rig at Jackson 24H in background*

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

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

The Oil Conservation Division

MUST BE NOTIFIED 24 Hours

Prior to the beginning of operations

The Oil Conservation Division

MUST BE NOTIFIED 24 Hours

Prior to the beginning of operations

OCT 29 2013

# R. T. HICKS CONSULTANTS, LTD.

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

July 12, 2013

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

RE: Murchison Oil and Gas, Jackson Unit 23H

Dear Mr. Leking:

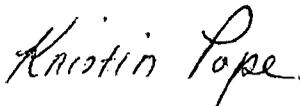
On behalf of Murchison Oil and Gas, R.T. Hicks Consultants is pleased to submit the attached C-144 application for the above-referenced well. Please note the following:

1. Generic Plans that comply with the new Pit Rule are included in this submission for OCD approval
2. We anticipate "in place" burial of stabilized solids.
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. I certify that I performed a visual inspection of the site.

This well is in close proximity to the Jackson Unit 21H, 22H (submitted 7/12/2013), 20H, and 25H (yet-to-be submitted) which are the subjects of separate C-144 applications for temporary pits. The figures and generic plans for these permit applications are identical. The site-specific information for each application varies only slightly to reflect the individual site's elevation and distance to siting criteria features. Additionally, these locations share much the same environmental setting as the recently-approved permit for Jackson Unit 24H.

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



Kristin Pope  
Project Geologist

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

# **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

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

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources  
Department  
Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-144  
Revised June 6, 2013

For temporary pits, below-grade tanks, and multi-well fluid management pits, submit to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.  
For permanent pits submit to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office and provide a copy to the appropriate NMOCD District Office.

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

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

**Instructions: Please submit one application (Form C-144) per individual pit, 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, TX 75093-4698  
Facility or well name: Jackson Unit No. 23H  
API Number: 30-025-41229 OCD Permit Number: PI-06387  
U/L or Qtr/Qtr N Section 22 Township 24S Range 33E County: Lea  
Center of Proposed Design: Latitude 32° 11' 47.068" N Longitude 103° 33' 47.945" W NAD:  1927  1983  
Surface Owner:  Federal  State  Private  Tribal Trust or Indian Allotment

2.  
 **Pit:** Subsection F, G or J of 19.15.17.11 NMAC  
Temporary:  Drilling  Workover  
 Permanent  Emergency  Cavitation  P&A  Multi-Well Fluid Management Low Chloride Drilling Fluid  yes  no  
 Lined  Unlined Liner type: Thickness 20 mil  LLDPE  HDPE  PVC  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 String-Reinforced  
Liner Seams:  Welded  Factory  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Volume: 23,712 bbl Dimensions: L 150 x W 170 x D 6-10 ft

3.  
 **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 \_\_\_\_\_

4.  
 **Alternative Method:**  
Submittal of an exception request is required. Exceptions must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

5.  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_

6.  
**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)

7.  
**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

8.  
**Variations 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:**  
 Variance(s): Requests must be submitted to the appropriate division district for consideration of approval.  
 Exception(s): Requests must be submitted to the Santa Fe Environmental Bureau office for consideration of approval.

9.  
**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. Siting criteria does not apply to drying pads or above-grade tanks.*

<u>General siting</u>	
<b><u>Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of a low chloride temporary pit or below-grade tank.</u></b> - <input type="checkbox"/> NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; <input type="checkbox"/> USGS; <input type="checkbox"/> Data obtained from nearby wells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
<b><u>Ground water is less than 50 feet below the bottom of a Temporary pit, permanent pit, or Multi-Well Fluid Management pit.</u></b> NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells See Figures 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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>(Does not apply to below grade tanks) 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 the area overlying a subsurface mine. <b>(Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 7</b> - 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. <b>(Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 8</b> - 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. <b>(Does not apply to below grade tanks) See Figure 9</b> - FEMA map	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b><u>Below Grade Tanks</u></b>	
Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, significant watercourse, lake bed, sinkhole, wetland or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for public or livestock consumption; - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b><u>Temporary Pit using Low Chloride Drilling Fluid</u> (maximum chloride content 15,000 mg/liter)</b>	
Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). (Applies to low chloride temporary pits). - Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 feet from a occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application. - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Within 200 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 300feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in existence at the time of the initial application. NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p>Within 100 feet of a wetland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b><u>Temporary Pit Non-low chloride drilling fluid</u></b></p>	
<p>Within 300 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or any other significant watercourse, or within 200 feet of any lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). <b>See Figure 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 300 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image. <b>See Figure 4</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a private, domestic fresh water well used by less than five households for domestic or stock watering purposes, or 1000 feet of any other fresh water well or spring, in the existence at the time of the initial application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>See Figures 1 &amp; 2</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 300 feet of a wetland. <b>See Figure 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b><u>Permanent Pit or Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit</u></b></p>	
<p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 1000 feet from a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, or church in existence at the time of initial application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 500 horizontal feet of a spring or a fresh water well used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Within 500 feet of a wetland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Identification map; Topographic map; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

10.  
**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: \_\_\_\_\_

11.  
**Multi-Well Fluid Management Pit 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.*

- 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
- A List of wells with approved application for permit to drill associated with the pit.
- 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
- Hydrogeologic Data - based upon the requirements of Paragraph (4) of Subsection B of 19.15.17.9 NMAC
- Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstrations - based upon the appropriate requirements of 19.15.17.10 NMAC

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

12.  
**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

13.  
**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  Multi-well Fluid Management Pit  
 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

14.  
**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 C 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 H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC
- Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

15.  
**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 require justifications and/or demonstrations of equivalency. Please refer to 19.15.17.10 NMAC for guidance.*

Ground water is less than 25 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Ground water is between 25-50 feet below the bottom of the buried waste - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Ground water is more than 100 feet below the bottom of the buried waste. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database search; USGS; Data obtained from nearby wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Within 100 feet of a continuously flowing watercourse, or 200 feet of any other significant watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). - 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. - Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site; Aerial photo; Satellite image	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 horizontal feet of a private, domestic fresh water well or spring used for domestic or stock watering purposes, in existence at the time of initial application. - NM Office of the State Engineer - iWATERS database; Visual inspection (certification) of the proposed site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 300 feet of a wetland. 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 incorporated municipal boundaries or within a defined municipal fresh water well field covered under a municipal ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

- at least 18 inches deep
9. place additional material (liner, felt, etc.) to 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.

A berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water. During drilling operations, the operator may elect to remove run-on protection on the pit edge adjacent to the drilling or workover rig provided that the pit is being used to collect liquids escaping from the drilling or workover rig and this additional fluid will not cause a breach of the temporary pit.

The temporary pit will not be used to vent or flare gas and the volume of the temporary drilling pit, including freeboard, will not exceed 10 acre-feet.

## **Temporary Pit Operating and Maintenance Plan**

The operator will maintain and operate the pit in accordance with the following plan to contain liquids and solids and maintain the integrity of the liner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.

If feasible, the operator will recycle, reuse or reclaim all drilling fluids in the temporary pit in a manner approved by division rules that prevents the contamination of fresh water and protects public health and the environment. Re-use of drilling fluids and workover fluids (stimulation flow-back) for drilling and stimulation of subsequent wells is anticipated. If re-use is not possible, fluids will be sent to disposal at a division-approved facility.

The operator will not discharge into or store any hazardous waste in the pit.

If the pit develops a leak or if any penetration of the pit liner occurs above the liquid's surface, then the operator will repair the damage or initiate replacement of the liner within 48 hours of discovery or will seek a variance from the division district office within this time period.

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 of discovery. The operator will also notify the district division office (19.15.29 NMAC) within this same 48 hours of the discovery and repair the damage or replace the pit liner.

The operator will ensure that the drilling contractor installs and uses 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 during injection or withdrawal of liquids.

During construction, the operator or qualified contractor will install diversion ditches and berms around the pit as necessary to prevent the collection of surface water run-on. As outlined in the Construction and Design Plan, during drilling operations, the edge of the temporary pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig may not have run-on protection if the operator is using the temporary pit to collect liquids escaping from the drilling or workover rig and run-on will not result in a breach of the temporary pit.

The operator will maintain on site an oil absorbent boom to contain and remove oil from the pit's surface.

The operator will only discharge fluids or mineral solids (including cement) generated or used during the drilling, completion, or workover processes into the pit.

The operator will maintain the temporary pit free of miscellaneous solid waste or debris. Immediately after cessation of drilling or a workover operation, the operator will remove any visible or measurable layer of oil from the surface of the pit.

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

The operator will maintain at least two feet of freeboard for the temporary pit, except under extenuating circumstances, which will be noted on the pit inspection log as described below.

The operator will inspect the temporary pit containing drilling fluids daily while the drilling rig or workover rig is on site. After the rigs have left the site, the operator will inspect the pit weekly as long as liquids are present in the pit. The operator will maintain a log of the inspections. The operator will make the log available to the division district office upon request.

The operator will remove all free drilling fluids from the surface of the temporary pit within 60 days from the date that the last drilling or workover rig associated with the pit permit is released. The operator will note the date of this release upon Form C-105 or C-103 upon well or workover completion. The operator may request an extension up to two months from the division district office as long as this additional time does not exceed the temporary pit life span (Subsection R of 19.15.17.7 NMAC).

## **Temporary Pit In-Place Closure Plan**

The wastes in the temporary pit are destined for in place burial at the drilling location or, if stated in the permit transmittal letter, a nearby site on the same lease.

The operator will not begin closure operations without approval of the closure plan submitted with the permit application.

### **Siting Criteria Compliance Demonstration**

Compliance with siting criteria is described in the site-specific information appended to the C-144.

### **Proof of Surface Owner Notice**

The application package was transmitted to the surface landowner and OCD via email.

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

The design and construction protocols for the temporary pit are provided in the design and construction plan and in Plates 1-2. The drainage system described in the design and construction plan (above) is not shown on the Plates but can be important element of the closure plan.

### **General Protocols and Procedures**

- All free liquids from the pit will be recycled or disposed in a manner consistent with OCD Rules.
- Residual drilling fluids will be removed from the pit within 60 days of release of the drilling rig.
- Water derived from the well stimulation program (flow-back or unused fresh water) that is significantly higher quality than the residual drilling fluids *may* discharge into the pit. The fresher water *may* discharge into the drainage system to flow through the solids or onto the solids in the pit.
- A low-flow pump *may* remove water from the drainage system to a tank or a fluids cell of the temporary pit; thereby further rinsing the residual solids in the pit.
- After 20-60 days, any water in the pit will be removed for re-use or disposal.
- The residual drilling mud and cuttings will be stabilized to a capacity sufficient to support the 4-foot thick soil cover.
- The residual pit solids will not be mixed at a ratio greater than 1 part pit solids to 3 parts dry earth material (e.g. subsoil).
- The pit will not be closed until the stabilized pit contents pass the paint filter liquids test.

### **Waste Material Sampling Plan**

Prior to closure, a five-point (minimum) composite sample of the residual solids in the pit will be tested in a laboratory to demonstrate that the stabilized material will not exceed the contaminant concentrations listed in Table II of 19.15.17.13 NMAC mixed in a ratio of 3:1 with the earth material to be used for mixing and stabilization of the residual cuttings and mud.

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

In-place burial is the selected on-site disposal alternative.

If a concentration of a contaminant within the material mixed at a ratio not exceeding 3:1 is higher than the concentration given in Table II, closure will proceed in accordance with Subsection C of 19.15.17.13 NMAC.

### Protocols and Procedures for Earthwork

Stabilization of the residual cuttings and mud is accomplished by mixing dry earth material within the temporary pit footprint. After stabilization the operator or qualified contractor will:

1. Place a geomembrane cover over the waste material in a way to prevent infiltration of water and so that infiltrated water does not collect on the geomembrane cover after the upper soil cover has been placed.
2. Use a geomembrane cover made of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE liner or an equivalent cover approved by the district office that is composed of an impervious, synthetic material that is resistant to petroleum hydrocarbons, salts and acidic and alkaline solutions and complies with EPA SW-846 Method 9090A.
3. Over the sloping, stabilized material and liner, place the **Soil Cover Design**:
  - a. at least 3-feet of compacted, uncontaminated, non-waste containing earthen fill with chloride concentrations less than 600 mg/kg as analyzed by EPA Method 300.0.
  - b. either the background thickness of topsoil or one foot of suitable material to establish vegetation at the site, whichever is greater, over the 3-foot earth material.
4. Contour the cover to blend with the surrounding topography and to prevent erosion of the cover and ponding over the cover.

### Closure Notice

The operator will notify the surface owner by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the operator plans closure operations at least 72 hours, but not more than one week, prior to any closure operation. The notice will include the well name, API number, and location.

After approval for in-place burial, the operator shall notify the district office verbally and in writing at least 72 hours but not more than one week before any closure operation. Notice will include the operator's and the location of the temporary pit. The location will include unit letter, section number, township and range. If the location is associated with a well, then the well's name, number and API number will be included.

Should onsite burial be on private land, the operator will file a deed notice including exact location of the burial with the county clerk of the county where the onsite burial is located.

### Closure Report

Within 60 days of closure completion, the operator will submit a

- i. closure report on form C-144, with necessary attachments
- ii. a certification that all information in the report and attachments is correct, that the operator has complied with all applicable closure requirements and conditions specified in the approved closure plan

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

- iii. a plat of the pit location on form C-105
- iv. if burial is in a nearby trench/pit, a separate C-105 showing the exact location

Unless the permit transmittal letter requests an alternative marker to comply with surface landowner specifications, the operator will place at the center of an onsite burial a steel marker that

- is not less than four inches in diameter
- is placed at the bottom of a three-foot deep hole (minimum) that is filled with cement to secure the marker
- is at least four feet above mean ground level
- permanently displays the operator name, lease name, well number, unit letter, section, township and range in welded or stamped legible letters/numbers

### Timing of Closure

The operator will close the temporary pit within 6 months from the date the drilling or workover rig was released from the site. This date will be noted on form C-105 or C-103 filed with the division upon the well's or workover's completion.

### Reclamation and Re-vegetation Plan

In addition to the area of the in-place burial, the operator will reclaim to a safe and stable condition that blends with the surrounding undisturbed area

1. the pit location not used for burial
2. other areas associated with the in-place burial including access roads

Areas not reclaimed as described herein due to their use in production or drilling operations will be stabilized and maintained to minimize dust and erosion.

As stated above, the soil cover for burial in-place

- A. consists of a minimum of three feet of non-waste containing, uncontaminated, earthen material with chloride concentrations less than 600 mg/kg as analyzed by EPA Method 300.0 placed over the liner and stabilized solids
- B. is capped by the background thickness of topsoil or 1-foot of suitable material to establish vegetation, whichever is greater
- C. blends into surrounding topography
- D. is graded to prevent ponding and to minimize erosion

For all areas disturbed by the closure process that will not be used for production operations or future drilling, the operator will

- I. Replace topsoils and subsoils to their original relative positions
- II. Grade so as to achieve erosion control, long-term stability and preservation of surface water flow patterns

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

### **III. Reseed in the first favorable growing season following closure**

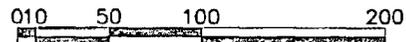
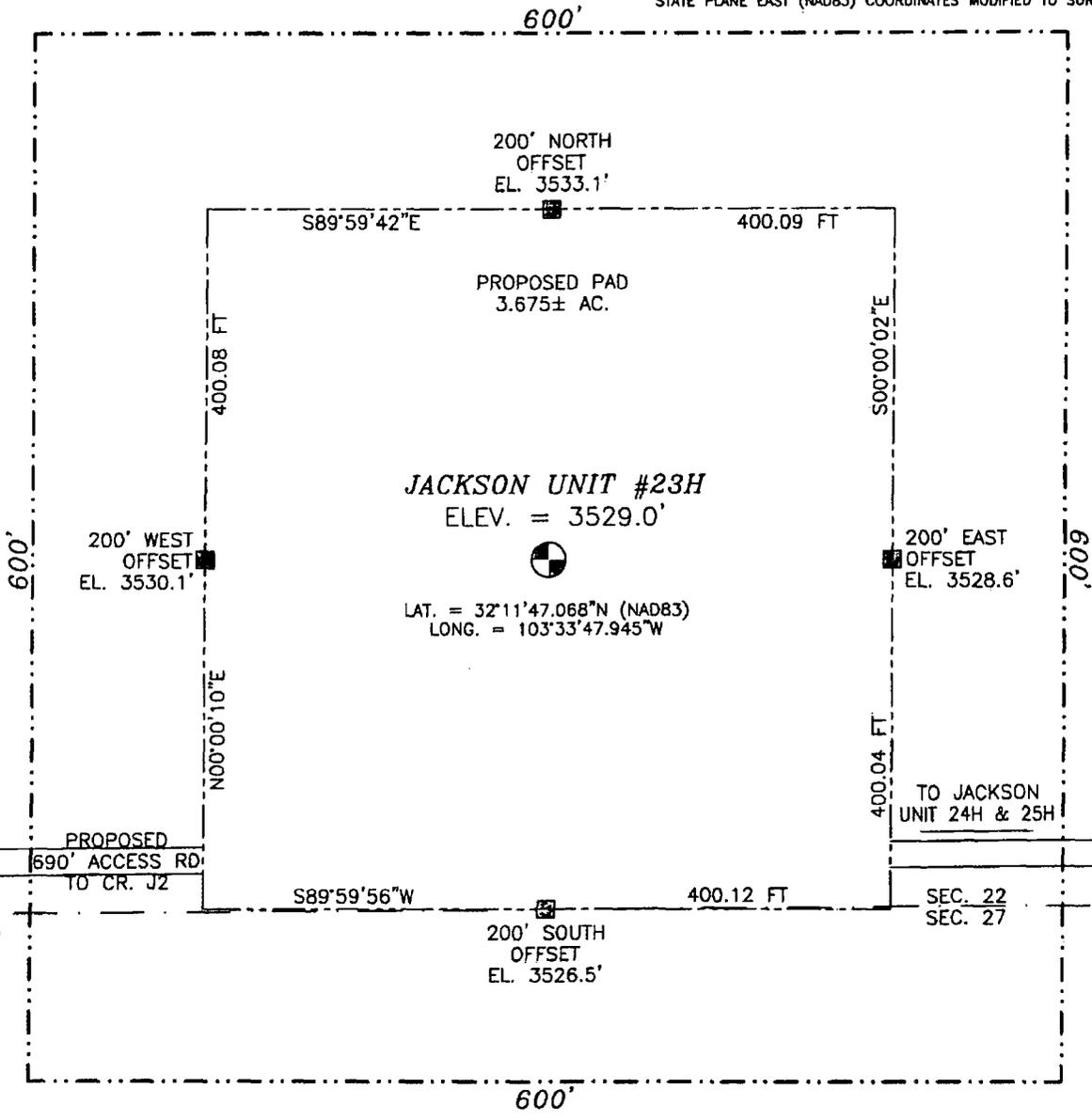
Re-vegetation and reclamation plans imposed by the surface owner will be outlined in communications with the OCD.

The operator will notify the division when the surface grading work element of reclamation is complete.

The operator will notify the division when the site meets the surface owner's requirements or exhibits a uniform vegetative cover that reflects a life-form ratio of plus or minus fifty percent (50%) of pre-disturbance levels and a total percent plant cover of at least seventy percent (70%) of pre-disturbance levels, excluding noxious weeds.

SECTION 22, 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.



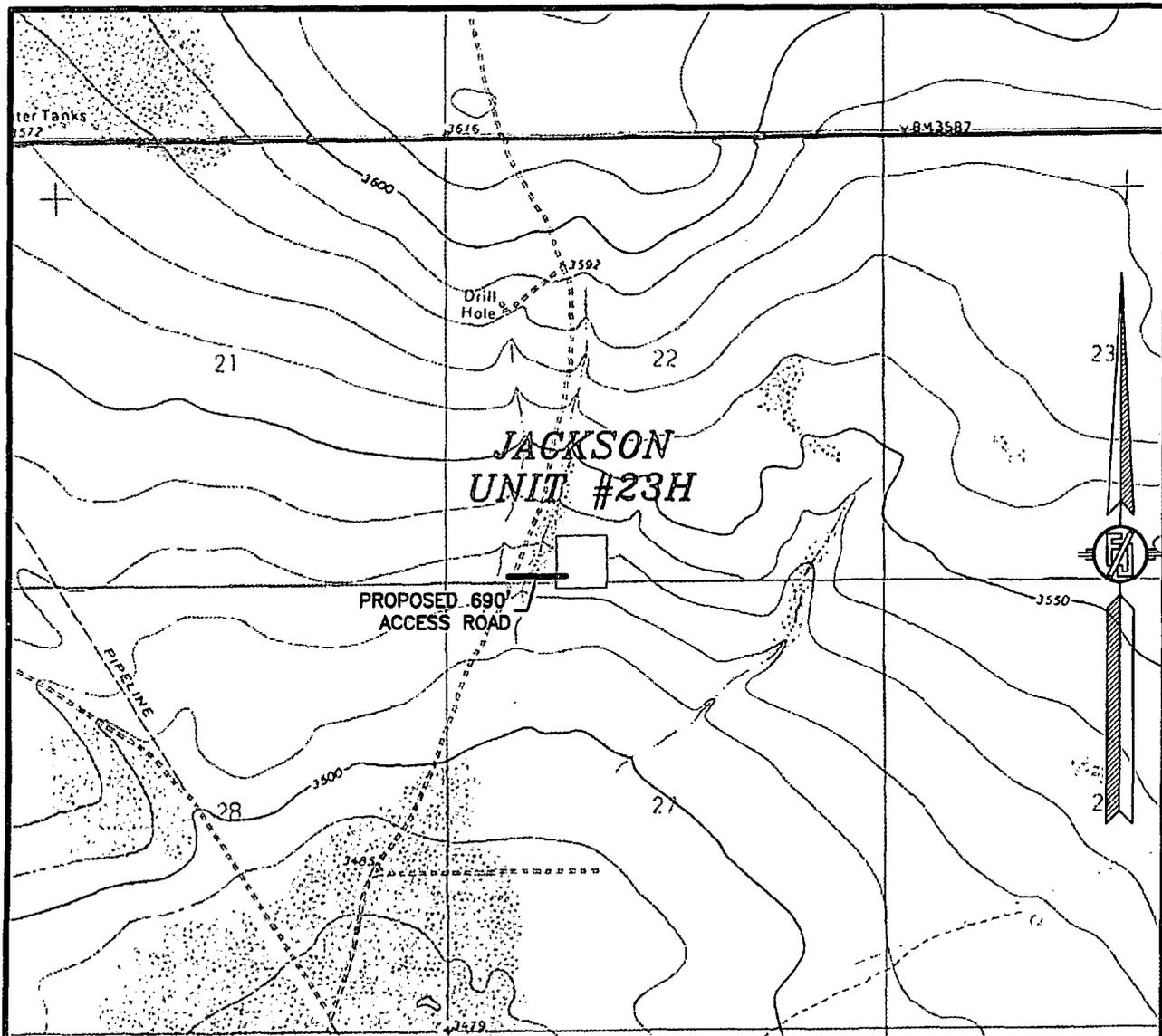
SCALE 1" = 100'  
DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION  
FROM STATE HWY. 128 AND CR. J2 (DIAMOND) GO SOUTH ON J2  
1.15 MILES AND LOCATION IS ON THE LEFT (EAST) 800'.

MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.  
JACKSON UNIT #23H  
LOCATED 200 FT. FROM THE SOUTH LINE  
AND 1670 FT. FROM THE WEST LINE OF  
SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH,  
RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MARCH 26, 2013

SURVEY NO. 1661

SECTION 22, 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

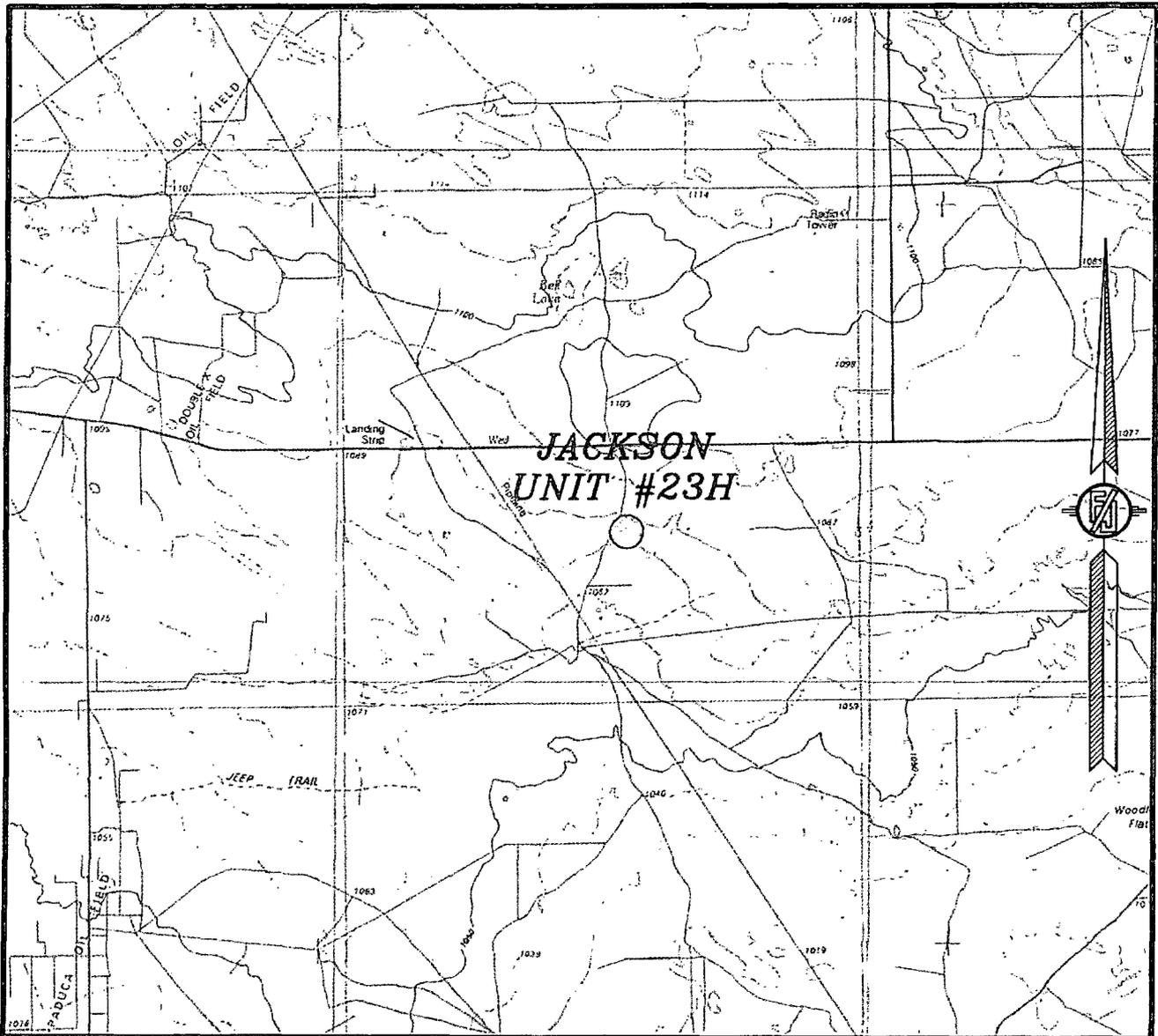
**MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.**  
**JACKSON UNIT #23H**  
 LOCATED 200 FT. FROM THE SOUTH LINE  
 AND 1670 FT. FROM THE WEST LINE OF  
 SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH,  
 RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
 LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MARCH 26, 2013

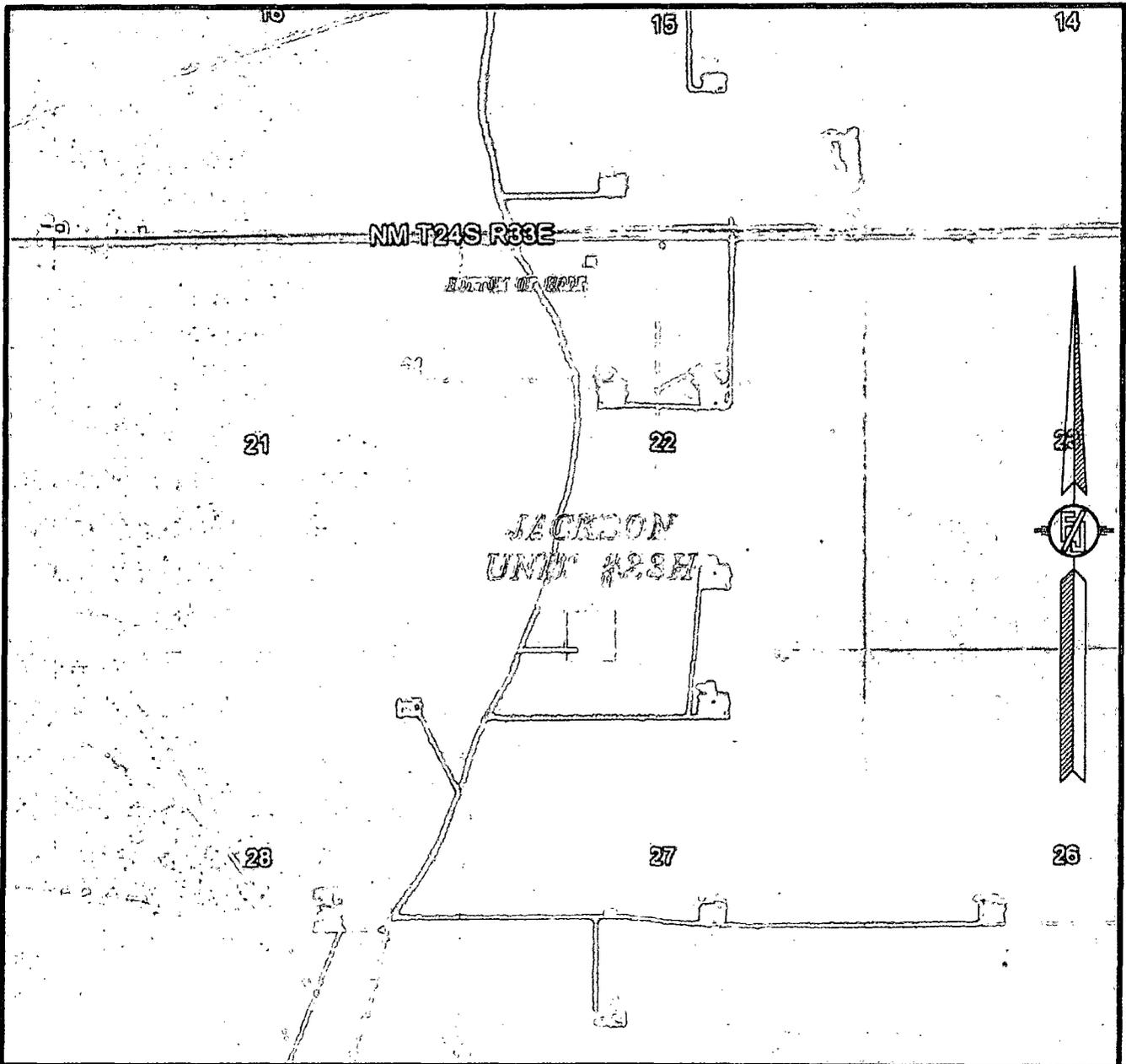
SURVEY NO. 1661

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

SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
VICINITY MAP



SECTION 22, 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.**  
**JACKSON UNIT #23H**  
LOCATED 200 FT. FROM THE SOUTH LINE  
AND 1670 FT. FROM THE WEST LINE OF  
SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH,  
RANGE 33 EAST, N.M.P.M.  
LEA COUNTY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MARCH 26, 2013

SURVEY NO. 1661

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/Construction Plan**

Plates 1 and 2 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 consisting of:
  - a. An inner horseshoe for fresh water fluid and cuttings
  - b. An outer horseshoe for brine and cut brine fluid and cuttings
2. A cell for the storage of fresh water (drilling/stimulation) and stimulation flow-back water prior to re-use or disposal (OPTIONAL)

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 lie on 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 can house a solar-powered pump. The drainage system for the brine-cut brine cell removes water to an above-ground tank, the fluids cell of the pit, or directly to a truck for re-use or disposal. The drainage system in the cut brine-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 cut brine-brine cell 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

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

- d. Secondary containment requirements for temporary tanks
- 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***

#### **Stockpile Topsoil**

Prior to constructing the pit the qualified contractor will strip and stockpile the topsoil for use as the final cover or fill at the time of closure.

#### **Signage**

The operator will post an upright sign in a conspicuous place in compliance with 19.15.16.8 NMAC as the pit and the well are operated by the same operator. Section 19.15.16.8 states in part:

19.15.16.8 SIGN ON WELLS:

B. For drilling wells, the operator shall post the sign on the derrick or not more than 20 feet from the well.

C. The sign shall be of durable construction and the lettering shall be legible and large enough to be read under normal conditions at a distance of 50 feet.

F. Each sign shall show the:

(1) well number;

(2) property name;

(3) operator's name;

(4) location by footage, quarter-quarter section, township and range (or unit letter can be substituted for the quarter-quarter section);

and

(5) API number.

The sign will also provide emergency telephone numbers.

#### **Fencing:**

During drilling or workover operations, the operator will not fence the edge of the pit adjacent to the drilling or workover rig.

## C-144 Supplemental Documentation for Temporary Pit

As the pit is not located within 1000 feet of a permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church, the operator will fence the pit to exclude livestock with four-wire strands evenly spaced in the interval between one foot and four feet above ground level.

### **Earthwork**

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.

The slopes of the pit will be no steeper than two horizontal feet to one vertical foot (2H:1V) unless in the transmittal letter the operator requested an alternative to the slope requirement with a demonstration that the pit can be operated in a safe manner to prevent contamination of fresh water and protect public health and the environment.

A berm or ditch will surround the temporary pit to prevent run-on of surface water.

If the transmittal letter identifies concerns relating to the presence of karst and associated instability, during construction of the pit the contractor will compact the earth material that forms the foundation for the pit liner. An expected proctor density of greater than 90% will be achieved by

1. adding water to the earth material as appropriate,
2. compacting the earth by walking a crawler-type tractor down the sides and bottom of the pit
3. repeating this process with a second 6-inch lift of earth material if necessary

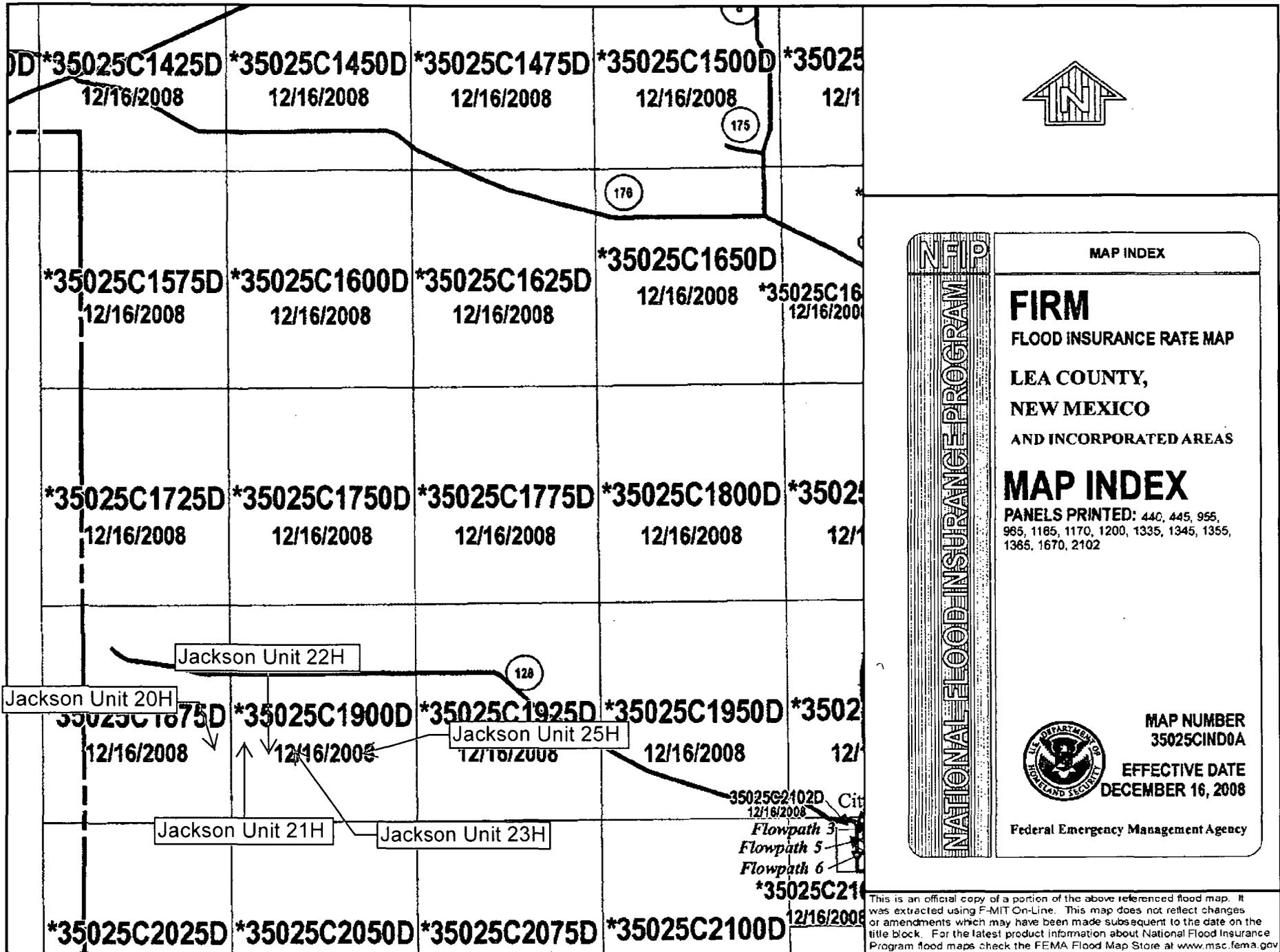
### **Liner Installation**

The geomembrane liner will consist of 20-mil string reinforced LLDPE or equivalent liner material identified in the transmittal letter or on Form C-144 (that the appropriate division district office approves through approval of this permit application). 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.

The operator will direct the liner installation contractor to:

1. minimize liner seams and orient them up and down, not across a slope
2. use factory welded seams where possible
3. overlap liners four to six inches and orient seams parallel to the line of maximum slope, i.e., oriented along, not across, the slope, prior to any field seaming
4. minimize the number of welded field seams in comers and irregularly shaped areas
5. utilize only qualified personnel to weld field seams
6. avoid excessive stress-strain on the liner
7. place geotextile under the liner where needed to reduce localized stress-strain or protuberances that may otherwise compromise the liner's integrity
8. anchor the edges of all liners in the bottom of a compacted earth-filled trench that is

Figure 9 - FEMA Flood Insurance Map



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



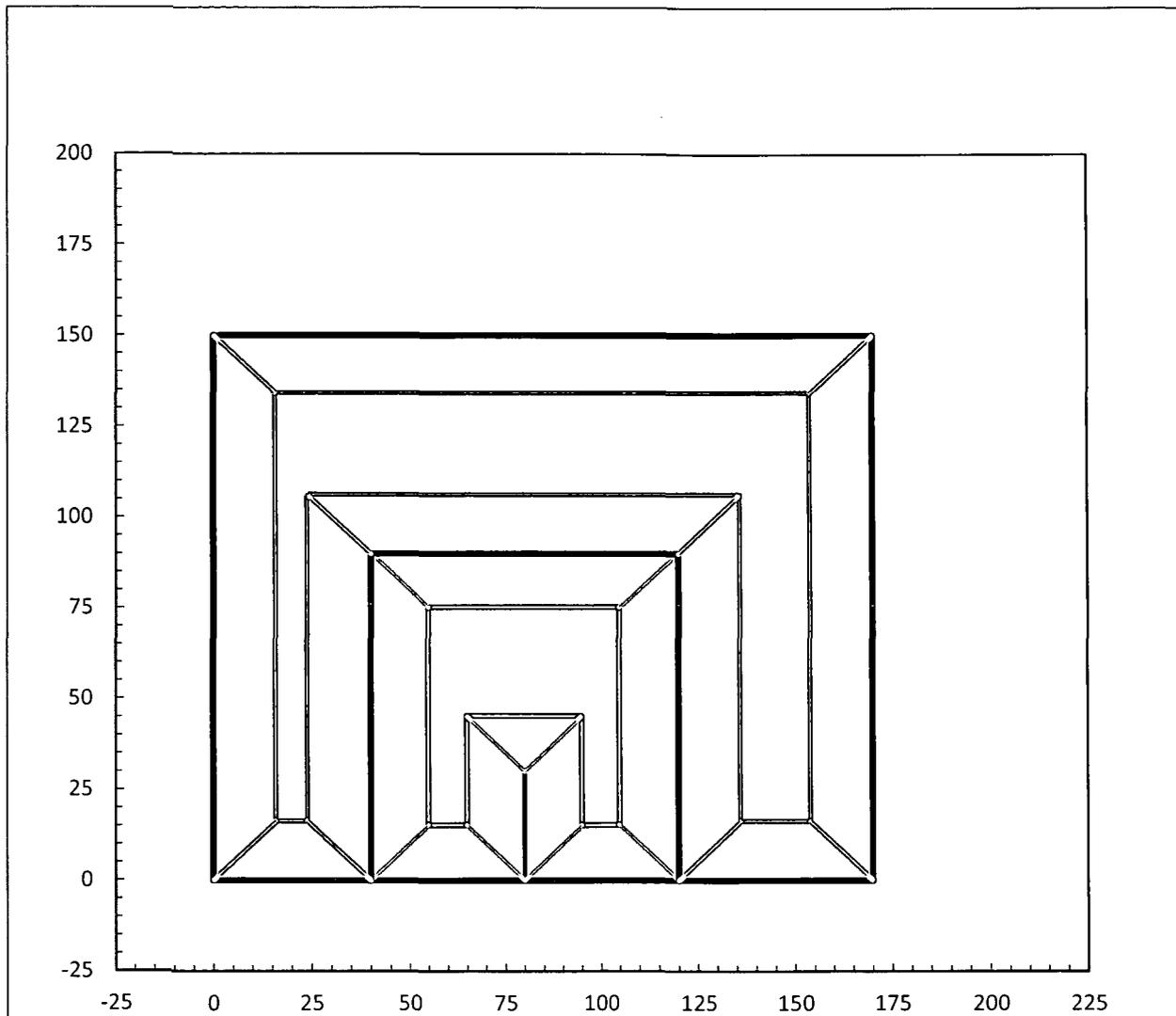
Federal Emergency Management Agency

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.**

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



**Drilling Cell Dimensions**

Drilling Cell Total Width	170.0
Drilling Cell Total Length	150.0
Slopes of Pit Horizontal Distance	2.00
Slopes of Pit Vertical Distance	1.00
Horseshoe divider width at surface	0.0

**Inner Horseshoe Dimensions**

Total Width (left right)	80.0
Total Length (up down)	90.0
Depth	7.5
Length of Divider	30.0
Divider Width	0.0
Width of discharge floor	10.0
Width of suction floor	10.0

**Outer Horseshoe Dimensions**

Width Discharge Side	50.0
Width Suction Side	40.0
Length Far Side (up down)	60.0
Width of discharge Floor	18.0
Width of Suction Floor	8.0
Width of Far Side Floor (right-left dimension)	126.0
Length of far side floor (Up-down dimension)	28.0
Depth of Discharge Side	6.0
Depth of Far Side	8.0
Depth of Suction Side	10.0

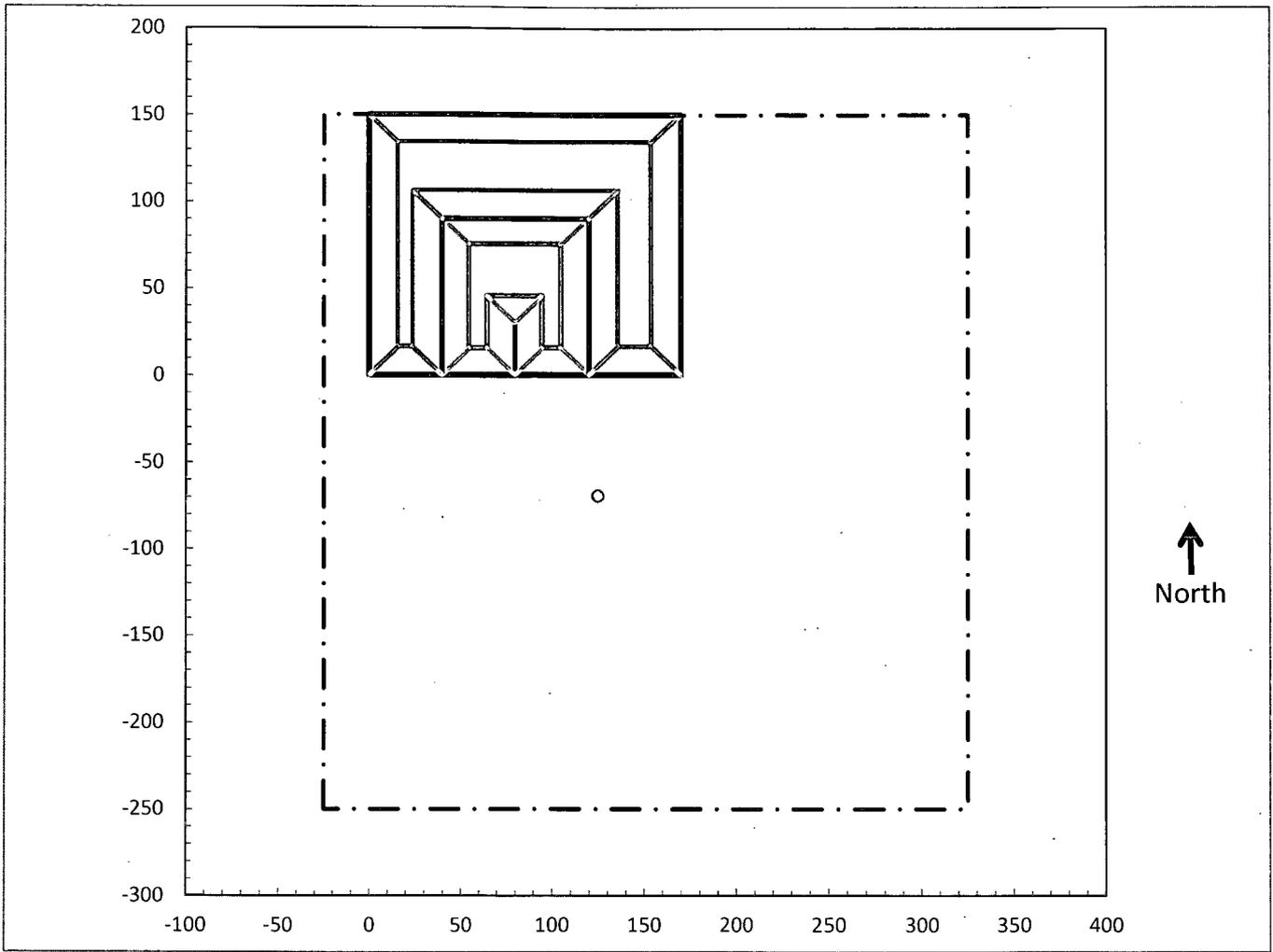
**Fluids Cell Dimensions**

Width (left-right)	0.0
Length (up-down)	0.0
Depth	10.0

Inner Horseshoe Capacity 6011 bbl  
Outer Horseshoe Capacity 17701 bbl

Frac Cell Capacity 0 bbl  
Total Capacity 23712 bbl

<b>R.T. Hicks Consultants</b> 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Suite F-142 Albuquerque, N. M. 87104	<b>Drawing of Drilling Cell</b>	<b>Plate 1</b>
	<b>Murchison - Jackson Unit 23H</b>	<b>July 2013</b>



- Black Lines are on the ground surface.
- Red Lines are on the Pit Floors.
- The Blue Contour Lines are at a depth of 4 feet in both pits.
- The origin (0,0) is at the southwest corner of the Outer Horseshoe Pit.

**R.T. Hicks Consultants**  
 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW  
 Suite F-142  
 Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

**Drawing of Drilling Pit and Well in Relation to Pad**

**Plate 2**

**Murchison - Jackson Unit 23H**

**July 2013**

# Survey Information

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

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

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
Phone: (575) 393-6161 Fax: (575) 393-0720  
District II  
511 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210  
Phone: (575) 748-1283 Fax: (575) 748-9720  
District III  
1000 Rio Brños Road, Aztec, NM 87410  
Phone: (505) 334-6178 Fax: (505) 334-6170  
District IV  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Phone: (505) 476-3460 Fax: (505) 476-3462

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department  
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Form C-102  
Revised August 1, 2011  
Submit one copy to appropriate  
District Office  
 AMENDED REPORT

WELL LOCATION AND ACREAGE DEDICATION PLAT

<sup>1</sup> API Number		<sup>2</sup> Pool Code		<sup>3</sup> Pool Name	
<sup>4</sup> Property Code		<sup>5</sup> Property Name JACKSON UNIT			<sup>6</sup> Well Number 23H
<sup>7</sup> OGRID No. 15363		<sup>8</sup> Operator Name MURCHISON OIL & GAS, INC.			<sup>9</sup> Elevation 3529.0

<sup>10</sup> Surface Location

UL or lot no.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South line	Feet from the	East/West line	County
N	22	24 S	33 E		200	SOUTH	1670	WEST	LEA

<sup>11</sup> Bottom Hole Location If Different From Surface

UL or lot no.	Section	Township	Range	Lot Idn	Feet from the	North/South line	Feet from the	East/West line	County
C	22	24 S	33 E		330	NORTH	1670	WEST	LEA

<sup>12</sup> Dedicated Acres	<sup>13</sup> Joint or Infill	<sup>14</sup> Consolidation Code	<sup>15</sup> Order No.

No allowable will be assigned to this completion until all interests have been consolidated or a non-standard unit has been approved by the division.

**<sup>17</sup> OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

*I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that this organization either owns a working interest or unleased mineral interest in the land including the proposed bottom hole location or has a right to drill this well at this location pursuant to a contract with an owner of such a mineral or working interest, or to a voluntary pooling agreement or a compulsory pooling order heretofore entered by the division.*

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

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**<sup>18</sup> SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION**

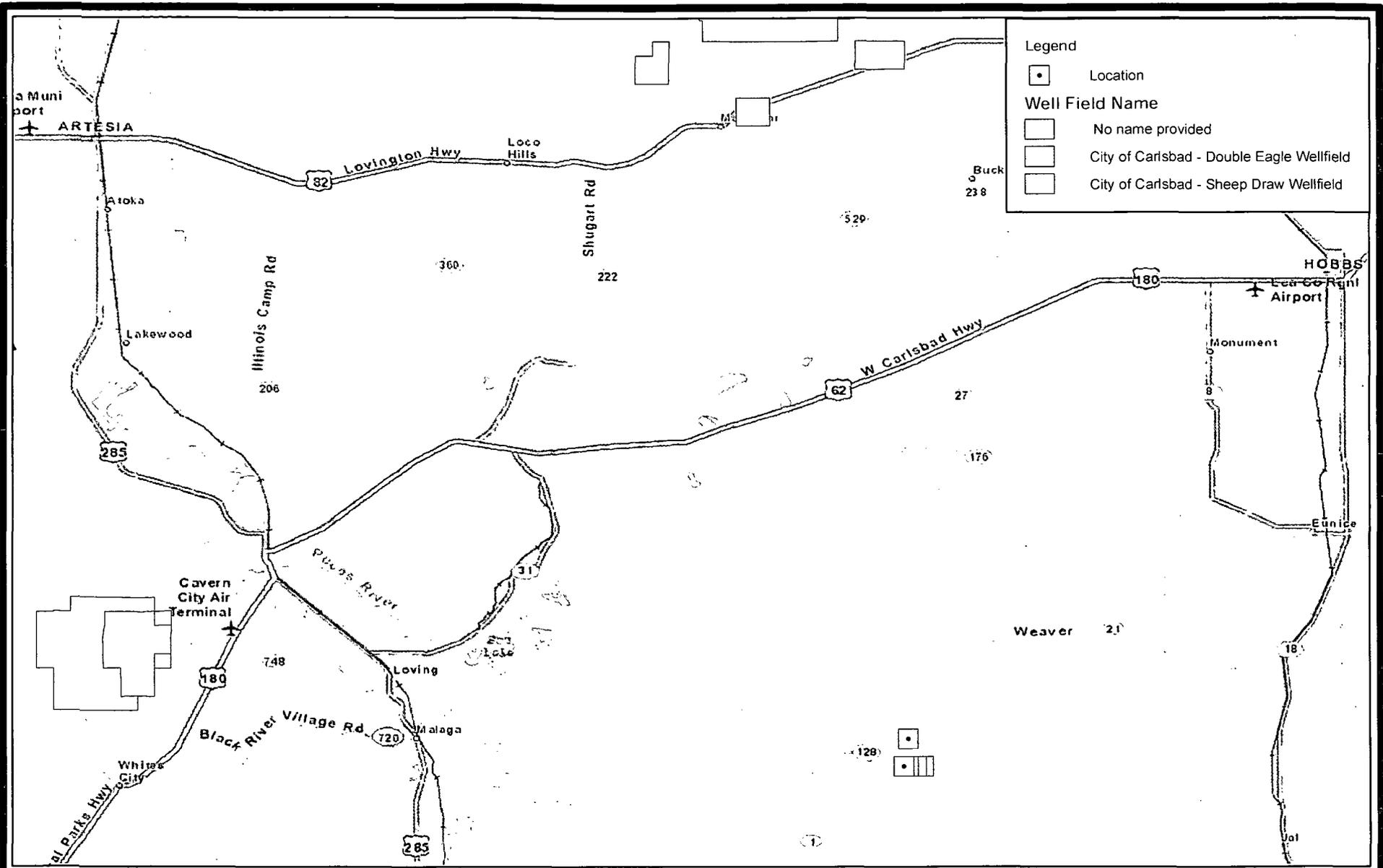
*I hereby certify that the well location shown on this plat was plotted from field notes of actual surveys made by me or under my supervision, and that the same is true and correct to the best of my belief.*

MARCH 26, 2013

Date of Survey \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Seal of Professional Surveyor \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Number \_\_\_\_\_ SURVEY NO. 1661

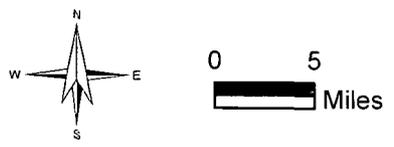


**Legend**

- Location

**Well Field Name**

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



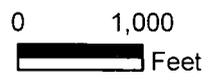
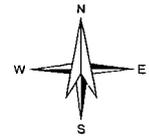
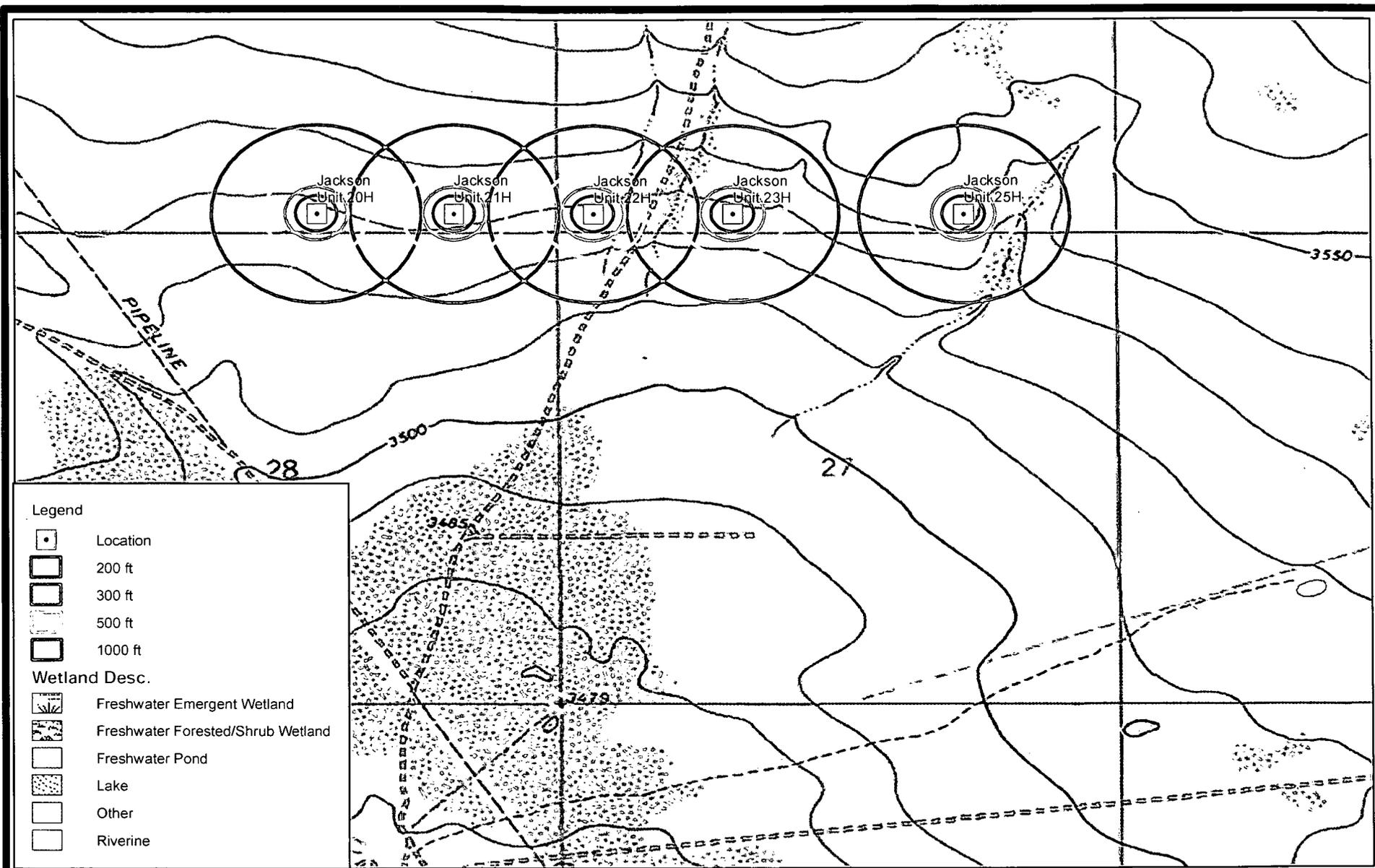
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd  
 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142  
 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Ph: 505.266.5004

Municipalities and Wellfields

Murchison - Jackson Wells 12H, 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H

Figure 5

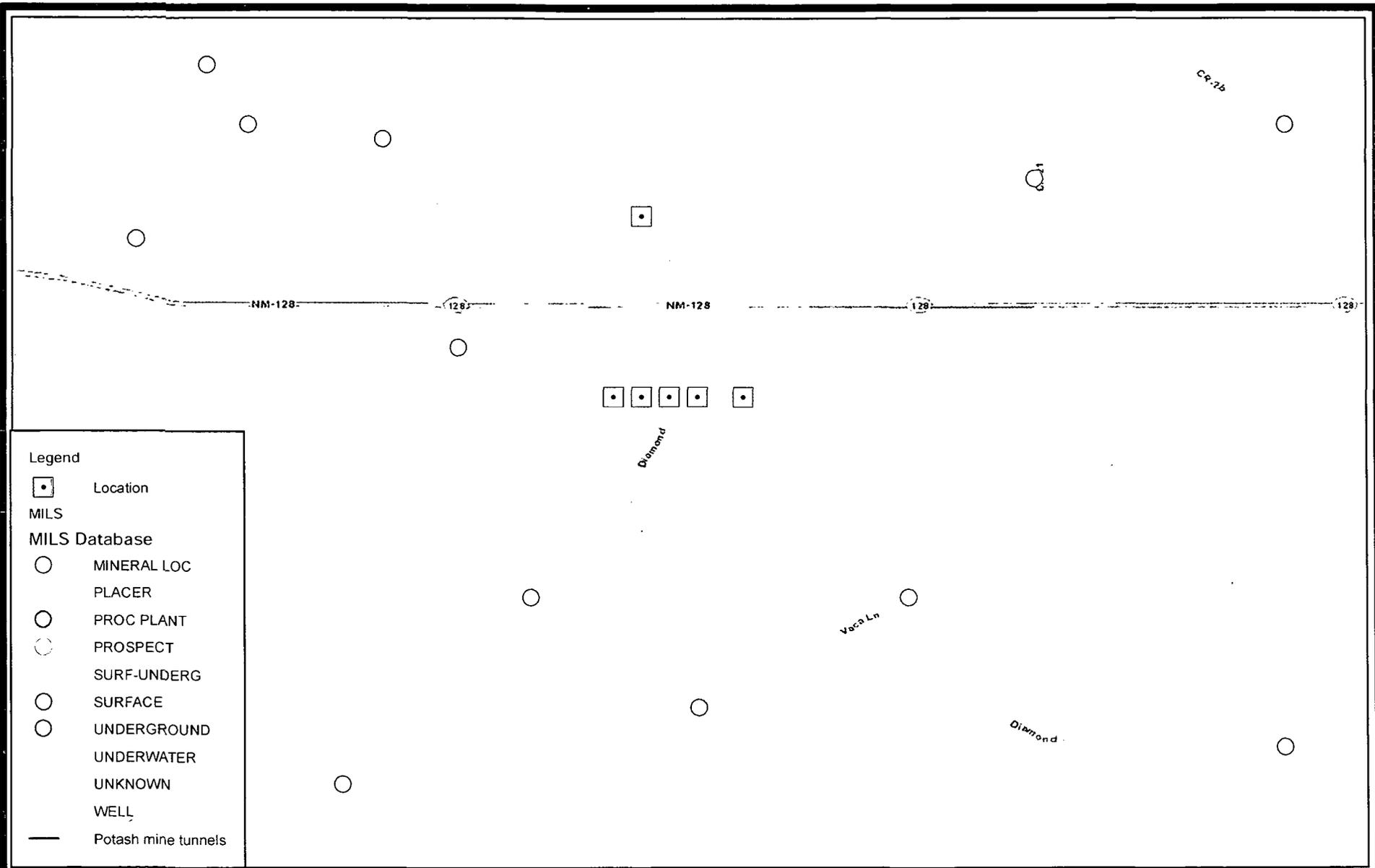
July 2013



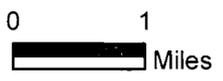
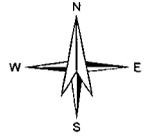
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd  
 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142  
 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Ph: 505.266.5004

Nearest Wetlands  
 Murchison - Jackson Wells 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H

Figure 6  
 July 2013



- Legend
- ◻• Location
  - MILS
  - MILS Database
  - MINERAL LOC
  - PLACER
  - PROC PLANT
  - PROSPECT
  - SURF-UNDERG
  - SURFACE
  - UNDERGROUND
  - UNDERWATER
  - UNKNOWN
  - WELL
  - Potash mine tunnels

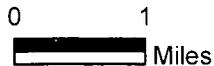
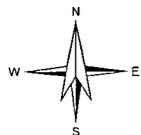
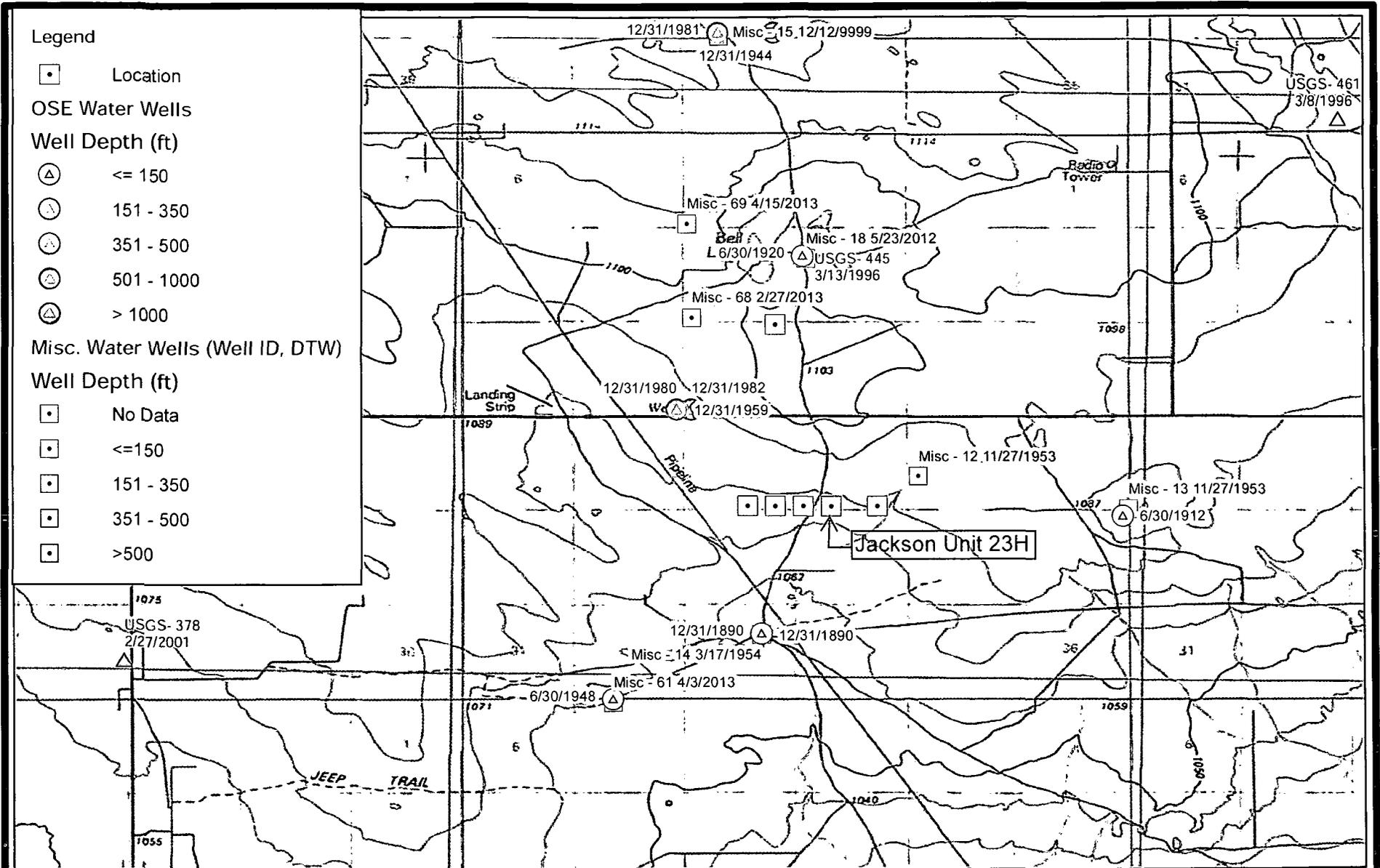


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 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Ph: 505.266.5004

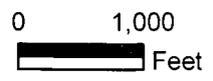
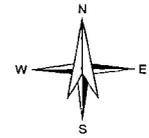
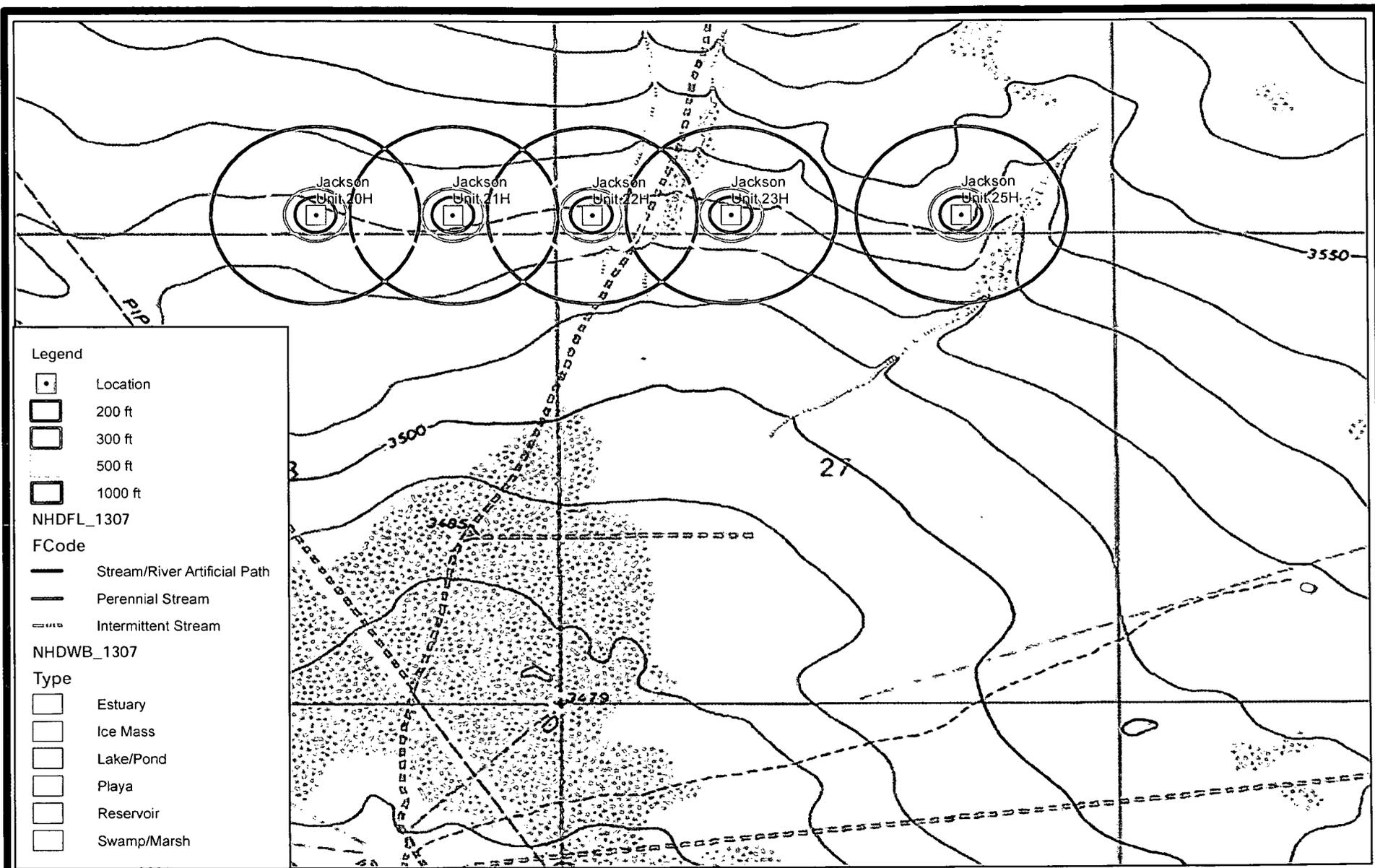
Nearest Mines  
 Murchison - Jackson Wells 12H, 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H

Figure 7  
 July 2013





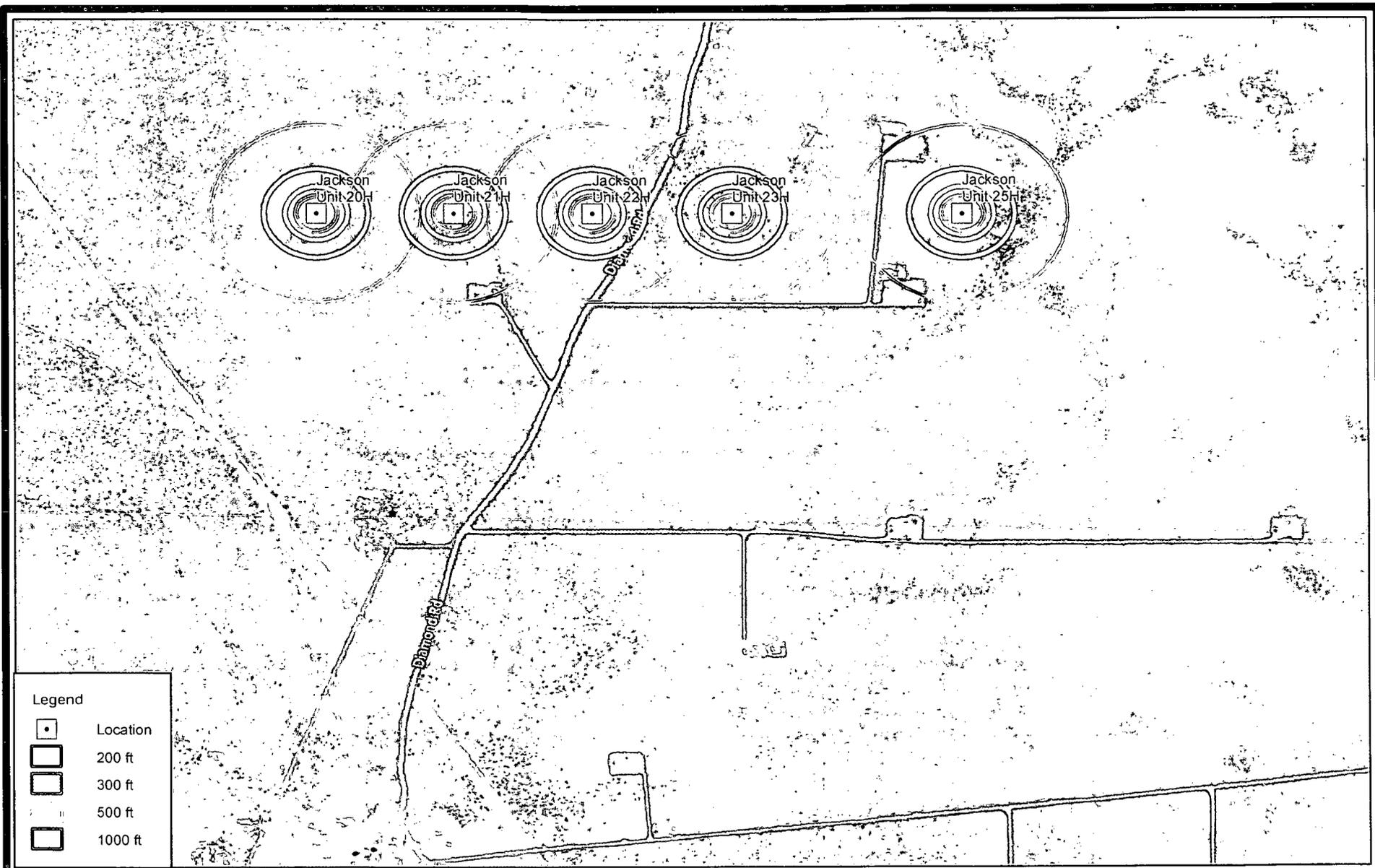
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104 Ph: 505.266.5004	Date of Groundwater Measurement Murchison - Jackson	Figure 2
	Wells 12H, 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H	July 2013



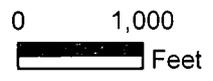
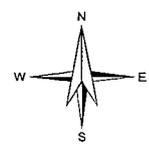
R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd  
 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142  
 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Ph: 505.266.5004

Nearest Surface Water  
 Murchison - Jackson Wells 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H

Figure 3  
 July 2013



- Legend**
- Location
  - 200 ft
  - 300 ft
  - 500 ft
  - 1000 ft



R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd  
 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142  
 Albuquerque, NM 87104  
 Ph: 505.266.5004

**Nearest Structures**  
 Murchison - Jackson Wells 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H

**Figure 4**  
 July 2013

Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC)  
Murchison Oil and Gas: Jackson Unit 23H

- No continuously flowing watercourses, significant watercourses (as defined by NMOCD Rules), or water bodies exist within the prescribed setback criteria for burial trench or in-place closure of the temporary pit at this location.
- The topographic low centered on the Double X Ranch headquarters may be 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 an occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution, church, or other structure in existence at the time of initial application. This also qualifies the location for burial trench or in-place closure.**

- The nearest structures are oil and gas wells and tank batteries.
- The Ranch headquarters are a permanent residence and lie about 1.5 miles south of the location

### **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. Additionally, this location is also not within 300 feet of a spring or private, domestic fresh water well used for domestic or stock watering purposes, thus qualifying for burial trench or in-place closure.**

- Figure 1 and 2 show the locations of all area water wells, active or plugged
- The nearest active water wells are located approximately 1.5 miles southwest and about 1.5 miles northwest. There are no known domestic water wells located within 1000 feet of the location.
- No springs were identified within the mapping area (see Figure 3).

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

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

- 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 and/or 50 miles north.

### **Distance to Wetlands**

**Figure 6 demonstrates the location is not within 300 feet of wetlands. This also qualifies the location for burial trench or in-place closure.**

- The nearest designated wetlands is a stock pond located about 1.5 miles east-southeast.

### **Distance to Subsurface Mines**

**Figure 7 and our general reconnaissance of the area demonstrate that the nearest mines are caliche pits. This location is not within an area overlying a subsurface mine.**

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

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

**Figure 8 shows the location of the temporary pits with respect to 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 the area of the Double X Ranch headquarters

### **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 1 and 2 for the design of the temporary pit and the Design and Construction Plan at the end of this application.

**Legend**

□ Location

**OSE Water Wells**

**Well Depth (ft)**

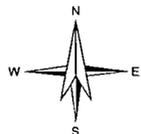
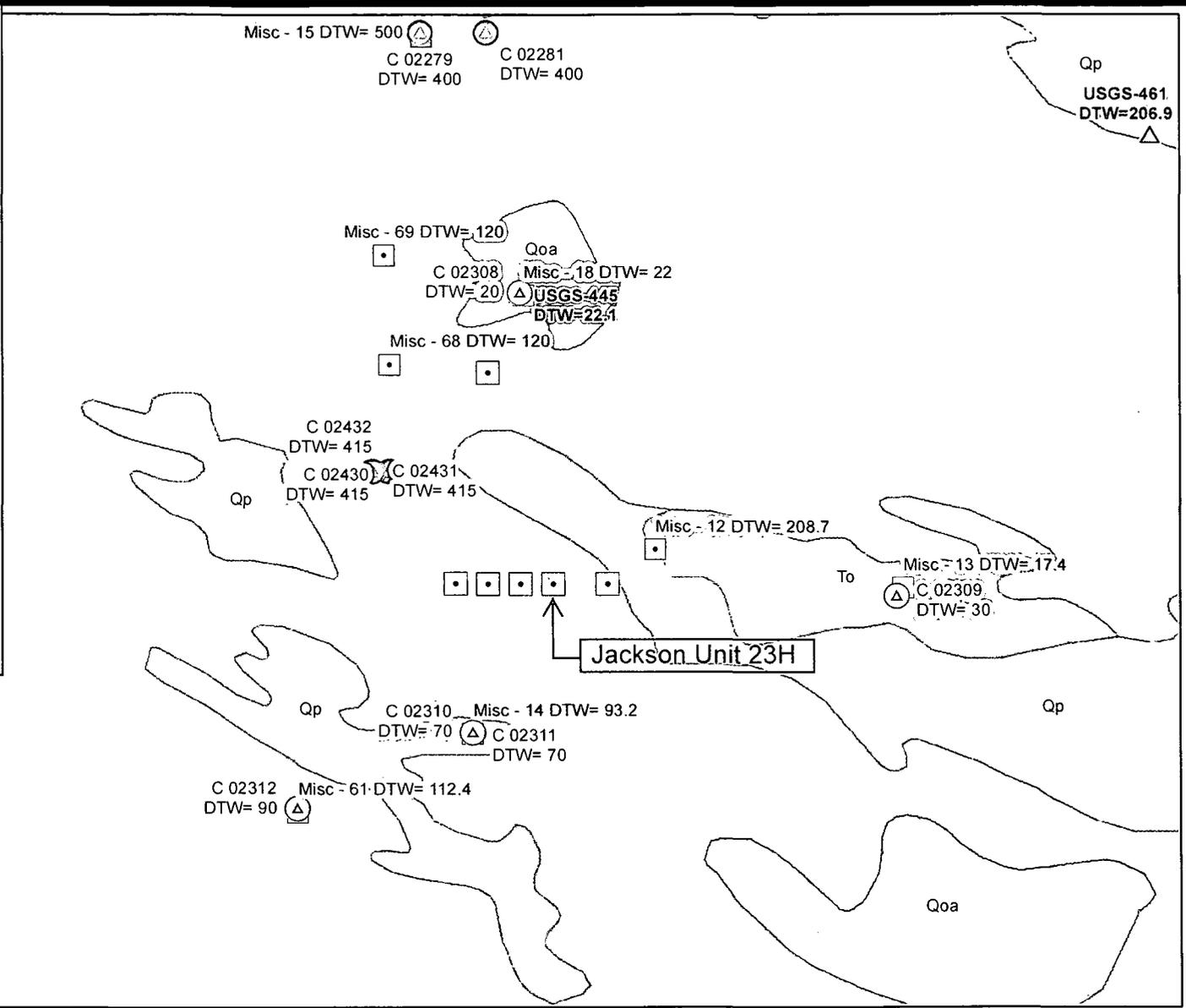
- △ ≤ 150
- △ 151 - 350
- △ 351 - 500
- △ 501 - 1000
- △ > 1000

**Misc. Water Wells (Well ID, DTW)**

**Well Depth (ft)**

- No Data
- ≤ 150
- 151 - 350
- 351 - 500
- > 500

USGS-378  
DTW=288.7  
△



<p>R.T. Hicks Consultants, Ltd 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW Suite F-142 Albuquerque, NM 87104 Ph: 505.266.5004</p>	<p>Geology and Depth to Groundwater Murchison - Jackson</p>	<p>Figure 1</p>
	<p>Wells 12H, 20H, 21H, 22H, 23H, 25H</p>	<p>July 2013</p>

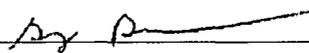
adopted pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 3-27-3, as amended. - Written confirmation or verification from the municipality; Written approval obtained from the municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within the area overlying a subsurface mine. - Written confirmation or verification or map from the NM EMNRD-Mining and Mineral Division	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within a 100-year floodplain. - FEMA map	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

16. **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 E of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
 Construction/Design Plan of Burial Trench (if applicable) based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection K 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 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
 Waste Material Sampling Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements 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 H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC  
 Site Reclamation Plan - based upon the appropriate requirements of Subsection H of 19.15.17.13 NMAC

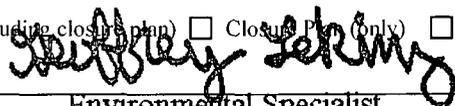
17. **Operator Application Certification:**  
I hereby certify that the information submitted with this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name (Print): Greg Boans Title: Production Superintendent

Signature:  Date: July 12, 2013

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

18. **OCD Approval:**  <sup>MOY</sup> Permit Application (including closure plan)  Closure Plan (only)  OCD Conditions (see attachment)

OCD Representative Signature:  Approval Date: 10/25/13

Title: Environmental Specialist OCD Permit Number: P1-06387

19. **Closure Report (required within 60 days of closure completion):** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

20. **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.

21. **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 for private land only)  
 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

22.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

### **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 100 feet beneath the temporary pit that will contain fluids which cannot be classified as “low-chloride.” Groundwater will be more than 25 feet below the bottom of the buried waste, meeting criteria for burial trench or in-place closure.**

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

1. The location of the temporary pit as an orange square.
2. The location of the Mogi 9 State 1H (Misc-68) and Brinninstool 4 State 3H (Misc-69), where we measured a dry hole in the 120-foot conductor casing borings. The cuttings from these auger borings were also dry.
3. Water wells from the OSE database as a blue triangle inside colored circles that indicate well depth. 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.
4. Water wells from the USGS database as large green triangles.
5. Water wells, which are not documented in the public databases but were identified by field inspection or other published reports as colored squares.
6. 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. Note that Well Misc-15 shows a date of 12/12/9999 because Open File Report OF-95<sup>1</sup> does not report a date of water level measurement.

### **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 3400 above sea level (see Plate 1 of GWR-6). Because the location lies at an elevation of 3529, the Ogallala Formation, if it is present, could be 130 feet thick or more (3529-3400).

Topographically, the site lies on a south-southwest facing slope that drains to a low area in which lies the Double X Ranch headquarters. This topographic low area may be an ancient collapse feature (breccia pipes) associated with the removal of salt due to upward groundwater flow from the Capitan Reef<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 65 feet of topographic relief is present from the bottom of the

<sup>1</sup> See <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/openfile/details.cfm?Volume=95>

<sup>2</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: Jackson Unit 23H

low area to the proposed location of the well (3529-3464= 65). The deepest part of this topographic low is approximately 1.5 miles to the south of the site.

### Water Table Elevation

The 14 water wells identified on Figures 1 and 2 were used to determine the water table elevation below the temporary pit. We also employed data from the Mogi 9 State 1H rathole (Misc-68), located about 2 miles northwest of the proposed pit and the Brinninstool 4 State 3H rathole (Misc-69) located about 3 miles northwest of the proposed pit.

Four of these 14 wells appear on more than one database (yellow highlight on Table 1). Because a single well appears on multiple databases, Table 1 lists the “alias” of these four wells. The entries on Table 1 include ten listings from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) database. Three wells are derived from the USGS database (USGS 445 is also listed on the OSE database as C 2308 and in Open File Report 95 as Misc-18). Five 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. Misc-61 is the same well as C 2312 and is listed in the miscellaneous database due to our recent water level measurement of this well. One well (Bell Lake Windmill, north of the Jal Highway), which appears on the USGS topographic map, was inspected in the field as plugged and abandoned. Because no data exist for the Bell Lake Windmill, which is plotted on the USGS topographic map, it is not listed on Table 1.

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.)		
Misc-15	23	33	28	3 4 4	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	3675		575.0	500.0	3175.0		12/12/1944	C 2279
C 02279	23	33	28	3 4 3	Y				Y	Y	Y	3675	650.0	400.0		3,025		12/31/1981	Misc. 15
C 02281	23	33	28	4 4 3	Y						Y	3685	545.0	400.0		3,140		12/31/1944	
USGS-461	23	34	32	1 4 4		Y			Y	Y		3573	3574	206.9	3366	3367		3/18/1996	
USGS-378	24	32	33	2 2 4		Y				Y		3499	3499	288.7	3210			2/27/2001	
USGS-445	24	33	10	1 3 1	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	3589	3588	36	22.1	3567		3/13/1996	C 2308, Misc. 18
Misc-18	24	33	10	1 3 1	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	3589		40.0	22.0	3567.0		5/23/2012	USGS-445, C 2308
C 02308	24	33	10	1 3 1	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		3589	40.0	20.0		3,549		6/30/1920	USGS-445, Misc. 18
C 02430	24	33	16	3 3 3	Y				Y	Y		3572	643.0	415.0		2,929		12/31/1982	
C 02431	24	33	17	4 4 4	Y				Y	Y		3572	525.0	415.0		3,047		12/31/1959	
C 02432	24	33	17	4 4 4	Y				Y	Y		3572	640.0	415.0		2,932		12/31/1980	
Misc-12	24	33	23	3 3 4			Y			Y		3558	3549	232.0	208.7	3326.0	3340.3	11/27/1953	
Misc-13	24	33	24	4 4 4			Y		Y										
C2309	24	33	25	2 2 2	Y				Y				3512	60	30		3482	6/30/1912	
C2311	24	33	33	1 3 2	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		3460	3465		93.2	3367	3372	3/17/1954	Misc-14
Misc-14	24	33	33	1 3 2	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		3460	3465		93.2	3367	3372	3/17/1954	C-2311
C 2310	24	33	33	1 3 2	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		3460	3465	120	70		3395		
C 2312	25	33	5	2 2 1	Y				Y	Y	Y	3473	3473	150	90.0	3383.0	3383.0	6/30/1998	Misc-61
Misc-61	25	33	5	2 2 1	Y				Y	Y	Y	3473	3473	150	112.4	3360.6	3360.6	4/3/2013	C-2312

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 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

## Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC) Murchison Oil and Gas: Jackson Unit 23H

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:

- Seven 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.
- At the three-well cluster shown as C2430-C2432, we identified only one operational well in the field. The well owner reports that three wells do exist in this cluster.
- Depth to water in well C 2312 (Misc-61) was measured on April 3, 2013.
- Well Misc-12 is plugged and abandoned
- The Bell Lake Windmill, which is not on the Table but is identified on the 7.5 minute topographic map of the area north of Jackson Unit 23H, is plugged and abandoned

### **Hydrogeology**

GWR-6 (1961) indicates that Ogallala groundwater is not present as a regional aquifer within the Bell Lake area. The Bell Lake Windmill and wells Misc-18/ USGS-432 obviously tap a shallow water table associated with the collapse features described above. We believe that the shallow wells located at the Double X Ranch headquarters (C 2310, C2311/Misc-14), the Pipeline Windmill (C 2312/Misc-61), Misc-13 and C 2309 also tap shallow water table aquifers associated with collapse features.

The lack of a regional water table aquifer described in GWR-6 is borne out in the data from well #12, located about 0.5 mile east-northeast 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 elevation in well #12 (3326 feet asl) lies below the projected bottom of the Ogallala Formation (3400 feet asl). 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.

With respect to shallow water table aquifers within ancient collapse features, we were able to map the horizontal limit of groundwater within the Bell Lake Sink. We found through hydrogeologic logging conducted at the Mogi 9 State 1H and Brinninstool 4 State 3H sites that the 120-foot deep borings exhibited only dry sediments. At the Brinninstool 4 State 3H surface casing, lowering a water level probe to the total depth of the casing about 3 days after completion demonstrated that the hole remained dry. Because well C 2312/Misc-61 tap the same water table aquifer as the wells at the ranch headquarters (C 2310, 2311/Misc-14), we know the horizontal extent of the shallow water table aquifer near the Double X Ranch headquarters is larger than observed at the Bell Lake Sink. The data from well Misc-12 clearly demonstrate that this water table aquifer does not extend to the location of the Jackson Unit 23H proposed pit.

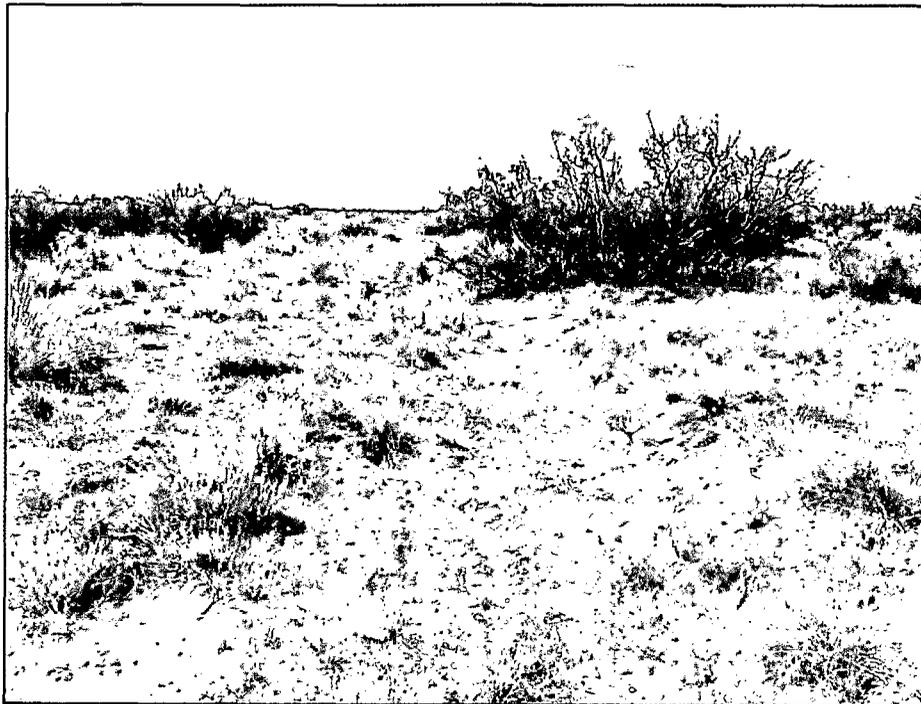
## Siting Criteria (19.15.17.10 NMAC) Murchison Oil and Gas: Jackson Unit 23H

The hydrologic and geologic data demonstrate that groundwater within collapse features are localized. We conclude with a high degree of certainty that groundwater, as defined by OCD Rules, exists beneath the Jackson Unit 23H site only in the Triassic Dockum Group redbeds at a depth of about 200 feet. In the highly unlikely event that the localized water table aquifer extends (uphill) from the ranch headquarters area to the Jackson Unit 23H location, we conclude the water table elevation would be less than 3420 feet asl (based upon the observed gradient from C 2312/Misc-61 to C2311/Misc-14). Thus, the depth to this water table aquifer would be about 109 feet, if the water table unit were to exist in this area.

### 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 any other significant watercourse or 200 feet from lakebed, sinkhole, or playa lake (measured from the ordinary high-water mark). This temporary pit will also qualify for burial trench or in-place closure as the location is not within 100 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).**

- No continuously flowing watercourses or other water bodies, as defined by NMOCD Rules, exist within the prescribed setback criteria for the siting of a temporary pit at this location. The “stream” mapped on Figure 3 as a blue line does not meet the regulatory definition of a *significant watercourse* because as the photograph below illustrates, this swale-like feature does not exhibit a defined bed and bank. Moreover, during the site visit, the distance from the western staked edge of the proposed pit to the eastern edge of the swale measures 326 feet.



*Swale feature 326 feet due west from western edge of proposed pit, looking north*